

## **Resolution No. 301**

### **SUBMARINE WARFARE INSIGNIA**

WHEREAS, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States is “a national association of veterans who as soldiers, sailors, marines, and airmen served this Nation in wars, campaigns, and expeditions on foreign soil or in hostile waters,” and “is a federally chartered corporation”; and

WHEREAS, membership is extended to eligible individuals who “served honorably as a member of the Armed Forces of the United States – “in an area which entitled the individual to receive special pay for duty subject to hostile fire or imminent danger under Section 310 of title 37”; and

WHEREAS, “Hostilities” are defined as, “Persons in the Armed Forces of the United States shall become eligible for membership immediately upon arrival on hostile soil, in hostile waters or the airspace above in the performance of service qualifying such persons for membership”; and

WHEREAS, eligibility has been extended to include members of the United States Submarine Force who have received the SSBN Deterrent Patrol Insignia for service aboard an SSBN submarine from Jan. 21, 1961 – Open; and

WHEREAS, crewmembers assigned to the above stated SSBN submarines received Hazardous Duty Pay, referred to by law as Sub Pay immediately upon reporting for duty as a crewmember of a commissioned and active duty SSBN submarine; and

WHEREAS, the above-mentioned Sub Pay was further paid to every Submariner assigned to any commissioned and active United States submarine, SS (Diesel submarines), SSBN (FBM submarines or Boomers), and SSN (Fast Attack submarines); and

WHEREAS, members of the United States Navy Submarine Force earn the coveted Submarine Warfare Insignia (hereafter referred to as “Dolphins”), and carry the proud moniker of “Submariner”; and

WHEREAS, to earn the Submarine Warfare Insignia each Submariner, both officer and enlisted are required to accomplish a rigorous qualification process to learn and become proficient in the knowledge of every aspect of the submarine to which they are assigned and must demonstrate this proficiency in their knowledge of the submarine’s systems, capabilities, damage control, operations, and must possess exceptional knowledge in the duties and mission of the Submarine Force; and

WHEREAS, the United States Submarine Force is referred to as “The Silent Service” due to the nature of its missions and patrols as a part of defending the United States; and

WHEREAS, the missions and patrols of the Diesel submarines and Fast Attack submarines have included requirements of such sensitive nature, and highly classified so that OPSEC precludes awarding of specific medals, ribbons, or even to acknowledge said missions and patrols; and

WHEREAS, all United States Submarines have operated “in hostile waters,” as referenced above, regardless of type or class during the Cold War from 1947 to Present; now, therefore

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.