



**123rd NATIONAL CONVENTION  
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS  
OF THE UNITED STATES**

**KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI  
JULY 16 – 21, 2022**

**PROPOSED BYLAW, MANUAL OF PROCEDURE AND RITUAL AMENDMENTS**

**SCHEDULE OF RESOLUTIONS**

**GENERAL INFORMATION FOR COMMITTEES**



July 1, 2022

Dear Comrades:

Written notice is promulgated herein, together with copies of proposed amendments to the Bylaws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States to be considered by the 123rd National Convention in accordance with provisions of Section 1401 of the National Bylaws and Manual of Procedure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Jones", is positioned above the printed name.

Kevin C. Jones  
Adjutant General

Veterans of Foreign Wars  
of the United States

**NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS**

406 W. 34th Street  
Kansas City, MO 64111

Office 816.756.3390  
Fax 816.968.1157

**WASHINGTON OFFICE**

200 Maryland Ave., N.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20002

Office 202.543.2239  
Fax 202.543.6719

info@vfw.org  
www.vfw.org

**TO COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL BYLAWS, MANUAL OF PROCEDURE AND RITUAL**  
**This committee meets at 2:00 p.m., Sunday, July 17**

Chairman: Larry W. Rivers, Past Commander-in-Chief, Post 1736, LA

This committee considers all proposed amendments to the National Bylaws and Manual of Procedure, as well as resolutions having any bearing upon the National Bylaws and Manual of Procedure. It makes recommendations to the Convention for approval or disapproval of proposed amendments that may be adopted only in accordance with sections 1401, Bylaws and Manual of Procedure. It also considers resolutions or other proposals pertaining to changes in the VFW Ritual and makes recommendations thereon.

---

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO NATIONAL BYLAWS**

**B-1**

Proposed by Department of Pacific Areas

**ARTICLE I – MEMBERS**

**Sec. 101 – Eligibility.**

Amend Sec. 101 - Eligibility., National Bylaws, by replacing the language in (3) with the following:

“in Taiwan or in its territorial waters for not less than 30 consecutive days, for a total of 60 days, from 1951 to 1979; or”

Renumber the current language in (3) as (4).

**B-2**

Proposed by Department of Vermont

**ARTICLE I – MEMBERS**

**Sec. 101 – Eligibility.**

Amend Sec. 101 – Eligibility. National Bylaws, by adding the following as (4):

“(4) Foreign Duty Service on Foreign Soil, its Airspace, and Territorial Waters for not less than 30 consecutive days, or a total of 60 non-consecutive days of duty after September 11, 2001 – Open”

### **B-3**

Recommended by National Bylaws Study Group  
Proposed by the Commander-in-Chief

#### **ARTICLE I – MEMBERS**

##### **Sec. 102 – Applications-Affiliation of New Members.**

Amend Sec. 102 - Applications-Affiliation of New Members., National Bylaws, under **Members-At-Large.**, by replacing the current paragraph and adding a new subsection titled **Department Members-at-Large.** as follows:

**“Members-at-Large.** Anyone eligible for membership who is unable to join or does not desire membership in a Post may become a Member-at-Large upon application, proof of eligibility, and payment of dues to the Adjutant General. Annual dues shall be \$45.00, provided the National Council of Administration may establish some other amount.

**Department Members-at-Large.** Anyone eligible for membership who is unable to join or does not desire membership in a Post may become a Department Member-at-Large of the Department upon application, proof of eligibility, and payment of dues to the Department Adjutant. Annual dues shall be \$45.00, \$26.00 of which shall be National Organization dues which shall be transmitted to the Quartermaster General monthly on a consolidated report and \$19.00 of which shall be Department dues, provided the Department Council of Administration may establish some other amount as Department dues.”

### **B-4**

Recommended by National Bylaws Study Group  
Proposed by the Commander-in-Chief

#### **ARTICLE II – POSTS, ARTICLE IV – DISTRICTS, ARTICLE V - DEPARTMENTS**

##### **Sec. 202 – Bylaws., Sec. 402 – Bylaws., Sec. 502 – Bylaws.**

Amend Sec. 202 - Bylaws., National Bylaws, in the first paragraph, by replacing “may” with “shall”.

Amend Sections 402 and 502 - Bylaws., National Bylaws, by replacing “may” with “shall” and adding “may” in front of “amend”.

### **B-5**

Proposed by Department of Virginia

#### **ARTICLE II – POSTS**

##### **Sec. 216 – Elected and Appointed Officers; Chairmen and Committees.**

Amend Sec. 216 - Elected and Appointed Officers; Chairmen and Committees., National Bylaws, under (a), by removing “Chaplain”.

**B-6**

Proposed by Department of Virginia

**ARTICLE II – POSTS**

**Sec. 216 – Elected and Appointed Officers; Chairmen and Committees.**

Amend Sec. 216 - Elected and Appointed Officers; Chairmen and Committees., National Bylaws, under (b), by adding “Chaplain” after “Adjutant”.

**B-7**

Proposed by Department of Virginia

**ARTICLE II – POSTS**

**Sec. 216 – Elected and Appointed Officers; Chairmen and Committees.**

Amend Sec. 216 - Elected and Appointed Officers; Chairmen and Committees., National Bylaws, under (c), by adding “Chaplain,” before “Judge Advocate”.

**B-8**

Proposed by Department of Oregon

**ARTICLE II – POSTS**

**Sec. 216 – Elected and Appointed Officers; Chairmen and Committees.**

Amend Sec. 216 - Elected and Appointed Officers; Chairmen and Committees., National Bylaws, by adding the following paragraph as (e):

“(e) The Post shall pay or ensure the membership dues of all Elected and Appointed officers that have an annual membership at the beginning to the VFW year.”

**B-9**

Proposed by Department of Virginia

**ARTICLE IV – DISTRICTS**

**Sec. 406 – District Dues.**

Amend Sec. 406 - District Dues., National Bylaws, by replacing “assess or increase annual dues per member per Post” with “establish or change the amount of annual per capita dues assessed to Posts within the District.”

**B-10**

Recommended by National Bylaws Study Group

Proposed by the Commander-in-Chief

**ARTICLE VI – NATIONAL**

**Sec. 618 – Officers: Duties and Obligations.**

Amend Sec. 618 - Officers: Duties and Obligations. National Bylaws, under (a) **Commander-in-Chief:** (6), by replacing the paragraph with the following:

“(6) Immediately upon entering office, appoint the Adjutant General who shall be a full-time salaried officer of the organization, subject to the approval of two-thirds of the members of the National Council of Administration.”

Under (7), replace the paragraph with the following:

“(7) Immediately upon entering office, appoint the Chief of Staff, Inspector General, and Sergeant-at-Arms and all other officers, Aides-de-Camp, committee chairmen and committees not otherwise provided for.”

Renumber the current language under (7) as (8) and renumber the subsections after (8) as (9) - (15).

#### **B-11**

Proposed by Department of Pacific Areas

### **ARTICLE VII – MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

#### **Sec. 720 – Definitions.**

Amend Sec. 720 - Definitions., National Bylaws, by adding the following terms:

“**SHALL**” as used in the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Podium Edition, is used to express a provision that is mandatory.

“**MAY**” as used in the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Podium Edition, is used to express permission to, when it is necessary to express nonmandatory provisions.

“**WILL**” as used in the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Podium Edition, is used to express a mandatory declaration of purpose.”

#### **B-12**

Recommended by National Bylaws Study Group

Proposed by the Commander-in-Chief

### **ARTICLE XIII**

Amend **ARTICLE XIII**, National Bylaws, by adding the following title and section:

### **“ARTICLE XIII – BYLAWS CONFERENCES**

#### **Sec. 1301 – Formation.**

(a) For the purposes of recommending members for election to national offices at the National Convention, Departments within a geographical area may establish themselves as a Conference. There shall be no more than four Conferences and they shall be known as Eastern Conference, Southern Conference, Western Conference, and Big 10 Conference.

(b) A Conference shall be governed by such Bylaws and Ritual as may be adopted by it, provided such Bylaws, Ritual and Orders do not conflict with the Congressional Charter, Bylaws, Manual of Procedure or Ritual of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States or the lawful orders or directives of the National Convention, the Commander-in-Chief or the National Council of Administration of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.”

PROPOSED

## PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE MANUAL OF PROCEDURE

### **M-1**

Proposed by Department of Vermont

#### **ARTICLE I – MEMBERS**

##### **Sec. 101 – Eligibility.**

Amend Sec. 101 – Eligibility. Manual of Procedure, by adding the following under the ELIGIBILITY GUIDE before “Hostile Fire or Imminent Danger Pay” or where appropriate:

“Foreign Duty Service on Foreign Soil, its Airspace, and Territorial Waters for not less than 30 consecutive days, or a total of 60 non-consecutive days of duty after September 11, 2001 – Open”

### **M-2**

Recommended by National Bylaws Study Group

Proposed by the Commander-in-Chief

#### **ARTICLE I – MEMBERS**

##### **Sec. 103 – Election.**

Amend Sec. 103 - Election., Manual of Procedure, under **Applications.**, in the second paragraph, second sentence, by replacing “a Department Member-at-Large” with “Members-at-Large”.

Under **Rejection of Applicant.**, in the last sentence, remove “Department”.

### **M-3**

Recommended by National Bylaws Study Group

Proposed by the Commander-in-Chief

#### **ARTICLE I – MEMBERS**

##### **Sec. 107 – Transfers.**

Amend Sec. 107 – Transfers., Manual of Procedure, in the second paragraph, by removing the word “Department” before “Member-at-Large”.

### **M-4**

Proposed by Department of Oregon

#### **ARTICLE II – POSTS**

##### **Sec. 218 – Officers and Chairmen, Duties and Obligations.**

Amend Sec. 218 – Officers and Chairmen, Duties and Obligations., Manual of Procedure, under **(a) Officers. (11) Trustees.** by replacing the language under d. with the following:



“d. In addition to the Post Trustees Report of Audit to send to the Department Quartermaster, also include copies of the Bank Statements (checking, saving and investment) for last month of quarter.”

Renumber the current language under d. as e.

#### **M-5**

Proposed by Department of Pacific Areas

#### **ARTICLE IV – DISTRICTS**

#### **Sec. 418 - Officers: Duties and Obligations.**

Amend Sec. 418 - Officers: Duties and Obligations., Manual of Procedure, under **(a) Officers. (1) Commander.** k., by removing the second sentence that reads: “The Commander shall forward a copy within thirty (30 days) to the Department Quartermaster for referral to the Department Inspector.”

#### **M-6**

Proposed by Department of Pacific Areas

#### **ARTICLE IV – DISTRICTS**

#### **Sec. 418 – Officers: Duties and Obligations.**

Amend Sec. 418 - Officers: Duties and Obligations., Manual of Procedure, under **(a) Officers. (7) Trustees.** b., by adding the following at the beginning of the first sentence: “Within thirty (30) days,”. The first sentence would then read: “Within thirty (30) days, submit a Trustees Report of Audit to the Department Quartermaster.

#### **M-7**

Recommended by National Bylaws Study Group

Proposed by the Commander-in-Chief

#### **ARTICLE VI – NATIONAL**

#### **Sec. 620 – Vacancies and Removal of Elected Officers or Committee Members and Salaried Officers.**

Amend Sec. 620 - Vacancies and Removal of Elected Officers or Committee Members and Salaried Officers., Manual of Procedure, under **Vacancies:**, in the second paragraph, by adding the following as the last sentence:

“The appointment will be null and void upon the election of a Quartermaster General as described below.”

## PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE RITUAL

### **R-1**

(Page 72)

Proposed by Department of Kentucky

#### **RITUAL**

#### **INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS**

#### **(National or Department)**

Amend Chapter Title - Installation of Officers (National or Department), Ritual, under **"COMMANDER'S OBLIGATION"** in the fourth paragraph beginning with **"Installing Officer:"**, by replacing "stretch forth" with "raise".

### **R-2**

(Page 72)

Proposed by Department of Kentucky

#### **RITUAL**

#### **INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS**

#### **(National or Department)**

Amend Chapter Title - Installation of Officers (National or Department), Ritual, under **"COMMANDER'S OBLIGATION"** in the fourth paragraph beginning with **"Installing Officer:"**, last sentence, by replacing "allegiance" with "commitment and assistance in furthering the aims of our great organization."

### **R-3**

(After page 88)

Proposed by Department of Texas

#### **RITUAL**

#### **FLAG**

Amend Section titled **"FLAG"**, Ritual, by adding a new subsection named "Flag Retirement Ceremony" after subsection "Flag Presentation Ceremony" as follows:

#### **"FLAG RETIREMENT CEREMONY"**

The following Post Officers comprise the Flag Retirement Detail. Additional Post (and/or Auxiliary) members are encouraged to participate. Participation of community and youth organizations is encouraged.

Commander

Senior Vice Commander

Junior Vice Commander

Chaplain

Officer of the Day

Bugler

Honor Guard

**Senior Vice Commander**

"Comrade Commander, we wish to present a number of unserviceable Flags of our Country for inspection and disposal."

**Commander**

"A Flag may be a flimsy bit of printed gauze, or a beautiful banner of finest silk. Its intrinsic value may be trifling or great; but its real value is beyond price, for it is a precious symbol of all that we and our Comrade have worked and lived and died for – a free nation of free men and women, true to the faith of the past, devoted to the ideals and practice of Justice, Freedom, and Democracy. Title 4, Section 8, of the United States Code states, 'No disrespect should be shown to the flag of the United States of America'. Furthermore, paragraph (K) of this same Title 4, Section 8 states, 'The flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning.'"

**Commander**

"Officer of the Day bring forth one folded Flag!"

**Officer of the Day** *carries one folded Flag forward to be examined by the Post Commander. The Commander examines the flag to determine its serviceability, then returns the flag to the Officer of the Day.*

**Commander**

"I find that this flag has honorably represented our nation and has given its all. The flag is torn and faded and is no longer serviceable. This flag will be retired of its duties, knowing that it has been replaced by a banner untorn and unfaded."

**Commander**

"Chaplain please offer a prayer"

**Chaplain**

"Almighty God, Captain of all Host and Commander over all, bless and consecrate this present hour. We thank Thee for our Country and its Flag, and for the liberty for which it stands. To clean and purging flame we commit these Flags, worn out in worthy service. As they yield their substance to the fire, may Thy Holy light spread over us and bring to our hearts renewed devotion of God and Country. In your most Holy name we pray, Amen."

### **Commander**

You will join me in a final Pledge of Allegiance to this flag. Present Arms! *"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic, for which it stands, one Nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."*

"Bugler, sound Taps"

### **Bugler**

*Plays Taps.*

### **Commander**

Order Arms!

"Comrade Senior Vice Commander, assist the Officer of the Day and the Honor Guard with disassembly of this unserviceable flag"

### **Senior Vice Commander, Officer of the Day & Honor Guard**

*Disassemble the flag, cut the union from the flag, cut the stripes, white from red, cut the 50 stars out of the union.*

### **Commander**

"Officer of the Day, take these shards that once comprised our National ensign and dispose of them in the purging flame that has been prepared."

### **Officer of the Day**

*Ensures that each participant places (at least) one piece of the disassembled flag on the fire.*

*Following the ritualistic disposal of the disassembled flag, the remaining flags are placed, ceremoniously, on the fire, until all are consumed.*

### **Officer of the Day**

(after the flags are fully consumed by fire)

She is gone, sir!

### **Commander**

This concludes our ceremony. Detail, dismissed!

*After the fire has burned out, the grommets should be removed from the ashes and may be presented as mementos of the ceremony.*

### Formation Setup

Jr. Vice Commander

X

Commander

X

Sr. Vice Commander

X

Chaplain

X

Honor Guard

X

Officer of the Day

X

Flag Table

X

0

Flag Barrel

0

Flag Barrel

Bugler

X

## BYLAW AMENDMENTS

Section 1401 of the National Bylaws states:

“Any member in good standing, a Post, a District, or a Department, may propose an amendment to the National Bylaws; provided, however, before consideration at the National Convention, the proposed amendment must be approved by a Department Convention. Immediately following a Department Convention, the proposed amendments must be forwarded to National Headquarters.

A national officer may propose an amendment to the National Bylaws and forward the proposed amendment to the Adjutant General.

All proposed amendments will be available to each Post by the Adjutant General at least fifteen (15) days before the assembling of the National Convention.

Amendments require a two-thirds vote of the delegates present and voting at the National Convention.

All amendments adopted at any National Convention according to the provisions of this section shall take effect thirty (30) days after the final adjournment of the National Convention at which they were adopted, unless specifically stated otherwise in the amendment.”

## MANUAL OF PROCEDURE AND RITUAL AMENDMENTS

Section 1401 of the Manual of Procedure states:

“The Manual of Procedure and Ritual may be amended by the Council of Administration by a majority vote of the members present and voting at a regular meeting as prescribed in Section 622 of the By-Laws.

The Manual of Procedure and Ritual may be amended by the National Convention by a majority vote of the delegates present and voting provided that such amendments have been forwarded, through channels; have been properly approved; and, have been proposed by a Post, a District, a Department, or recommended by a National officer. All proposed amendments will be available to Posts by the Adjutant General at least fifteen (15) days before the assembling of the National Convention for those amendments being proposed for consideration at the convention.”

The Manual of Procedure contains material in the Bylaws as well as additional explanatory material.

A change in the Bylaws automatically changes the Manual of Procedure and it is not necessary to act individually on the corresponding Manual change.

**123RD NATIONAL CONVENTION**  
**ALL PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS**  
**JULY 16-21, 2022**  
**KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI**

**FINANCE & INTERNAL ORGANIZATION**

- 201 SAFETY CONTEST GUIDELINES
- 202 ADDITION OF EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL (EOD) AND HAZARDOUS MATERIAL (HAZMAT) SPECIALIST TO THE PUBLIC SERVANT NATIONAL AWARDS PROGRAM
- 203 FUNDRAISING SUPPORT THROUGH FACEBOOK SOCIAL MEDIA SITE

**GENERAL**

- 301 SUBMARINE WARFARE INSIGNIA

**NATIONAL SECURITY & FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

- 401 OPPOSE TRICARE FEE CHANGES
- 402 KEEP DEFENSE BUDGET RELEVANT
- 403 LINK MILITARY PAY INCREASES TO PRIVATE-SECTOR INCREASES
- 404 ELIMINATE SEXUAL ASSAULT AND HARASSMENT IN THE MILITARY
- 405 ENSURE DOD COMPLIANCE WITH TAP MANDATE
- 406 PROVIDE FULL CONCURRENT RECEIPT OF MILITARY RETIREMENT PAY AND VA DISABILITY COMPENSATION
- 407 SUPPORT THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA ON TAIWAN
- 408 SUPPORT THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA
- 409 SUPPORT THE STATE OF ISRAEL
- 410 PROTECT POW/MIA FULL ACCOUNTING MISSION FUNDING
- 411 CALL FOR MORE UNILATERAL POW/MIA ACTIONS BY VIETNAM
- 412 RECOGNITION FOR AFGHAN AND IRAQI COMBAT TRANSLATORS
- 413 NAMING OF U.S. NAVY VESSEL USS TELESFORO TRINIDAD
- 414 WARTIME ALLIES BURIAL RIGHTS
- 415 SUPPORT UKRAINE
- 416 NATIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR HIGHWAY ON U.S. HIGHWAY 20

**VETERANS SERVICE**

- 601 ADEQUATE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS RESOURCES
- 602 VA PHARMACEUTICAL CO-PAYMENTS
- 603 VA MEDICARE AND TRICARE REIMBURSEMENT
- 604 GERIATRIC AND EXTENDED CARE ELIGIBILITY
- 605 TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY HEALTH CARE
- 606 PTSD AND MENTAL HEALTH CARE

607 VA HEALTH CARE FOR WOMEN VETERANS  
608 EXPAND VA CAREGIVER BENEFITS  
609 SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY CARE OPTIONS  
610 RESEARCH ON MEDICAL CANNABIS TREATMENTS  
611 COVID-19 LESSONS LEARNED  
612 CONSIDER TREATMENT FOR A PRESUMPTIVE SERVICE CONNECTED CONDITION OR A  
SERVICE CONNECTED CONDITION THAT HAS INCREASED IN SEVERITY AS A CLAIM FOR  
VA COMPENSATION  
613 EXTENDING GULF WAR PRESUMPTIONS BEYOND 2026 AND TO AFGHANISTAN THEATER  
VETERANS  
614 EXTEND SERVICE CONNECTION PRESUMPTION TO BLAST SURVIVORS  
615 TINNITUS AND HEARING LOSS PRESUMPTIVE COMPENSABLE SERVICE CONNECTION  
616 VA CLAIMS WORKLOAD  
617 BURIAL PLOT ALLOWANCE  
618 TOXIC EXPOSURES  
619 DIGITAL CLAIMS PROCESS  
620 SERVICE-DISABLED VETERANS LIFE INSURANCE  
621 VA AUTOMOTIVE ALLOWANCE  
622 DOMICILIARY PROGRAMS AND TEMPORARY TOTAL RATINGS  
623 IMPROVE EDUCATION BENEFITS FOR SURVIVORS  
624 VETERAN HOUSING AND FOOD SECURITY PRIORITIES  
625 ENSURE VETERAN SUCCESS IN EDUCATION  
626 VETERAN READINESS AND EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY  
627 SUPPORT VETERANS EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING PROGRAMS  
628 VETERAN ENTREPRENEURSHIP  
629 CONVERT THE MANILA DEPARTMENT OF VETERAN'S ADMINISTRATION OUTPATIENT  
CLINIC TO A FULL-FLEDGED VETERAN'S ADMINISTRATION REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER  
630 COMBATING ALS IN THE VETERAN COMMUNITY  
631 PROVIDE LIQUID BIOPSIES DURING ANNUAL PHYSICALS  
632 INCREASED RESOURCES FOR SERVICE MEMBERS WITH ALZHEIMERS AND DEMENTIA  
633 VETERANS STATUS FOR GUARD AND RESERVE RETIREES  
634 INCREASE GRANT FUNDING FOR LOCAL VETERANS CEMETERIES  
635 SUPPORT THE STATE VETERANS HOME PROGRAM  
636 AMENDMENT TO SCHOOL CODE  
637 VETERANS BILL OF RIGHTS  
638 TAX CREDIT FOR VETERAN CAREGIVERS  
639 VETERAN HOUSING AND FOOD SECURITY PRIORITIES  
640 END WILD HORSE ROUND-UPS  
641 ELIMINATE ANNUAL EARNINGS LIMIT FOR ALL SOCIAL SECURITY RETIREMENT  
RECIPIENTS



## TO COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND INTERNAL ORGANIZATION

**This committee meets at 2:00 p.m., Sunday, July 17**

Chairman: John E. Moon, Past Commander-in-Chief, Post 2873, OH

Vice Chairman: Richard L. Eubank, Past Commander-in-Chief, Post 10165, CA

This committee considers all resolutions involving financial and organizational policies and procedure and makes recommendations thereon.

| No. and Dept. Title |     | Convention Action  |
|---------------------|-----|--|
| 201                 | PA  | <p>SAFETY CONTEST GUIDELINES.....</p> <p>BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we petition the VFW National Council to change the safety contest guideline by making a 4<sup>th</sup> category in the contest, the categories being police, firefighter, EMS, 911 tele-communicator so that 911 Tele-Communicators may receive the recognition they deserve.</p>  |
| 202                 | PAC | <p>ADDITION OF EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL (EOD) AND HAZARDOUS MATERIAL (HAZMAT) SPECIALIST TO THE PUBLIC SERVANT NATIONAL AWARDS PROGRAM .....</p> <p>BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we recognize these courageous technicians for their service, by including the Explosive Ordnance Disposal and Hazardous Material Specialist to the National Public Servant National Awards Program.</p>                  |
| 203                 | VA  | <p>FUNDRAISING SUPPORT THROUGH FACEBOOK SOCIAL MEDIA SITE .....</p> <p>BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we meet with Facebook and/or Meta leadership at the soonest opportunity to craft permissions and procedures whereby the use of Facebook's charitable fundraising tools is permitted to the VFW and its subordinate organizations, as registered and certified 501(c)19 not-for-profit organizations.</p> |

**TO COMMITTEE ON GENERAL RESOLUTIONS**  
**This committee meets at 2:00 p.m., Sunday, July 17**

Chairman: Glen M. Gardner, Jr., Past Commander-in-Chief, Post 6796, TX

This committee considers resolutions of a general nature, including those affecting the veteran only as a part of a special group and those not falling within the category of other committees.

| No. and Dept. | Title | Convention Action |
|---------------|-------|-------------------|
|---------------|-------|-------------------|

|     |    |  |
|-----|----|--|
| 301 | MO | SUBMARINE WARFARE INSIGNIA .....<br>BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, to have the "Membership ELIGIBILITY GUIDE" amended to include the Submarine Warfare Insignia, both officer and enlisted – Navy – Jan.1, 1947 – Open," thus rectifying an injustice and oversight in membership eligibility to include SS and SSN sailors who served honorably, with distinction, and in silence. |
|-----|----|--|

## TO COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS

**This committee meets at 2:00 p.m., Sunday, July 17**

Chairman: William A. Thien, Past Commander-in-Chief, Post 3281, IN

Vice Chairman: John W. Stroud, Past Commander-in-Chief, Post 2313, NV

## SUBCOMMITTEE ON POW/MIA

**This committee meets at 2:00 p.m., Sunday, July 17**

Chairman: Richard L. DeNoyer, Past Commander-in-Chief, Post 1012, MA

Vice Chairman: Harold J. Roesch, Past Commander-in-Chief, Post 3219, VA

This committee considers all resolutions pertaining to national defense, military policy, foreign affairs, POW/MIAs and civil defense and makes recommendations thereon.

| No. and Dept. | Title | Convention Action   |
|---------------|-------|---|
| 401           | CIC   | OPPOSE TRICARE FEE CHANGES .....<br>BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we oppose all Tricare fee increases as well as any additional fee increases or attempts to erode the earned benefit of military healthcare. Moreover, DOD should reform its healthcare programs by eliminating institutional inefficiencies before considering participant fee increases.  |
| 402           | CIC   | KEEP DEFENSE BUDGET RELEVANT .....<br>BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we strongly urge Congress to provide the necessary funding equal to not less than 5 percent of GDP for the readiness, training, modernization, healthcare, and quality of life initiatives for the armed forces of today and tomorrow.   |
| 403           | CIC   | LINK MILITARY PAY INCREASES TO PRIVATE-SECTOR INCREASES.....<br>BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we call upon Congress to maintain military base pay comparability with private-sector wages by ensuring annual military pay raise percentages match or exceed annual ECI increases.  |
| 404           | CIC   | ELIMINATE SEXUAL ASSAULT AND HARASSMENT IN THE MILITARY .....<br>BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we strongly demand DOD become more aggressive in its efforts to reduce sexual assault and harassment, to provide victims with proper and necessary medical and mental health care, as well as assistance with disability claims as may be required, to aggressively and diligently investigate every reported incident and punish attackers, as well as individuals involved in acts of retribution and retaliation, and that |

Congress perform rigorous oversight of the recently passed military justice reforms to ensure proper implementation and identify possible areas for improvement.

- 405    CIC    ENSURE DOD COMPLIANCE WITH TAP MANDATE.....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge the DOD to ensure service members complete TAP no later than 365 days before separation, are connected to community resources, and attend at least one career track, while ensuring nationally accredited Veterans' Service Organizations are afforded consistent access to transitioning service members; and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we request Congress to require DOD and its partner agencies to continuously update their TAP information and procedures to maintain program relevancy, and to maximize veteran access to TAP resources after separating from the military.
- 406    CIC    PROVIDE FULL CONCURRENT RECEIPT OF MILITARY RETIREMENT PAY AND VA DISABILITY COMPENSATION .....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we support legislation that allows for the concurrent receipt of military retirement pay and VA disability compensation without offset and regardless of rating percentage.
- 407    CIC    SUPPORT THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA ON TAIWAN .....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge the Administration and Congress to strictly adhere to the concepts of the Taiwan Relations Act by continuing to approve the sale of state-of-the-art military equipment, weapons, and technology to maintain an adequate defense capability; and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we call upon the Administration and Congress to support the admission of the Republic of China on Taiwan into the United Nations, and to provide the President of Taiwan the same respect and privileges due other visiting Heads of State.
- 408    CIC    SUPPORT THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA .....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge the U.S. Government to maintain a substantial military presence in the Republic of Korea, and to increase military aid and assistance through modern weaponry and technology to help promote peace and stability in the region.
- 409    CIC    SUPPORT THE STATE OF ISRAEL .....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge the United States Government to continue to support the

State of Israel both diplomatically and militarily and continue to work with them to ensure and promote regional stability in the Middle East, and elsewhere.

- 410    CIC    PROTECT POW/MIA FULL ACCOUNTING MISSION FUNDING .....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we call upon Congress to continue to increase funding levels for the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency and all supporting organizations involved in the Fullest possible Accounting Mission; and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Congress must pass advanced appropriations to prevent a slowdown in recoveries and allow for budget carry-over allowing DPAA to plan multi-year operations.
- 411    CIC    CALL FOR MORE UNILATERAL POW/MIA ACTIONS BY VIETNAM .....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we encourage Vietnam to grant U.S. government analysts access to the PAVN archives where potentially valuable documents which could lead to case resolution may be located; and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, in this cooperative effort, that we encourage the Vietnamese government to turn over any items of a personal nature from missing American servicemen that are currently in the custody of Vietnamese museums or other locations under their control so they may be returned to their grieving families.
- 412    CIC    RECOGNITION FOR AFGHAN AND IRAQI COMBAT TRANSLATORS .....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge the President of the United States and the U.S. Congress to recognize the contributions of Afghan and Iraqi Combat Interpreter Immigrants who stood shoulder to shoulder with, assisted and protected U.S. military service members, U.S. diplomats and government agents, non-governmental organizations, and media organizations during U.S. involvement in those countries.
- 413    CIC    NAMING OF U.S. NAVY VESSEL USS TELESFORO TRINIDAD .....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that in recognition of the enduring historic military ties and camaraderie between Americans and Filipinos, and given the factual history and bravery of Fireman Second Class Telesforo de la Cruz Trinidad now exists with his Medal of Honor citation, continue to respectfully urge the Secretary of the United States Navy, by the authority granted to his office, name a newly commissioned surface combatant ship, the USS Telesforo Trinidad, in honor of his heroism and in recognition of the commitment, distinction, and valor of Filipinos and Filipino-Americans who proudly served in the United States Navy.

- 414    CIC    WARTIME ALLIES BURIAL RIGHTS.....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States,  
that wartime allies that have performed direct military support of U.S.  
military operations and are now U.S. citizens, we urge Congress to create  
a legislative pathway for allowing wartime allies who served honorably to  
receive U.S. military burial rights.
- 415    VA    SUPPORT UKRAINE .....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States,  
that we support the people and free government of Ukraine in their fight  
against Russian aggression; and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the VFW urges the President and  
Congress to decidedly exercise our position as leader of the free world to  
decidedly support Ukrainian people and armed forces with necessary  
humanitarian and military aid and encourage all of our allies to follow  
suit.
- 416    OR    NATIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR HIGHWAY ON U.S. HIGHWAY 20.....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, to  
support and encourage the United States Congress to designate the coast  
to coast U.S. Highway 20 as the “National Medal of Honor Highway  
Across America” and require appropriate highway signage including  
displaying the three versions of the Medal of Honor medal on all signs;  
and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, a National Medal of Honor Highway Across  
America will raise public awareness of the Medal of Honor award and the  
bravery of our nation’s war heroes – an objective of the Congressional  
Medal of Honor Society chartered by Congress; and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, designating the Newport, Oregon to Boston,  
Massachusetts coast-to-coast U.S. Highway 20 as the National Medal of  
Honor Highway Across America by the United States Congress would  
honor all of our nation’s current and future Medal of Honor recipients  
and promote education of the traveling public on the “bravest of the  
brave” American war veterans.

## TO COMMITTEE ON VETERANS SERVICE RESOLUTIONS

**This committee meets at 2:00 p.m., Sunday, July 17**

Chairman: John E. Hamilton, Past Commander-in-Chief, Post 5450, FL

Vice Chairman: Thomas A. Pouliot, Past Commander-in-Chief, Post 1116, MT

This committee considers all resolutions pertaining to the Department of Veterans Affairs laws, policy and procedure and laws providing rehabilitation benefits for veterans. It also considers resolutions pertaining to veterans' employment, civil service and housing problems and resolutions that require legislative action and makes recommendations thereon.

| No. and Dept. | Title | Convention Action   |
|---------------|-------|---|
| 601           | CIC   | <p>ADEQUATE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS RESOURCES .....<br/>BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States,<br/>that we urge the Congress of the United States to authorize<br/>appropriations for the Department of Veterans Affairs which fully fund<br/>and maintain the integrity and enhancement of veteran entitlement<br/>programs and health care system.</p> <p>BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we ensure that any recommendations<br/>proposed by the AIR Commission fulfil the Department of Veterans<br/>Affairs' mission to provide quality, timely health care that respects the<br/>service and sacrifices of our nation's veterans.</p> |
| 602           | CIC   | <p>VA PHARMACEUTICAL CO-PAYMENTS .....<br/>BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States,<br/>that we oppose increases in Department of Veterans Affairs<br/>pharmaceutical co-payments; and</p> <p>BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Congress must exempt preventive<br/>medicines from VA pharmaceutical co-payment requirements.</p>   |
| 603           | CIC   | <p>VA MEDICARE AND TRICARE REIMBURSEMENT .....<br/>BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States,<br/>that we support enactment into law of legislation authorizing<br/>Department of Veterans Affairs to receive reimbursement for the cost of<br/>non-service connected care that is provided to veterans who are enrolled<br/>in Medicare or TRICARE.</p>   |
| 604           | CIC   | <p>GERIATRIC AND EXTENDED CARE ELIGIBILITY .....<br/>BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States,<br/>that we urge Congress to establish a standard Department of Veterans<br/>Affairs nursing home entitlement for all veterans enrolled in the VA<br/>health care system; and</p>  |

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge Congress to provide sufficient funding to the Department of Veterans Affairs to ensure the VA health care system provides home and community-based services for veterans as they require extended care.

605    CIC    TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY HEALTH CARE ..... \_\_\_\_\_

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge Congress to provide sufficient funding to the Department of Veterans Affairs to ensure that appropriate screening, diagnostic services, treatment and life-long case management services are available to every veteran suffering from conditions associated with service-connected head trauma to include, but not limited to Traumatic Brain Injuries; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we urge the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to improve research pertaining to screening methods, diagnostic tools, and treatment of conditions associated with TBIs caused by blast injuries, blunt traumas, motor vehicle accidents, falls and other related injuries to ensure veterans who have experienced a TBI receive effective health care.

606    CIC    PTSD AND MENTAL HEALTH CARE ..... \_\_\_\_\_

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we strongly urge the Department of Veterans Affairs to continue to adequately staff VA mental health treatment and research programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we urge Congress to dedicate adequate resources to address the alarming rate at which Veterans die by suicide to include studying the full scope of VA benefit and care programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we urge the Department of Veterans Affairs to assess what specific treatments or practices are the most effective in helping our veterans cope with their PTSD.

607    CIC    VA HEALTH CARE FOR WOMEN VETERANS..... \_\_\_\_\_

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge VA to continue to staff, equip, monitor and enhance health care services available to women veterans at all VA medical facilities and expand its designated women's health program to mental health care to ensure access to mental health care providers who understand women-specific mental health conditions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we urge the Secretary of Veteran Affairs to improve outreach to women veterans, allow women to choose the



gender of their VA health care providers and properly train VA's workforce to treat women veterans with the respect and dignity they have earned and deserve.

608    CIC    EXPAND VA CAREGIVER BENEFITS.....

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge Congress to provide the accurate resources to VA for the expansion of the Department of Veterans Affairs Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers Program to veterans of all eras; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we urge Congress to fully align the VA's Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers Program and the Department of Defense Special Compensation for Assistance with Activities of Daily Living program to include eligibility criteria for those who require caregiver services as a result of serious illnesses incurred in the line of duty; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we urge VA to ensure that veterans who previously qualified for benefits associated with the Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers Program are not erroneously removed from the program and have clear recourse if they feel their benefits may be unjustly severed.

609    CIC    SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY CARE OPTIONS .....

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we oppose any out-of-pocket costs for care coordinated by VA for service-connected disabilities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that VA comply with federal prompt payment requirements and incentivize private sector health care providers to participate in its community care programs, while ensuring veterans and eligible dependents are not held financially liable for services furnished through such programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that VA must remain the guarantor and coordinator of care for enrolled veterans and that the VFW remains opposed to privatizing VA or eroding VA's ability to provide direct care to veterans; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Congress must provide Department of Veterans Affairs with the oversight, appropriations and assets necessary to properly implement the VA MISSION Act as intended by Congress; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Congress and VA must furnish and conduct proper outreach to ensure veterans are fully aware of their health care options.

- 610    CIC    RESEARCH ON MEDICAL CANNABIS TREATMENTS .....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States,  
that we support federally funded research of Medical Cannabis for  
veterans being treated by Department of Veterans Affairs; and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, veterans who use state approved marijuana  
programs should not forfeit their Second Amendment rights.
- 611    CIC    COVID-19 LESSONS LEARNED .....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States,  
that we urge Congress to provide the appropriate funding to ensure  
telehealth is an available option to access VA care by improving  
technology, accessibility, and security; and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we urge the Veterans Health  
Administration to ensure that the Office of Human Resources have the  
necessary staff to properly implement policies and procedures to  
accelerate qualified employees' hiring processes to adequately maintain  
the number of health care personnel.
- 612    CIC    CONSIDER TREATMENT FOR A PRESUMPTIVE SERVICE CONNECTED  
CONDITION OR A SERVICE CONNECTED CONDITION THAT HAS  
INCREASED IN SEVERITY AS A CLAIM FOR VA COMPENSATION .....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States,  
that we urge Congress to enact legislation requiring that treatment by  
the Department of Veterans Affairs VHA facility for a condition or disease  
recognized, as presumptively service connected or a service connected  
disability that has increased in severity will serve as the effective date for  
service connected compensation; and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we urge Congress to enact legislation  
requiring VA to notify veterans, upon receiving treatment for a  
presumptive disability, that said disability is a claimable presumptive  
service connected disability.
- 613    CIC    EXTENDING GULF WAR PRESUMPTIONS BEYOND 2026 AND TO  
AFGHANISTAN THEATER VETERANS.....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States,  
that we urge Congress and Department of Veterans Affairs to support  
research to verify whether service members who served in Afghanistan  
are subjected to the same environmental hazards as those who served in  
Iraq, so that appropriate benefits, including eligibility for compensation  
based on undiagnosed illnesses, and medical care eligibility, will be  
provided retroactive to the beginning of Operation Enduring Freedom;  
and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that VA must permanently extend presumptive disability compensation benefits for Gulf War veterans to ensure all service members who serve in Southwest Asia theater of military operations are afforded this protection.

614    CIC    EXTEND SERVICE CONNECTION PRESUMPTION TO BLAST SURVIVORS.....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge Congress to approve a presumption of service connection for conditions associated with blast exposure.

615    CIC    TINNITUS AND HEARING LOSS PRESUMPTIVE COMPENSABLE SERVICE CONNECTION .....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, we urge Congress and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to grant service connection on a presumptive basis for any veteran diagnosed after discharge with hearing loss or tinnitus when the evidence shows that the veteran participated in combat or worked in a position or occupational specialty likely to cause acoustic trauma; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we urge the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to amend the Schedule for Rating Disabilities to provide a minimum compensable evaluation for any service connected hearing loss for which a hearing aid is medically indicated; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we oppose any changes to the Schedule for Rating Disabilities that seek to include tinnitus as a component of hearing loss, potentially denying veterans of service connected benefits.

616    CIC    VA CLAIMS WORKLOAD.....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that Congress require Department of Veterans Affairs to accept private medical evidence and opinions in lieu of VA examinations whenever they are sufficient for rating purposes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we continue to advise that Congress exercise its oversight authority and provide the vital resources necessary to sustain a sufficient workforce capable of effectively managing the workload and provide quality and timely service to those claiming benefits or appealing decisions from VA; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Congress bolsters its oversight and funding of VA technology initiatives to ensure that they are constructive, relevant and effective in streamlining claims processing and improving quality of entitlement decisions.

- 617    CIC    BURIAL PLOT ALLOWANCE .....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that Congress increase all burial benefits to what the *Independent Budget* recommends. The VFW urges Congress to provide the resources required to meet the burial needs of all veterans who have served their country so honorably and faithfully.
- 618    CIC    TOXIC EXPOSURES .....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge Congress to invest adequate resources to study, diagnose, and treat conditions and illnesses associated with toxic exposures; and  
  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we urge Congress and the Department of Veterans Affairs to grant a presumption of service connection for all conditions and illnesses that are deemed by scientific evidence to be at least as likely as not associated with or caused by exposure to a toxic substance or environmental hazard and not solely on the basis of a definitive causal link or scientific certainty; and  
  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we urge the Department of Defense to disclose known and potential toxic exposures during all military operations; and  
  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Congress ensures that the Department of Defense expedites declassification efforts related to exposure events and that the Department of Veterans Affairs extends presumptive service connection to veterans suffering from conditions or illnesses found to be associated with exposure to toxic substances.
- 619    CIC    DIGITAL CLAIMS PROCESS .....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge Department of Veterans Affairs to update regulations to authorize VSOs the same advocacy rights in the digital environment as were allowed in the paper-based claims process and honor proof of digital transmission to VA as the effective date; and  
  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs work with all VA-accredited entities to develop real-time, secure access to tools that allow advocates to provide comprehensive assistance to clients in real time; and  
  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that VA grant VSOs the authority to intervene on VA errors prior to the issuance of a rating decision, during which, VA shall not finalize decisions without the VSO electronically certifying that errors or discrepancies have been resolved.

- 620    CIC    SERVICE-DISABLED VETERANS LIFE INSURANCE .....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States,  
that we urge Congress and Department of Veterans Affairs to ensure  
that VA life insurance rates are competitive with private insurance  
company rates; and
- BE IT RESOLVED FURTHER RESOLVED, that we urge Congress to pass  
legislation to index for inflation the maximum coverage rate of the  
Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance program.
- 621    CIC    VA AUTOMOTIVE ALLOWANCE .....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States,  
that we urge Congress and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to remove  
the unreasonable restrictions of a once in a lifetime grant; and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs  
authorize veterans, or their duly authorized representatives who are  
already in receipt of the automotive allowance, those with applications  
pending, and any future qualified applicant be allowed to reapply for this  
essential benefit at the end of the sales or lease contract or every five  
years, whichever is greater, so as to maintain a practical quality of life  
and benefit from current safety and technology standards.
- 622    CIC    DOMICILIARY PROGRAMS AND TEMPORARY TOTAL RATINGS.....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States,  
that Congress restore eligibility for temporary 100 percent ratings to  
include medical treatment provided by all domiciliary and day programs  
provided the program is treating a service connected disability.
- 623    CIC    IMPROVE EDUCATION BENEFITS FOR SURVIVORS.....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States,  
that we urge Congress to increase Survivors and Dependents Educational  
Assistance Program benefits to reflect the rising cost of education, with  
future increases indexed to reflect the average cost of attendance as  
reported by the Department of Education.
- 624    CIC    VETERAN HOUSING AND FOOD SECURITY PRIORITIES .....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States,  
that we urge the President and Congress to continue to address veterans'  
homelessness by increasing the availability of affordable housing,  
expanding educational and employment opportunities and training and  
providing gender-specific services; and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Department of Veterans Affairs should  
periodically adjust Grant and Per Diem program rates for inflation to

ensure sufficient operation of homeless veteran assistance programs;  
and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that VA compensation and non-service connected pension should not be considered countable income by the Department of Housing and Urban Development and Department of Agriculture in determining program eligibility.

625    CIC    ENSURE VETERAN SUCCESS IN EDUCATION.....

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge Congress to ensure proper oversight of Department of Veterans Affairs educational benefit programs by developing quality metrics with which to demonstrate student veteran success in higher education, and close financial loopholes through which certain academic programs can exploit GI Bill tuition models; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Congress ensure veterans receive equitable access to benefits like housing payments and quality pre-enrollment educational information to ensure veterans are academically and financially prepared to succeed in higher education; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we work to extend full GI Bill benefits for all combat veterans and eliminate any delimitating dates for all VBA education benefits, preserving quality GI Bill benefits for all current conflict veterans and future conflict veterans to ensure they have access to quality education assistance programs.

626    CIC    VETERAN READINESS AND EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY .....

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge Congress to change the eligibility delimiting date for Department of Veterans Affairs Veteran Readiness and Employment program by eliminating the 12-year-delimiting date for eligibility to Chapter 31 benefits and allow all veterans with employment impediments or problems with independent living to qualify for VR&E rehabilitation services for life; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the VA must restructure performance measures to emphasize long-term employment versus the current short-term indicators of success. Furthermore, VR&E should continually follow up with veterans considered to be employable to ensure that the training and employment placement plans have been successful and if unsuccessful, to ensure the reasons and bases are clearly communicated to the veteran; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that VA streamlines eligibility and entitlement to VR&E programs to provide more timely intervention and assistance to all disabled veterans; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that VA must provide better information about VR&E during the Transition Assistance Program Class for separating service members.

627    CIC    SUPPORT VETERANS EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING PROGRAMS ..... \_\_\_\_\_

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we support viable and effective veterans employment and training programs, such as the Veteran Employment Through Technology Education Courses (VET TEC), the Jobs for Veterans State Grant program, and other Department of Labor Veterans Employment and Training Service programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we urge Congress to improve and enforce federal veteran-hiring mandates for contractors who do business with the federal government as outlined in Title 38 USC 4212; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that federal veteran hiring initiatives and programs must be held accountable for the effectiveness of the services provided and funding should be adjusted to reflect abilities in creating long-term meaningful careers for veterans, and state agencies that receive federal funding must be held to the same standards and report to Congress on the success of veteran hiring initiatives.

628    CIC    VETERAN ENTREPRENEURSHIP ..... \_\_\_\_\_

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that Congress expand entrepreneurial education and networking programs for veterans via VR&E, veterans small business centers and other entrepreneurship programs funded through the Small Business Administration; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Congress expand veteran's and disabled veteran's access to capital by expanding direct loan programs through the Small Business Administration; but such programs should never come at the expense of other earned veterans' benefits; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Congress hold Department of Veterans Affairs accountable for its duty to properly verify veteran entrepreneurs to help achieve the federal government's three-percent veterans contracting goal.

- 629 PAC CONVERT THE MANILA DEPARTMENT OF VETERAN'S ADMINISTRATION  
OUTPATIENT CLINIC TO A FULL-FLEDGED VETERAN'S ADMINISTRATION  
REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER.....  
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States,  
urge Congress to enact legislation to convert the VA Outpatient Clinic  
Manila, Philippines into a full-fledged VA Regional Medical Center with a  
sufficient budget and medical personnel to provide adequate medical  
service all US Veterans in the Pacific Areas equal to VA Medical Centers in  
the Continental United States.
- 630 VA COMBATING ALS IN THE VETERAN COMMUNITY .....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States,  
that we call upon Congress to dedicate more resources towards research  
on causes, development of therapies, and expanded access to treatments  
for veterans stricken with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis to ensure that our  
military men and women are at no greater risk for ALS than other  
Americans.
- 631 MT PROVIDE LIQUID BIOPSIES DURING ANNUAL PHYSICALS .....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States,  
that we urge the Department of Veterans Affairs to increase cancer  
screenings including novel screenings; and  
  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we urge the Department of Veterans  
Affairs to add liquid biopsies for cancer screening to annual physicals for  
all veterans by January of 2023 with a preference on those with FDA  
approval.
- 632 IL INCREASED RESOURCES FOR SERVICE MEMBERS WITH ALZHEIMERS AND  
DEMENTIA .....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States,  
that we urge Congress and VA to fund studies into the cause of  
Alzheimer's, fund studies into early detection, fund studies into the  
treatment and alternatives of treatment for patients with Alzheimer's  
and Dementia, and further study the direct correlation between military  
service and the increased risk to service members for Alzheimer's and  
Dementia; and  
  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that VFW Department of Illinois urges the  
Illinois General Assembly and the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs  
review the facilities and staffing at the Illinois Veteran Homes and expand  
the facilities to accept the increasing number of patients that suffer from  
Alzheimer's and Dementia. Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs should  
also review the application process and ensure service members that  
suffer from Alzheimer's and Dementia are not discriminated against due  
to the drug therapy they are undergoing to treat the symptoms.



- 633 IL VETERANS STATUS FOR GUARD AND RESERVE RETIREES .....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge Congress to mandate that the Department of Defense recognize military retired Guard and Reserve members with an Armed Forces discharge and further urge the Department of Veterans Affairs to recognize Retired Guard and Reserve members as Veterans with admission to state veterans' homes with full funding.
- 634 IL INCREASE GRANT FUNDING FOR LOCAL VETERANS CEMETERIES .....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we, request an increase in the VA's Veterans Cemetery Grant Program budget to \$10 million per year to cover the establishment, improvement, operations and maintenance for these cemeteries.
- 635 IL SUPPORT THE STATE VETERANS HOME PROGRAM .....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we call on Congress and the VA to provide sufficient funding to support State Veterans Homes, including adequate per diem payments for skilled nursing care, domiciliary care and adult day health care, which properly support different levels of care within each program.
- 636 IL AMENDMENT TO SCHOOL CODE.....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge the Illinois General Assembly to Amend the School Code and Provide that if, at the time of enrollment, a dependent of United States military personnel is housed in temporary housing located outside of a school district, but will be living within the district within 6 months (instead of within 60 days), the dependent must be allowed to enroll and must not be charged tuition provided that United States military personnel provide proof within 6 months (instead of within 60 days) after the time of enrollment that the dependent will be living within the district.
- 637 IL VETERANS BILL OF RIGHTS .....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we require the Department of Veterans' Affairs to make specified efforts to: (1) increase loans to small business concerns owned and controlled by veterans or service-disabled veterans; (2) increase veterans' access to health care coverage and services; (3) take specified steps toward preventing veteran suicide; and (4) develop and implement a strategy to end veteran homelessness within 3 years; and  
  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation review all state licenses for which military service members may have relevant training or experience, produce a

report recommending steps that can be taken to increase recognition of military training and experience toward licensing and take those steps within one year of issuing the report which should contain provisions regarding veterans at public institutions of higher education receiving college credit, registering for courses, and being called to active duty; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity annually review apprentice, training, and other vocational programs focused on providing job training and placement to returning military service members and veterans.

638 IL TAX CREDIT FOR VETERAN CAREGIVERS ..... \_\_\_\_\_

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge the Illinois General Assembly to enact legislation to create an income tax credit for taxpayers who are caregivers of a veteran with a disability and that the credit shall be in an amount equal to 5% of the costs incurred in caring for the veteran, not to exceed \$1,000 in credits in any taxable year.

639 CT VETERAN HOUSING AND FOOD SECURITY PRIORITIES ..... \_\_\_\_\_

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge the President and Congress to continue to address veterans' homelessness by increasing the availability of affordable housing, expanding educational and employment opportunities and training and providing gender-specific services; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Department of Veterans Affairs should annually adjust Grant and Per Diem program rates for inflation, based on separate indices for food and housing, with the latter adjusted for local variations in housing cost based on the Variable Housing Allowance Tables used by the Department of Defense, to ensure sufficient operation of homeless veteran assistance programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that VA compensation and non-service connected pension should not be considered countable income by the Department of Housing and Urban Development and Department of Agriculture in determining program eligibility.

640 CO END WILD HORSE ROUND-UPS ..... \_\_\_\_\_

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge Congress to put an end to the wasteful practice by the Bureau of Land Management of removing wild free-roaming horses and burros from Federal Land and to protect wild horses and burros from slaughter or killing as population management; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Congress shall pass legislation to prioritize the use of fertility control over removals, and working with veterans to implement fertility control vaccine programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Congress shall reallocate the excess funds saved by shifting away from wasteful spending on the removal and housing of these wild free-roaming symbols of American Freedom to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

641    HI    ELIMINATE ANNUAL EARNINGS LIMIT FOR ALL SOCIAL SECURITY  
RETIREMENT RECIPIENTS .....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States,  
that we call upon Congress to modernize the Senior Citizens Freedom to  
Work Act of 2000 by eliminating the Annual Earnings Limit for all Social  
Security retirement recipients.

**TO COMMITTEE ON CONVENTION RULES**  
**This committee meets at 12:00 p.m., Sunday, July 17**

☐ **APPROVED**

Chairman: William J. "Doc" Schmitz, Sr., Past Commander-in-Chief, Post 524, NY

CONVENTION RULES  
123rd National Convention  
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States  
Kansas City, Missouri

1. That, in accordance and conjunction with the National Bylaws and Manual of Procedure, and with any exception noted here, the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall be recognized as parliamentary authority for this Convention.
2. That when a registered delegate desires to make a motion or address the Convention, the delegate shall rise, address the Chair as "Comrade Commander-in-Chief," and after being recognized, shall state their name, Post number and Department before proceeding.
3. A registered delegate shall be permitted to speak but twice on any one subject, or any pending resolution for a period not to exceed five minutes each except by consent of two-thirds of the voting strength of the Convention present and voting, provided that chairmen of Convention committees may speak as frequently as necessary in connection with reports of their committees. In the event of controversy, the presiding officer shall not entertain any motion which will curtail further debate without affording the maker of the motion or a member of the delegation presenting the resolution an opportunity for five minutes of final rebuttal.
4. All resolutions offered by individual registered delegates must bear the endorsement of the Department Commander or, if absent, the Department Adjutant. All resolutions must be submitted to the office of the Adjutant General for numbering and referral to committee no later than 4:00 p.m. Tuesday, July 19, 2022 and must be accompanied by a written explanation as to why the resolution was not presented to the Department Convention for consideration.
5. All resolutions offered on the floor at the Convention will initially be in writing, and shall automatically and without reading, be referred to the Adjutant General for assignment to the proper committee.
6. Committee chairmen, in reporting on resolutions referred to their committee, shall first read the number of those resolutions on which favorable action is recommended. Specific resolutions may be set aside for individual action at the request of any delegate, the others being voted upon collectively. After action has been taken on all such resolutions, the chairman shall read the number and title of those resolutions which the committee has disapproved. A resolution disapproved by the committee shall be automatically rejected unless a motion is made and seconded that it be approved, in which case it shall be brought up for debate and Convention action.
7. This Convention will not consider any resolution dealing with the expenditure or appropriation of organizational funds.
8. The Convention will not consider any resolution endorsing legislation sponsored by any other veterans' organization, or requesting us to join with any other organization in sponsoring legislation not expressly proposed by the members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

9. Only delegates to this Convention may speak in debate, make motions and vote during Convention proceedings.
10. Delegates shall vote individually on any item of business coming before the Convention and cannot be required to vote as a block with others from their delegation.
11. Voting strength shall be determined by those delegates registered as of the close of the credential registration booth the previous day and as reported to the National Convention. The Department Commanders will receive, prior to the beginning of each business session, a list of posts that have properly registered delegates. Only delegates representing those Posts listed on the report will be accorded voting privileges.
12. On roll calls, the Department Commander of each delegation shall poll their delegation's registered delegates on the floor and shall announce the vote of their delegation.
13. Registered delegates of a delegation may arrive at a vote in any manner, but shall announce it in terms of full units and not in terms of a fractional part of a vote.
14. Reconsideration of a motion or resolution upon which final disposition has been made shall not be allowed after the meeting at which it was acted on has been recessed, unless the body is notified of such contemplated action prior to the close of that meeting.
15. When the report of the Department Commander of the delegation is not acceptable to all registered delegates of the delegation and a poll of the Department registered delegates is demanded by three registered delegates of said Department, the Adjutant General shall poll the registered delegates, without discussion of question.
16. In accordance with Section 621 of the National Bylaws, voting shall be by acclamation as defined within Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, except a roll call may be demanded by ten registered delegates representing Posts in ten separate Departments, or by order of the Commander-in-Chief.
17. Nominating speeches for the National officers shall be limited to five minutes each. The time allocated to encompass all seconding speeches shall be limited to four minutes total. Nomination and election of National officers will be held according to the Congressional Charter, Bylaws, and Section 617 of the National Manual of Procedure.
18. Registered delegates and persons recognized by the Chair shall be entitled to a respectful hearing, and the Chair shall have the authority to clear the gallery or the floor or have the Sergeant-at-Arms escort from the floor any person or persons who may create any disturbance which interferes with the orderly procedure of the Convention.
19. The Commander-in-Chief may, as may be necessary and appropriate to informing the membership of the activities of this Convention, authorize that all or parts of the Convention be streamed through the website of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.
20. Consent of two-thirds of the voting strength of the Convention present and voting is necessary for suspension of the rules of this Convention.

## NOTES