

**127th NATIONAL CONVENTION  
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES**

**RENO, NEVADA  
JULY 25 - 29, 2026**



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

**SCHEDULE OF RESOLUTIONS**

**GENERAL INFORMATION FOR COMMITTEES**



July 10, 2026

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 127th 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 "Dan West", is positioned above the printed name.

Dan West  
Adjutant General

Veterans of Foreign Wars  
of the United States

**NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS**

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### **National Bylaws**

Approved: B-1, B-3, B-5, B-8, B-9, B-15, B-20, B-23 and B-24

Rejected: B-2, B-4, B-6, B-7, B-13, B-14, B-16, B-17, B-21, B-22 and B-25

Withdrawn: B-10, B-11, B-12, B-18 and B-19

### **Manual of Procedure**

Approved: M-3, M-5, M-8, M-11, M-13, M-14, M-16, M-18 and M-19

Rejected: M-1, M-2, M-4, M-6, M-7, M-9, M-10, M-12, and M-15

Withdrawn: M-17

### **Ritual**

Approved: R-1 – R-4

### **Finance & Internal Organization (200 Series)**

Approved: 208

Approved As Amended: 211

Rejected: 201 - 207, and 209 - 210

### **General (300 Series)**

Rejected: 301 and 302

### **National Security & Foreign Affairs (400 Series)**

Approved: 401, 403, 405 - 408, 411 - 413, 415 - 418, 422, 423, 426, 427, 429, 430 - 432, 435 and 436

Approved As Amended: 402, 404, 414, 421 and 424

Rejected: 420, 428 and 433 - 434

### **Subcommittee on POW/MIA**

Approved: 410, 419 and 425

Rejected: 409

### **Veterans Service (600 Series)**

Approved: 601 – 650, 652 – 661, 663, 665, 666, 668 – 673 and 676 - 677

Approved As Amended: 651 and 675

Rejected: 662, 664, 667 and 674

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## **TO COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL BYLAWS, MANUAL OF PROCEDURE AND RITUAL**

### **This committee meets at 1:00 p.m., Sunday, July 26**

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

Vice Chair: Patsey E. Schreiber, Post 8385, GA

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.

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### **PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO NATIONAL BYLAWS**

#### **B-1**

Recommended by National Bylaws Study Group

Proposed by the Commander-in-Chief

#### **ARTICLE II - POSTS**

##### **Sec. 203 - Regular, Special and Committee Meetings; Quorum; Authorized Attendees.**

Amend Sec. 203 - Regular, Special and Committee Meetings; Quorum; Authorized Attendees., National Bylaws, under **Regular Meetings.**, by removing the second sentence.

#### **B-2**

Proposed by Department of Minnesota

#### **ARTICLE II - POSTS**

##### **Sec. 215 - Eligibility to Office.**

Amend Sec. 215 - Eligibility to Office., National Bylaws, in the second paragraph, by adding the following at the end of the sentence:

“, including but not limited to Quartermaster and Adjutant.”

#### **B-3**

Recommended by National Bylaws Study Group

Proposed by the Commander-in-Chief

#### **ARTICLE II - POSTS**

##### **Sec. 220 - Vacancies and Removal of Elected Officers or Committee Members.**

Amend Sec. 220 - Vacancies and Removal of Elected Officers or Committee Members., National Bylaws, under **Removal.**, in the second paragraph, by removing “elected”.

#### **B-4**

Recommended by National Bylaws Study Group

Proposed by the Commander-in-Chief

#### **ARTICLE II - POSTS**

#### **Sec. 222 - Delegates, District Convention & Meetings, Department and National Conventions.**

Amend Sec. 222 - Delegates, District Convention & Meetings, Department and National Conventions., National Bylaws, under (b), by replacing “elected” with “appointed”.

#### **B-5**

Recommended by National Bylaws Study Group

Proposed by the Commander-in-Chief

#### **ARTICLE V - DEPARTMENTS**

#### **Sec. 503 - Regular, Special and Committee Meetings; Convention; Quorum; Authorized Attendees.**

Amend Sec. 503 - Regular, Special and Committee Meetings; Convention; Quorum; Authorized Attendees., National Bylaws, by replacing the second paragraph with the following:

“The Department Bylaws may specify the minimum number of delegates required to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at a Department Convention, provided that in no case shall the quorum be less than one delegate each from ten Posts in the Department.”

#### **B-6**

Proposed by Department of Illinois

#### **ARTICLE V - DEPARTMENTS**

#### **Sec. 506 - Department Dues.**

Amend Sec. 506 - Department Dues., National Bylaws, by replacing “shall” with “may”.

#### **B-7**

Proposed by Department of Illinois

#### **ARTICLE V - DEPARTMENTS**

#### **Sec. 522 - Council of Administration – Composition, Powers and Duties.**

Amend Sec. 522 - Council of Administration – Composition, Powers and Duties., National Bylaws, under (a), in the fourth sentence, by adding “the current National Council of Administration Department Member,” after “Department Bylaws,”.

#### **B-8**

Recommended by National Bylaws Study Group

Proposed by the Commander-in-Chief

#### **ARTICLE VI - NATIONAL**

#### **Sec. 604 - Governing Body; Composition.**

Amend Sec. 604 - Governing Body; Composition., National Bylaws, under (2), by removing “All” and adding “, Department” after “Council of Administration”.

**B-9**

Proposed by the Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief

**ARTICLE VI - NATIONAL**

**Sec. 615 - Eligibility to Office.**

Amend Sec. 615 - Eligibility to Office., National Bylaws, by adding the following as a second paragraph:

“No Past Commander-in-Chief shall be eligible for appointment to a paid National position or office within the organization until a minimum of five (5) years has elapsed since their official departure date as the Commander-in-Chief. A Past Commander-in-Chief remains eligible to hold all elected positions within the organization for which they are otherwise eligible.”

**B-10**

Proposed by the Commander-in-Chief

**ARTICLE VI - NATIONAL**

**Sec. 616 - Elected and Appointed Officers; Chairmen and Committees.**

Amend Sec. 616 - Elected and Appointed Officers; Chairmen and Committees., National Bylaws, under (a), by adding “Adjutant General,” after “Quartermaster General”.

Under (b), remove “Adjutant General”.

**B-11**

Proposed by the Adjutant General

**ARTICLE VI - NATIONAL**

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

Amend Sec. 618 - Officers: Duties and Obligations., National Bylaws, under (d)(2), by removing the second sentence.

**B-12**

Proposed by the Adjutant General

**ARTICLE VI - NATIONAL**

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

Amend Sec. 618 - Officers: Duties and Obligations., National Bylaws, under (f)(2), by removing the second sentence.

**B-13**

Proposed by Department of Kentucky

**ARTICLE VI - NATIONAL**

**Sec. 622 – National Council of Administration-Composition, Powers and Duties.**

Amend Sec. 622 - National Council of Administration-Composition, Powers and Duties., National Bylaws, under (b)(12), by adding the following as a second sentence:

“In the absence of a Council Member, the respective State Commander, if present, may serve as the representative for that Council Member.”

#### **B-14**

Proposed by Department of Texas

#### **ARTICLE VI - NATIONAL**

#### **Sec. 623 - National Council of Administration, Department Members, Election, Vacancies and Removal.**

Amend Sec. 623 - National Council of Administration, Department Members, Election, Vacancies and Removal., National Bylaws, by adding the following at the end of the section:

**“Pro Tempore Representation:** In the event a duly elected National Council of Administration member is unable to attend a scheduled meeting of the National Council of Administration due to illness, incapacity, or other unavoidable and temporary circumstances, the Department Commander, with the two-thirds (2/3) concurrence of the Department Council of Administration, may appoint a qualified member in good standing from within the Department to serve as a pro tempore National Council member for that meeting.

This provision is intended solely to provide temporary representation in situations where the Department does not seek to remove or replace the duly elected National Council member due to a short-term condition.

Such appointment shall be limited to no more than two (2) consecutive National Council of Administration meetings.

The Commander-in-Chief and Adjutant General shall be notified of such appointment no later than thirty (30) days prior to the convening of the National Council of Administration meeting.

The appointed pro tempore member shall have all rights and responsibilities of a National Council member during the meeting(s) for which they are appointed.

Under no circumstances shall this provision be used to permanently replace, bypass, or circumvent the duly elected National Council member.”

#### **B-15**

Recommended by National Bylaws Study Group

Proposed by the Commander-in-Chief

#### **ARTICLE VII - MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

#### **Sec. 704 - Relief Fund.**

Amend Sec. 704 - Relief Fund., National Bylaws, by removing the entire section.

#### **B-16**

Proposed by Department of Virginia

#### **ARTICLE VII - MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

#### **Sec. 707**

Amend Sec. 707, National Bylaws, by adding the following as a new section:

**“Sec. 707 - Conferences.**

- (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, and by the lawful orders issued by its National Officers, 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.
- (c) Voting rights within a Conference shall be as follows:
  - a. The Commander-in-Chief and Past Commanders-in-Chief and all other elected National officers, the Adjutant General, Inspector General, and Chief-of-Staff who are members in good standing of a Post in a Conference shall each be afforded one vote.
  - b. All National Council of Administration members who are members in good standing of a Post in a Conference shall each be afforded one vote.
  - c. All Department Commanders of a Department in good standing in a Conference shall each be afforded five votes regardless of the size of their Department’s membership. In the absence of the Department Commander, the Department Senior Vice Commander, or, in the Department Senior Vice Commander’s absence, the Department Junior Vice Commander may function in the role of the Department Commander and cast said votes. The manner in which these votes are cast shall be at the discretion of said Department Commander so long as they are cast in whole numbers and shall be cast in accordance with the bylaws of the respective Department, if applicable.
  - d. Current elected and appointed officers of the Conference as prescribed by the bylaws of the Conference who are members in good standing of a Post in the Conference shall each be afforded one vote.
  - e. An individual possessing more than one qualification as noted above shall not be entitled to vote under more than one qualification.”

**B-17**

Proposed by Department of Washington

**ARTICLE VII - MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

**Sec. 714 - Control of Mailing Lists.**

Amend Sec. 714 - Control of Mailing Lists., National Bylaws, by adding the following at the end of the Section:

“Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of this Section, duly elected Post Commanders and Department Commanders shall be entitled to access membership roster information within their respective jurisdiction, as made available through official VFW systems, solely for the purpose of performing the official duties of their office.



Such access shall remain subject to all confidentiality restrictions contained in this Section and shall not include authority to disseminate, sell, transfer or otherwise use membership information for commercial or political purposes.

A Commander may designate, in writing, not more than five (5) members within the same jurisdiction to receive limited proxy access for operational purposes. Any member granted such proxy access shall be bound by the same restrictions and limitations applicable to the Commander, and such designation shall terminate automatically upon the expiration of the Commander's term of office."

#### **B-18**

Recommended by Past Commander-in-Chief Alfred J. "Al" Lipphardt

Proposed by the Commander-in-Chief

#### **ARTICLE VII - MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

##### **Sec. 719 - Past Officers.**

Amend Sec. 719 - Past Officers., National Bylaws, in the first paragraph, by adding "or suspended" after "terminated" and adding the following at the end of the paragraph:

"Any loss of such status, rights, privileges, or title as outlined in this section resulting from action taken pursuant to Article IX shall be final and permanent and shall not be subject to pardon, commutation, restoration, remission, or other modification by any higher authority."

#### **B-19**

Proposed by Department of Washington

#### **ARTICLE VII - MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

##### **Sec. 719 - Past Officers**

Amend Sec. 719 - Past Officers., National Bylaws, by replacing the second paragraph with the following:

"For purposes of Section 404, the term "Past Commander" includes only those persons whose service as a Commander was in that respective District or in one which was consolidated or merged into it."

#### **B-20**

Recommended by National Bylaws Study Group

Proposed by the Commander-in-Chief

#### **ARTICLE IX - DISCIPLINE**

##### **Sec. 903 - Procedure for Disciplinary Actions.**

Amend Sec. 903 - Procedure for Disciplinary Actions., National Bylaws, under (c)(5), by adding the following language as no. 5 and renumbering the current language in nos. 5., 6. and 7. as 6., 7. and 8.:

"5. If the initiating documents are returned to the initiating authority due to refusal of delivery, failure to claim the mailing, or undeliverable based on the last known address of the

member, such service shall be deemed sufficient notice for purposes of these proceedings, and the action shall proceed as though no hearing or summary disposition was requested.”

**B-21**

Proposed by Department of Tennessee

**ARTICLE XI - AUXILIARY**

**Sec. 1102 - Eligibility.**

Amend Sec. 1102 - Eligibility, National Bylaws, in the first paragraph, by adding “including in-law and step relations of the same” after “grandchildren”.

**B-22**

Proposed by Department of Colorado

**ARTICLE XI – AUXILIARY**

**Sec. 1102 – Eligibility.**

Amend Sec. 1102 - Eligibility., National Bylaws, by replacing the first paragraph with the following:

“Membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Auxiliary shall be limited to spouses, including surviving spouses; parents, grandparents, brothers, sisters, children, and grandchildren; step- parents, step-grandparents, step-children, and step-grandchildren; adoptive parents, adoptive grandparents, adopted children, and adopted grandchildren; and parents-in-law, grandparents-in-law, brothers- and sisters-in-law, children-in-law, and grandchildren-in-law of a person who was or is eligible for membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.”

**B-23**

Proposed by the Adjutant General

**ARTICLE XIII - NATIONAL VFW RIDERS**

Amend ARTICLE XIII - NATIONAL VFW RIDERS, National Bylaws, by adding “Group” after “Riders” in the title and as it appears throughout the Article.

**B-24**

Proposed by the Adjutant General

**ARTICLE XIII - NATIONAL VFW RIDERS**

**Sec. 1302 - Eligibility.**

Amend Sec. 1302 - Eligibility, National Bylaws, in the first sentence, by adding “and its Auxiliary” after “Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States”.

**B-25**

Proposed by Nevada

**ARTICLE XV**

Add new **ARTICLE XV**, National Bylaws, to read as follows:

## **"ARTICLE XV – CONFERENCES**

### **Sec. 1501 – Recognition of Conferences.**

For the purpose of recommending members for election to National office at the National Convention, the existing Conferences of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States are hereby formally recognized. There shall be no more than four (4) Conferences, known respectively as the Eastern Conference, Southern Conference, Western Conference, and Big Ten Conference.

### **Sec. 1502 – Governance and Authority.**

Each Conference shall be governed by such bylaws, rules, and procedures as may be adopted by that Conference, provided such provisions do not conflict with the Congressional Charter, National Bylaws, Manual of Procedure, Ritual, or lawful directives of the National Convention, Commander-in-Chief, or National Council of Administration.

### **Sec. 1503 – Advisory Nature of Conference Endorsements.**

- (a) Conference endorsements for National office shall be advisory only and shall not prohibit or restrict any qualified member from seeking nomination for National office.
- (b) A Conference may endorse one or more qualified candidates for National office; however, such endorsement shall not guarantee nomination or election.
- (c) Conferences shall publish procedures and timelines governing endorsements to their respective Departments.

### **Sec. 1504 – Voting Procedures.**

- (a) Each Department represented at a duly convened Conference meeting shall be entitled to five (5) votes in Conference endorsement proceedings.
- (b) The Department Commander, or duly designated representative, shall cast the Department's votes.
- (c) Endorsement of a candidate shall require a majority vote of the Departments present and voting.

### **Sec. 1505 – Rights of National Convention Delegates.**

Nothing contained in this Article shall limit the right of any duly accredited delegate to nominate or vote for any qualified candidate for National office in accordance with the National Bylaws."

## PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE MANUAL OF PROCEDURE

### **M-1**

Proposed by Department of South Dakota

#### **ARTICLE I - MEMBERS**

##### **Sec. 101 - Eligibility.**

Amend Sec. 101 - Eligibility., Manual of Procedure, under the **ELIGIBILITY GUIDE**, after “Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal” by adding the following:

“Remote Combat Effects Campaign Medal                      Sept. 11, 2001 – Open”

### **M-2**

Proposed by Department of Colorado

#### **ARTICLE II – POSTS**

##### **Sec. 203 – Regular, Special and Committee Meetings; Quorum; Authorized Attendees.**

Amend Sec. 203 – Regular, Special and Committee Meetings; Quorum; Authorized Attendees., Manual of Procedure, by adding the following after the first paragraph:

“Official notice of regular or special meetings, conventions, or other organizational communications required under these Bylaws may be provided by electronic means, including email or other digital communication, when a member’s contact information has been furnished for that purpose. Electronic notice shall be deemed equivalent to written notice; provided, however, this shall not apply to disciplinary, suspension, or removal notices, which shall be delivered as otherwise required.”

### **M-3**

Recommended by National Bylaws Study Group

Proposed by the Commander-in-Chief

#### **ARTICLE II - POSTS**

##### **Sec. 211 - Suspension and Revocation of Charter.**

Amend Sec. 211 - Suspension and Revocation of Charter., Manual of Procedure, under (2)(b), by adding “or Department representative” after “administrative committee”.

### **M-4**

Proposed by Department of Colorado

#### **ARTICLE II – POSTS**

##### **Sec. 211 – Suspension and Revocation of Charter.**

Amend Sec. 211 – Suspension and Revocation of Charter., Manual of Procedure, under (3)(b), by replacing the paragraph with the following:

“The Post Commander shall be notified of the action, which may be transmitted by electronic means, including email or other digital communication, or by personal delivery by a designated representative, provided the correspondence is verifiable and retained for record.”

**M-5**

Proposed by Department of Minnesota

**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)(1)(f), by removing "by use of voucher or payment order" from the end of the sentence.

**M-6**

Proposed by Department of Virginia

**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)(6)(d), no. 1., by replacing the sentence with the following:

"1. A hard copy of the original application of every member admitted to the Post until such time as the membership has been successfully processed into the VFW National OMS Database, at which time the original documents may be committed to electronic copies in accordance with the preceding section."

**M-7**

Proposed by Department of Colorado

**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)(6) by adding the following after g.:

"h. Official correspondence of the Post may be conducted by electronic means, provided such correspondence is consistent with Department and National policy and appropriate records are retained."

**M-8**

Proposed by Department of Texas

**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)(12), by adding the following at the end of the second sentence:

" , an accredited VFW Service Officer, or other accredited representative."

## **M-9**

Recommended by National Bylaws Study Group

Proposed by the Commander-in-Chief

### **ARTICLE II - POSTS**

#### **Sec. 222 - Delegates, District Convention & Meetings, Department and National Conventions.**

Amend Sec. 222 - Delegates, District Convention & Meetings, Department and National Conventions., Manual of Procedure, in the first paragraph, by replacing the first sentence with the following:

“Delegates and alternates for the District Convention and Meetings, Department and National Conventions shall be appointed by the Post Commander, with approval by a majority of members present and voting at a regular meeting in April.”

Amend the fourth paragraph by replacing the current language with the following:

“Posts instituted after delegate strength has been determined, but prior to convening date of the respective convention or District meeting, shall on the day of institution, have the Post Commander appoint, with approval by a majority of members present and voting, one delegate and one alternate for each thirty names or fraction thereof according to the number of names listed on the charter application.”

Amend the fifth paragraph by replacing the current language with the following:

“Only in the event a Post is left without at least one elected delegate or alternate during the year, the Post Commander shall appoint, with approval by a majority of members present and voting, replacement delegates, according to delegate strength, at the next Regular or Special Meeting.”

## **M-10**

Proposed by Department of Colorado

### **ARTICLE IV – DISTRICTS**

#### **Sec. 403 – Regular, Special and Committee Meetings; Convention; Quorum; Authorized Attendees.**

Amend Sec. 403 – Regular, Special and Committee Meetings; Convention; Quorum; Authorized Attendees., Manual of Procedure, under Regular Meeting., by adding the following after the first paragraph:

“Official notice of regular or special meetings, conventions, or other organizational communications required under these Bylaws may be provided by electronic means, including email or other digital communication, when a member’s contact information has been furnished for that purpose. Electronic notice shall be deemed equivalent to written notice; provided, however, this shall not apply to disciplinary, suspension, or removal notices, which shall be delivered as otherwise required.”

**M-11**

Proposed by Department of Minnesota

**ARTICLE IV - DISTRICTS**

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

Amend Sec. 418 - Officers: Duties and Obligations., Manual of Procedure, under (a)(1)(g), by removing “by use of a voucher or payment order” from the end of the sentence.

**M-12**

Proposed by Department of Minnesota

**ARTICLE IV - DISTRICTS**

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

Amend Sec. 418 - Officers: Duties and Obligations., Manual of Procedure, under (a)(5)(a), by removing “vouchers” from the sentence.

**M-13**

Recommended by National Bylaws Study Group

Proposed by the Commander-in-Chief

**ARTICLE IV - DISTRICTS**

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

Amend Sec. 418 - Officers: Duties and Obligations., Manual of Procedure, under (a)(5)(e), in the second sentence, by adding “and a backup is maintained.” after the second “National Headquarters”.

**M-14**

Recommended by National Bylaws Study Group

Proposed by the Commander-in-Chief

**ARTICLE IV - DISTRICTS**

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

Amend Sec. 418 - Officers: Duties and Obligations., Manual of Procedure, under (a)(6), by replacing the current language with following:

- “(6) Adjutant.** Among the duties of the District Adjutant, the Adjutant shall:
- a. Be the official corresponding officer for the District and shall attest to all official communications and reports with their signature.
  - b. Under the direction of the Commander, prepare all reports and returns required of the Adjutant.
  - c. Maintain the books and records in a legible and uniform format. Record keeping by electronic means may be used, provided a back-up is maintained. Books and records shall be available for inspection by authorized officers and Post members at all reasonable times.
  - d. The District Adjutant shall maintain the following:
    1. Minutes of each District meeting after correction and approval.
    2. All current orders or circulars issued by the Commander-in-Chief, the National Council of Administration, the Department Commander, and the District Commander.

3. A correspondence file.
4. A file containing a copy of the proof of eligibility submitted by officers pursuant to Section 416.
- e. Maintain a current copy of the Bylaws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and copies of the Bylaws of the Department and District.
- f. Transfer to their successor, without delay, all books, papers, records, monies and other records and property of the Post in their possession or under their control.
- g. Comply with and perform all duties required of the Adjutant by the laws and usages of this organization, applicable Bylaws and orders from lawful authority and perform such other duties as are incident to such office."

#### **M-15**

Proposed by Department of Colorado

#### **ARTICLE V – DEPARTMENTS**

#### **Sec. 503 – Regular, Special and Committee Meetings; Convention; Quorum; Authorized Attendees.**

Amend Sec. 503 - Regular, Special and Committee Meetings; Convention; Quorum; Authorized Attendees., Manual of Procedure, by adding the following paragraph:

"Official notice of regular or special meetings, conventions, or other organizational communications required under these Bylaws may be provided by electronic means, including email or other digital communication, when a member's contact information has been furnished for that purpose. Electronic notice shall be deemed equivalent to written notice; provided, however, this shall not apply to disciplinary, suspension, or removal notices, which shall be delivered as otherwise required."

#### **M-16**

Proposed by Department of Minnesota

#### **ARTICLE V - DEPARTMENTS**

#### **Sec. 518 - Officers: Duties and Obligations.**

Amend Sec. 518 - Officers: Duties and Obligations., Manual of Procedure, under (a)(1)(f), by replacing the current sentence with the following:

"Approve all disbursements of the funds properly authorized by the Department Council of Administration or Department Convention."

#### **M-17**

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, in the second paragraph, by adding "or Adjutant



General” after “Quartermaster General” and “or Assistant Adjutant General” after “Assistant Quartermaster General” as it appears throughout the paragraph.

**M-18**

Recommended by National Bylaws Study Group

Proposed by the Commander-in-Chief

**ARTICLE VII - MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

**Sec. 704 - Relief Fund.**

Amend Sec. 704 - Relief Fund., Manual of Procedure, by removing the entire section.

**M-19**

Proposed by the Adjutant General

**ARTICLE XIII - NATIONAL VFW RIDERS**

Amend ARTICLE XIII - NATIONAL VFW RIDERS, Manual of Procedure, by adding “Group” after “Riders” in the title and as it appears throughout the Article.

## PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE RITUAL

### **R-1**

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

#### **RITUAL**

#### **PLATES**

Amend the Ritual, by removing the following plates:

Plate No. 1 – Page 10  
Plate No. 1A – Page 11  
Plate No. 1B – Page 12  
Plate No. 2 – Page 13  
Plate No. 3 – Page 31  
Plate No. 4 – Page 45  
Plate No. 5 – Page 66  
Plate No. 6 – Page 90  
Plate No. 7 – Page 91  
Plate No. 8 – Page 95  
Plate No. 9 – Page 98  
Plate No. 10 – Page 114

### **R-2**

(Page 14)

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

#### **RITUAL**

#### **OPENING POST CEREMONIES**

Amend Chapter Title - Opening Post Ceremonies, Ritual, under the second **Commander** on page 16, by removing all language after "Order Arms!".

### **R-3**

(Page 20)

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

#### **RITUAL**

#### **CLOSING CEREMONIES (Post)**

Amend Chapter Title - Closing Ceremonies (Post), Ritual, by removing the language under the third **Commander** on page 21.

## **R-4**

(Page 120)

Proposed by Department of Virginia

### **RITUAL**

Add the following as a new Chapter Title called “**UNSERVICEABLE FLAGS CEREMONY**”, inserted at the end of the Ritual:

#### **“UNSERVICEABLE FLAGS CEREMONY**

(During the ceremony, only one flag should be utilized to symbolize all the flags intended for disposal.)

**Officer of the Day:** “Today we have gathered here to pay our last respects to this symbol of our great nation and retire this flag.

The Stars and Stripes was adopted on June 14, 1777, by the Continental Congress to be our nation’s flag. Since then, there have been 27 iterations of this flag but what it stands for has not changed. The US flag has 13 alternating red and white stripes representing the 13 original colonies. Its 50 white stars on a blue field represent the 50 states of our country. The colors of the flag also have meaning – The Red representing valor and bravery, White for purity and innocence, and Blue for vigilance, perseverance, and justice.

Our Nation’s flag has flown in peace and war. It has been present at more than 100 military conflicts and countless expeditions and deployments around the world to include the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, Civil War, Spanish-American War, World Wars I and II, Korea, Vietnam, The Gulf War, Afghanistan and Iraq. The flag remains a symbol of freedom, liberty, hope strength and pride to which Americans pledge their allegiance.

Comrade Commander, I wish to present this flag of our Country for examination and retirement.”

**Commander:** “Comrade Officer of the Day, proceed to the Junior Vice Commander and present the Flag for examination.”

(Officer of the Day will pick up ceremonial flag and will carry it with both arms crossed, held to their chest and will move in a uniform manner to the Junior Vice Commander)

(When Officer of the Day arrives with the ceremonial flag, Junior Vice Commander renders a slow salute to the flag)

(Officer of the Day will lower the flag from their chest and present the flag to the Junior Vice Commander)

Following presentation of the flag to the Junior Vice Commander, the Officer of the Day shall, in turn, render a slow salute)

**Officer of the Day:** “Comrade Junior Vice Commander, I present this flag for your examination. Is this flag no longer a fitting emblem for display?”

(Junior Vice Commander looks down upon the flag)

**Junior Vice Commander:** “It is not, proceed to the Senior Vice Commander”

(Officer of the Day will bring the flag back to their chest and move in a uniform manner to the Senior Vice Commander)

(When Officer of the Day arrives with the ceremonial flag, Senior Vice Commander renders a slow salute to the flag)

(Officer of the Day will lower the flag from their chest and present the flag to the Senior Vice Commander)

Following presentation of the flag to the Senior Vice Commander, the Officer of the Day shall, in turn, render a slow salute)

**Officer of the Day:** “Comrade Senior Vice Commander, I present this flag for your examination. Should this flag be destroyed in a dignified manner?”

(Senior Vice Commander looks down upon the flag)

**Senior Vice Commander:** “Yes, it should. Present this flag to the Commander for final examination and fitting disposal.”

(Officer of the Day will bring the flag back to their chest and move in a uniform manner to the Commander)

(When Officer of the Day arrives with the ceremonial flag, Commander renders a slow salute to the flag)

(Officer of the Day will lower the flag from their chest and present the flag to the Commander)

Following presentation of the flag to the Commander, the Officer of the Day shall, in turn, render a slow salute)

**Officer of the Day:** “Comrade Commander, in accordance with United States Code Title 4. Section 8 (k), when the flag 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:** “Very well.”

**Commander:** “Attention! This flag has served its nation long and well It has been worn to a condition in which it should no longer be used to represent the nation. This flag represents all the flags collected and being retired from service today. The honor we show here for this one flag, we are showing for all the flags, even those not physically here.”

(Prayer portion of this ceremony is optional)

**Commander:** Parade Rest! Uncover! Comrade Chaplain, please offer the prayer

**Chaplain:** “Lord, we thank Thee for our Country and its Flag, and for the liberty for which it stands. We humbly ask you to watch over our service members now serving under our flag. We commit these flags, worn-out in worthy service, to a clean and purging flame. As they yield their substance to the fire, may Thy holy light spread over us, bring warmth to our Prisoners-of-war, provide a beacon for our missing in action to be returned home, and bring renewed devotion to God and Country. Amen.”

**Commander:** “Cover! Attention! We will now commit these flags to the flame and pledge our allegiance to the Flag. Present Arms.”

(Color Guards present arms. Post colors are dipped. All officers and members’ salute. All in attendance recite the Pledge of Allegiance.)

**Commander:** (at conclusion of the Pledge) “Order arms! Parade Rest!”

**Officer of the Day:** “Let us have a moment of silence while the flag burns, reflecting on its significance and the freedoms it represents”

(The Color Guard shall resume its station)

(Color Guard retires and posts colors)

**Officer of the Day:** “This concludes our ceremony.”

## 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 Bylaws.

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.

**127TH NATIONAL CONVENTION**

**ALL PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS**

**JULY 25-29, 2026**

**RENO, NEVADA**

**FINANCE & INTERNAL ORGANIZATION**

- 201 NATIONAL VFW VETERAN CREATIVE WRITING AWARD
- 202 NATIONAL VFW VETERAN POETRY AWARD
- 203 NATIONAL VFW VETERAN ILLUSTRATED ART AWARD
- 204 VFW OUTSTANDING MILITARY LEADER AWARD
- 205 PROTECTION OF VETERAN PRIVACY & OPERATIONAL SECURITY IN THIRD-PARTY DIGITAL PLATFORMS
- 206 ESTABLISH A NATIONAL VFW SUICIDE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION PROGRAM
- 207 VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS MODERN ELIGIBILITY AND REMOTE SERVICE ACT (VFW MERit) ACT
- 208 ESTABLISHING A DESIGNATED FAMILY-FRIENDLY SPACE AT THE NATIONAL CONVENTION
- 209 DECLARING THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES A PURPLE HEART ENTITY
- 210 BAN ALL TOBACCO USAGE AND PRODUCTS FROM VFW FACILITIES
- 211 AMEND THE CONGRESSIONAL CHARTER TO INCLUDE UNITED STATES SPACE FORCE

**GENERAL**

- 301 SUPPORT FOR ESTABLISHING GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM VETERANS DAY ON AUGUST 30
- 302 NATIONAL RECOGNITION OF WOMEN VETERANS RECOGNITION DAY – JUNE 12

**NATIONAL SECURITY & FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

- 401 PRESERVE THE ALL-VOLUNTEER FORCE
- 402 ELIMINATE SEXUAL ASSAULT AND HARASSMENT IN THE MILITARY
- 403 ENSURE DOD COMPLIANCE WITH TAP LAW
- 404 KEEP DEFENSE BUDGET RELEVANT
- 405 LINK MILITARY PAY INCREASES TO PRIVATE-SECTOR INCREASES
- 406 PROVIDE FULL CONCURRENT RECEIPT OF MILITARY RETIREMENT PAY AND VA DISABILITY COMPENSATION
- 407 PRESERVE THE INTEGRITY OF THE TRICARE BENEFIT
- 408 AWARDED THE ARMED FORCES EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL FOR EXPEDITIONARY OPERATIONS IN EASTERN EUROPE
- 409 PROTECT POW/MIA FULL ACCOUNTING MISSION FUNDING
- 410 CALL FOR MORE UNILATERAL POW/MIA ACTIONS BY VIETNAM
- 411 RECOGNITION FOR AFGHAN AND IRAQI COMBAT SUPPORT ROLES
- 412 SUPPORT THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA ON TAIWAN
- 413 SUPPORT THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA
- 414 SUPPORT THE STATE OF ISRAEL
- 415 SUPPORT OF NATO DETERRENCE AND SUPPORT TO UKRAINE
- 416 DEPORTED VETERANS
- 417 EXPAND THE DATES OF ELIGIBILITY FOR THE ARMED FORCES EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL
- 418 ARMED FORCES EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL FOR SUPPORT OF UKRAINE
- 419 PROTECT POW/MIA FULL ACCOUNTING MISSION FUNDING
- 420 ENSURE DOD COMPLIANCE WITH TAP LAW

421 RESEARCH BLAST OVERPRESSURE  
 422 REPATRIATE AMERICA'S FIRST FOREIGN WAR CASUALTIES  
 423 SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION FORMS SSA-7161 AND SSA-7162  
 424 SUPPORTING THE SOVEREIGN RIGHTS OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES IN THE  
 WEST PHILIPPINE SEA  
 425 ADDING A 'RECOVERED AWAITING DNA CONFIRMATION' CATEGORY TO THE DEFENSE  
 POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY (DPAA) AND IMPLEMENTING DNA MATCH  
 NOTIFICATIONS THROUGH ANCESTRY WEBSITES  
 426 ARMED FORCES EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL ELIGIBILITY FOR UNRECOGNIZED MILITARY  
 ACTIONS AND CONFLICTS  
 427 RECOGNITION AND SUPPORT FOR ADDRESSING MORAL INJURY AMONG SERVICE  
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 428 CONGRESS TO HONOR THE OATHS OF U.S. SERVICE MEMBERS AND REPEAL THE 2001  
 AUTHORIZATION FOR USE OF MILITARY FORCE  
 429 RECOGNITION OF ADDING 74 SAILORS ON THE VIETNAM MEMORIAL WALL  
 430 PRESERVE U.S. ARMY RESERVE'S DEDICATED AEROMEDICAL EVACUATION CAPABILITY  
 431 COLD WAR CAMPAIGN MEDAL FOR OVERSEAS VETERANS  
 432 CONGRESSIONAL RECOGNITION OF OVERSEAS U.S. VETERANS AS A STRATEGIC  
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 433 MEDICARE ACCESS FOR OVERSEAS VETERANS  
 434 PROTECTING GRACE PERIODS FOR MILITARY & OVERSEAS VOTERS  
 435 PROTECTING MAIL-IN BALLOTS AND GRACE PERIODS FOR OVERSEAS VOTERS  
 436 SUPPORT THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL FOR WWII NURSES

## VETERANS SERVICE

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 602 VA CLAIMS WORKLOAD  
 603 VFW OPPOSES BUDGET CUTS THAT HARM VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES  
 604 APPEALS MODERNIZATION AND LEGACY REMANDS  
 605 USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AT THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
 606 DIGITAL CLAIMS PROCESS  
 607 PROTECTING VA ACCREDITATION  
 608 FAIR AND FAVORABLE EFFECTIVE DATES  
 609 UNDERSERVED VETERANS  
 610 SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE FOR SURVIVING FAMILY MEMBERS OF VETERAN SUICIDE  
 611 TINNITUS AND HEARING LOSS PRESUMPTIVE COMPENSABLE SERVICE CONNECTION  
 612 TOXIC EXPOSURES  
 613 FEMALE REPRODUCTIVE CANCERS AND OTHER GYNECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS DUE TO  
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 620 GOVERNMENT HEADSTONES  
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623 VETERAN HOUSING AND FOOD SECURITY PRIORITIES  
 624 CONSUMER PROTECTIONS FOR VETERANS  
 625 ENSURE VETERAN SUCCESS IN EDUCATION  
 626 FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID  
 627 SUPPORT VETERANS EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING PROGRAMS  
 628 VA HOME LOAN CORRECTION  
 629 VETERAN ENTREPRENEURSHIP  
 630 VETERAN READINESS AND EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY  
 631 PROTECTING HEALTH CARE AND BENEFITS  
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 633 ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD MODERNIZATION (EHRM)  
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 636 HEALTHCARE PROGRAM FOR OVERSEAS VETERANS  
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 638 VA MEDICARE REIMBURSEMENT  
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 640 REQUIRE CIVILIAN HEALTH AND MEDICAL PROGRAM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERAN  
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 642 SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY CARE OPTIONS  
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 645 TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY HEALTH CARE  
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 647 MENTAL HEALTH DISORDERS  
 648 MILITARY SEXUAL TRAUMA (MST)  
 649 THE IMPERATIVE OF THE VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION PROVIDING NEXUS  
 STATEMENTS  
 650 SUPPORTING PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS/ASSOCIATES (PAS)  
 651 FULLY SUPPORT PRESIDENT TRUMP'S EXECUTIVE ORDER HOLDING THE DEPARTMENT  
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 AS INTENDED, AND MORE, BY ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL CENTER FOR WARRIOR  
 INDEPENDENCE (NR 25-3)  
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 653 ENHANCE VETERAN PATIENT ADVOCACY ACCOUNTABILITY  
 654 CAREGIVER PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY ABROAD  
 655 TRAVEL PAY FOR OVERSEAS VETERANS  
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 657 WOMEN VETERANS REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH EQUITY  
 658 SUPPORT FOR EXPANDED ADDICTION RECOVERY AND REHABILITATION PROGRAMS FOR  
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 659 BURIAL BENEFITS FOR NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE MEMBERS  
 660 ACCOUNTABILITY ACROSS BORDERS: RAISING THE BAR FOR VA C&P EXAMINERS  
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 661 SUPPORT FOR THE DIVESTMENT OF UNAVAILABLE SAVINGS TO LIVE (DUSL) ACT  
 662 RETURN OF IN-PERSON APPEAL HEARINGS TO DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
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664 PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR H.R. 6022  
665 AMEND THE BLUE WATER NAVY VIETNAM VETERANS ACT OF 2019  
666 OVERSEAS BUT NOT SECOND CLASS: GUARANTEEING EQUAL ONLINE ACCESS TO VA  
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667 ENSURING MEANINGFUL HUMAN OVERSIGHT OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND  
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668 VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION TRANSPARENCY INITIATIVE  
669 VULNERABILITY TO ADVANTAGE: REFORMING OVERSEAS MILITARY HEALTHCARE  
670 ENDING THE HIDDEN COST OF VA EXAMS FOR OUR TROOPS  
671 EXPANDING POST-9/11 GI BILL TRANSFERABILITY  
672 SUPPORT FOR IMPROVED PROCESSING, TRACKING, AND ASSISTANCE FOR OVERSEAS  
DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION (DIC) CLAIMS  
673 UNLOCKING GLOBAL CLASSROOMS FOR AMERICA'S VETERANS  
674 SUPPORT FOR THE POST-9/11 GI TRANSFERABILITY REFORM BILL OF 2025  
675 ENSURE READINESS AND POST-SERVICE EMPLOYMENT THROUGH CREDENTIALING  
676 EDUCATION BENEFITS FOR OVERSEAS DEPENDENTS  
677 SUPPORT FOR EXPANDED SURVIVOR OUTREACH AND ASSISTANCE FOR FAMILIES  
RESIDING OVERSEAS

## TO COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND INTERNAL ORGANIZATION

**This committee meets at 1:00 p.m., Sunday, July 26**

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

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

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

| No. and Dept. | Title | Convention Action                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|---------------|-------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 201           | OK    | <p>NATIONAL VFW VETERAN CREATIVE WRITING AWARD .....</p> <p>BE IT RESOLVED, that the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, establish a National VFW Veteran Creative Writing Award open to all veterans and current service members; and</p> <p>BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that each submission must include acceptable proof of military service and a signed non exclusive release permitting publication while ownership remains with the author; and</p> <p>BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the VFW National Headquarters administer this award and may develop administrative procedures consistent with the eligibility requirements, submission criteria, and documentation standards set forth herein.</p> |
| 202           | OK    | <p>NATIONAL VFW VETERAN POETRY AWARD .....</p> <p>BE IT RESOLVED, that the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, establish a National VFW Veteran Poetry Award; and</p> <p>BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that submissions include proof of service and a non exclusive publication release; and</p> <p>BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the VFW National Headquarters administer this award and may develop administrative procedures consistent with the eligibility requirements, submission criteria, and documentation standards set forth herein.</p>                                                                                                                                                             |
| 203           | OK    | <p>NATIONAL VFW VETERAN ILLUSTRATED ART AWARD .....</p> <p>BE IT RESOLVED, that the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, establish a National VFW Veteran Illustrated Art Award; and</p> <p>BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that submissions include proof of service and a non exclusive display release; and</p> <p>BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the VFW National Headquarters administer this award and may develop administrative procedures consistent with the eligibility requirements, submission criteria, and documentation standards set forth herein.</p>                                                                                                                                               |

- 204 OK VFW OUTSTANDING MILITARY LEADER AWARD.....

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- BE IT RESOLVED, that the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, establish the VFW Outstanding Military Leader Award open to current Active Duty, Reserve, and National Guard service members; and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that eligibility for this award includes leaders at any level of responsibility, with selection based on demonstrated impact on morale, mentorship, ethical leadership, and mission accomplishment rather than rank or size of command; and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that nominations may be submitted by subordinates, leaders within the nominee’s chain of command, chaplains, or other recognized leaders within the nominee’s unit or command; and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the VFW National Headquarters administer this award and may develop administrative procedures consistent with the eligibility requirements, submission criteria, and documentation standards set forth herein.
- 205 GA PROTECTION OF VETERAN PRIVACY & OPERATIONAL SECURITY IN THIRD-PARTY DIGITAL PLATFORMS .....

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- BE IT RESOLVED, that the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, refrains from formally endorsing, promoting, or advertising third-party veteran networking or military-history data collection platforms unless such entities have undergone meaningful review regarding:
1. Veteran privacy protections;
  2. Data collection, sharing, retention, and deletion policies;
  3. Cybersecurity safeguards;
  4. Transparency regarding third-party information sharing;
  5. Operational security risks associated with aggregated service-related information; and
  6. Protections for vulnerable veteran populations; and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Veterans of Foreign Wars encourage educational guidance for members regarding online operational security (OPSEC), digital privacy awareness, oversharing risks, and responsible disclosure of military service information on third-party platforms; and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that until such review standards are established, the Veterans of Foreign Wars should avoid the appearance of official endorsement of any third-party veteran data aggregation or networking platform whose privacy, security, and veteran-protection practices have not been independently evaluated.

206 AZ ESTABLISH A NATIONAL VFW SUICIDE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION PROGRAM.....

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, establishes a National VFW Suicide Awareness and Prevention Program to strengthen and unify existing VFW suicide prevention initiatives; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this program shall include:

1. A National Suicide Prevention Task Force, comprised of VFW members, mental health professionals, and other key stakeholders, tasked with advising and guiding VFW policy and program initiatives.
2. Standardized training for VFW members and leadership in suicide prevention, crisis intervention and mental health awareness.
3. Partnerships with mental health professionals, VA services and community healthcare providers to ensure comprehensive access to resources for veterans and their families.
4. An outreach program that proactively engages veterans at risk through peer support networks, Post-level educational sessions and digital outreach efforts.
5. A dedicated funding strategy ensuring sustainability through existing VFW resources, grant opportunities and public private partnerships.
6. Annual assessment and reporting requirements, ensuring the effectiveness of the program and providing recommendations for continuous improvement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the National Commander-in-Chief and the National Director of Programs shall oversee the implementation and ongoing evaluation of this program, making necessary adjustments to better serve VFW members and the veteran community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the VFW shall advocate for expanded suicide prevention resources, working alongside government agencies, nonprofit organizations and other stakeholders to strengthen national and local suicide prevention efforts.

207 EU VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS MODERN ELIGIBILITY AND REMOTE SERVICE ACT (VFW MERit) ACT .....

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, assembled at its National Convention, that we urge the Congress of the United States to enact legislation, to be known as the Veterans of Foreign Wars Modern Eligibility and Remote Service Act (VFW-MERit Act), to amend 36 U.S.C. §§ 230101 and 230103, and any related provisions of the VFW Congressional Charter, to modernize membership eligibility so that it

explicitly recognizes combat-relevant over-the-horizon, remote, and cyber warfare roles performed in support of U.S. operations against foreign adversaries; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the VFW-MERit Act shall establish a modern, combat-relevance-based eligibility standard for combat and combat-support service, thereby safeguarding both the wartime character of the organization and its long-term institutional viability, as follows:

1. COMBAT-RELEVANCE STANDARD.

Service Members whose official military records, as determined by competent military authority and recognized by the VFW National organization, establish: (a) direct participation in, or direct operational support of, combat or contingency operations conducted against foreign adversaries, including through modernized, network-based, cyber, space, remote, or over-the-horizon means; and (b) assignment to a unit, billet, or duty position, or receipt of an individual or unit award, specifically identified by competent military authority as conducting or directly supporting such combat or contingency operations—regardless of the geographical location from which such operations are conducted or whether traditional campaign medals have been awarded; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that for purposes of this combat-relevance standard, clear indicators of combat-relevant service shall include, but not be limited to:

1. Award of the Remote Combat Effects Campaign Medal;
2. Award of the Air Medal for remote or over-the-horizon combat or direct combat-support operations;
3. Award of any present or future Department of Defense or service-specific individual medal, ribbon, badge, device, or officially established status identifier—such as the combat participation identifier contemplated under the CARE for RPA Crews Act—expressly designated to recognize direct participation in, or direct support of, combat or contingency operations conducted through modernized, network-based, cyber, space, remote, or over-the-horizon means; and
4. Documented assignment, as reflected in official military orders or records, to units, billets, or duty positions identified by competent military authority as conducting or directly supporting named combat or contingency operations, including those executed through over-the-horizon, remote, cyber, or other digitally mediated means; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Article I – Members, Section 101 – Eligibility, of the VFW National Bylaws and the VFW Manual of Procedure be conformed, upon enactment of the VFW-MERit Act and corresponding amendments to the Congressional Charter, to add implementing language substantially as follows:

“An individual is eligible for membership if the individual’s official military records, as determined under procedures prescribed by the National organization, establish direct participation in, or direct operational support of, combat or contingency operations against foreign adversaries, as identified by competent military authority. Such participation or support may occur through traditional in-theater service or through modernized, network-based, cyber, space, remote, over-the-horizon, or other digitally mediated warfare roles that directly employ, or enable the employment of, lethal or strategically decisive force in support of such operations, notwithstanding the absence of physical presence within the theater of operations.

Indicators of such combat-relevant service may include, but are not limited to: (1) the Remote Combat Effects Campaign Medal; (2) the Air Medal awarded for remote or over-the-horizon combat or direct combat-support operations; (3) any present or future Department of Defense or service-specific individual award, medal, ribbon, badge, device, or combat participation status identifier—such as those established pursuant to a passed Congressional Act—expressly designated to recognize direct participation in, or direct support of, such operations; or (4) documented assignment to units, billets, or duty positions identified by competent military authority as conducting or directly supporting named combat or contingency operations.”

and that conforming references be included in the Manual of Procedure to authorize the National organization to promulgate and update detailed combat-relevance criteria and verification procedures—specifically including over-the-horizon, remote, cyber, and other digitally mediated warfare functions, any future Department of Defense awards for such roles, and any status identifiers adopted pursuant to legislation such as the CARE for RPA Crews Act or other future Congressional Act—consistent with this combat-relevance standard and the redefined understanding of “foreign space” and the “theater of action” in modern warfare; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the VFW National Legislative Service be directed to actively seek sponsors for, and advocate for the passage of, the Veterans of Foreign Wars Modern Eligibility and Remote Service Act (VFW-MERit Act), or similar statutory measures that would amend the VFW Congressional Charter to enact this combat-relevance framework and ensure that the front lines of modern network and over-the-horizon warfare are legally recognized by this organization; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution, upon adoption by the National Convention, be implemented in conformity with the VFW National Bylaws, the Manual of Procedure, and the amended provisions of the Congressional Charter, so that the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States may continue to credibly and visibly represent those who have borne the battle in both traditional and over-the-horizon forms of modern warfare, and to remain the enduring national voice of those who

fight America's wars even as the battlefield becomes a network as much as a place.

- 208    WV    ESTABLISHING A DESIGNATED FAMILY-FRIENDLY SPACE AT THE NATIONAL CONVENTION..... \_\_\_\_\_  
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States explore establishing a designated family-friendly space at the National Convention where Comrades and Auxiliary members may bring their children and grandchildren; and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Veterans of Foreign Wars consider providing or arranging for age-appropriate resources, such as coloring books, toys, games, movies, and snacks, so that families are able to utilize the space in a way that benefits the members, the Auxiliary, and the organization as a whole.
- 209    WA    DECLARING THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES A PURPLE HEART ENTITY..... \_\_\_\_\_  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we proclaim the organization a Purple Heart entity, and shall further honor the service and sacrifice of our nation's men and women in uniform, whom by their courageous actions were wounded or killed while serving to protect our freedoms.
- 210    PA    BAN ALL TOBACCO USAGE AND PRODUCTS FROM VFW FACILITIES ..... \_\_\_\_\_  
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, ban all tobacco usage and products within all structures owned by, leased by, used by, or rented by the Veterans of Foreign Wars (with the exception of designated outdoor smoking areas, huts or sheds) to protect the veterans, the veterans' families and our guests from toxic exposure of tobacco.
- 211    CO    AMEND THE CONGRESSIONAL CHARTER TO INCLUDE UNITED STATES SPACE FORCE ..... \_\_\_\_\_  
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, petition the Congress of the United States to amend Section 230101(a), Title 36, United States Code, by inserting the word: "guardians" following the word: "airmen" so the charter shall read: "...soldiers, sailors, marines, airmen, or guardians..."



**TO COMMITTEE ON GENERAL RESOLUTIONS**  
**This committee meets at 1:00 p.m., Sunday, July 26**

Chair: Larry W. Rivers, Past Commander-in-Chief, Post 1736, LA  
Vice Chair: William A. Thien, Past Commander-in-Chief, Post 3281, IN

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 OK        | <p>SUPPORT FOR ESTABLISHING GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM VETERANS DAY ON AUGUST 30.....</p> <p>BE IT RESOLVED, that the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States petitions Congress and the President of the United States to formally designate August 30 as Global War on Terrorism Veterans Day; and</p> <p>BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the VFW encourages all Americans to recognize and honor the service and sacrifices of Global War on Terrorism veterans through appropriate ceremonies, educational programs, and community initiatives each year on this day.</p>                       | <hr/>             |
| 302 CA        | <p>NATIONAL RECOGNITION OF WOMEN VETERANS RECOGNITION DAY – JUNE 12.....</p> <p>BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that June 12<sup>th</sup> be recognized at the federal level as National Women Veterans Recognition Day, honoring the service, sacrifice and continued contributions of America’s women veterans; and</p> <p>BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be forwarded to the appropriate congressional committees, the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Office of the President of the United States for consideration and action.</p> | <hr/>             |

## TO COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS

**This committee meets at 1:00 p.m., Sunday, July 26**

Chair: Brian J. Duffy, Past Commander-in-Chief, Post 1170, KY  
Vice Chair: Duane T. Sarmiento, Past Commander-in-Chief, Post 5579, NJ  
Vice Chair: Merlin N. SESCO, Post 3769, KY

## SUBCOMMITTEE ON POW/MIA

**This committee meets at 1:00 p.m., Sunday, July 26**

Chair: Alfred J. Lipphardt, Past Commander-in-Chief, Post 2667, GA  
Vice Chair: John W. Stroud, Past Commander-in-Chief, Post 2313, NV  
Vice Chair: James E. Nier, Past Commander-in-Chief, Post 8919, TX

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   | PRESERVE THE ALL-VOLUNTEER FORCE .....<br>BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we will redouble our efforts to work with Congress and the Administration to preserve the All-Volunteer Force by calling for proper oversight and scrutiny to both the domestic and foreign military mission and decision-making, investment in military quality-of-life programs, and an end of arbitrary budget caps, offering solidarity to those who volunteer to serve in a military that must protect American interests in a very dangerous and unpredictable world.                                                                                                                                                          |
| 402           | 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 IRC recommendations and the recently passed UCMJ reforms to ensure timely and proper implementation, and identify areas for improvement. |
| 403           | CIC   | ENSURE DOD COMPLIANCE WITH TAP LAW .....<br>BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge Congress to pass the TAP Promotion Act, to ensure every TSM is allowed to attend TAP classes with sufficient time to participate in the Benefits Delivery at Discharge program and require DOD and its partner agencies to continuously improve TAP and maximize access to materials and resources for TSMs, veterans, and their families; and                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge Congress to require the Department of Defense to establish an Under Secretary of Defense for Transition Assistance to oversee, coordinate, and modernize all transition programs to ensure service members receive timely, effective, and standardized transition assistance; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we call upon DOD to enforce existing TAP requirements, ensure full access to VSOs providing critical transition services, and implement policies that prioritize the long-term success of transitioning service members and their families; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that VFW calls on DOD to provide transparent, standardized reporting to Congress on TAP participation and outcomes, and ensure such data is publicly available so that implementation of congressionally mandated transition requirements can be effectively overseen and verified.

404    CIC    KEEP DEFENSE BUDGET RELEVANT .....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we strongly urge Congress to provide the necessary funding for the readiness, training, modernization, healthcare, and quality of life initiatives for the armed forces of today and tomorrow.

405    CIC    LINK MILITARY PAY INCREASES TO PRIVATE-SECTOR INCREASES.....  
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.

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 disability rating percentage.

407    CIC    PRESERVE THE INTEGRITY OF THE TRICARE BENEFIT .....  
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; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we urge DOD to reform its healthcare programs by eliminating institutional inefficiencies before considering fee increases; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we urge Congress and DOD to ensure timely and equal access across the force, regardless of geographic location, to holistic healthcare services including medical and non-medical mental health counseling, reproductive health services, specialty care, and pharmacies.

- 408    CIC    AWARDING THE ARMED FORCES EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL FOR EXPEDITIONARY OPERATIONS IN EASTERN EUROPE .....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, supports and encourages Congress and the Secretary of Defense to designate Operations Atlantic Resolve since February 24, 2022 in support of NATO's deterrence and defense posture on its eastern flank as U.S. military operations that are eligible for the award of the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal.
- 409    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.
- 410    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.
- 411    CIC    RECOGNITION FOR AFGHAN AND IRAQI COMBAT SUPPORT ROLES .....  
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.

- 412    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.
- 413    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.
- 414    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 the safety of their borders and to emphasize regional  
stability in the Middle East, and elsewhere.
- 415    CIC    SUPPORT OF NATO DETERRENCE AND SUPPORT TO 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    CIC    DEPORTED VETERANS.....  
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States  
that we urge Congress to amend the United States Code to clearly state  
“The following shall be nationals\*, but not citizens of the United States: A  
person who, by Conscription or enlistment, entered any branch of the  
United States armed forces and served honorably, and, this shall be  
retroactive to service members/veterans previously removed from the  
United States.

- 417    CIC    EXPAND THE DATES OF ELIGIBILITY FOR THE ARMED FORCES  
EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL.....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that  
we petition Congress to direct the Secretary of Defense to authorize the  
Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal for those that served in Thailand and  
on the ships in the coastal waters of Vietnam from 29 March 1973 to 30  
April 1975 in Support of the Vietnamese Army.
- 418    CIC    ARMED FORCES EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL FOR SUPPORT OF UKRAINE .....  
BE IT RESOLVED, that the VFW urges the Secretary of Defense to authorize  
the award of the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal to United States  
military personnel, including naval forces in the Black Sea, Baltic Sea, and  
elsewhere as appropriate, serving in direct support of expanded U. S. or  
NATO presence and operations supporting the defense of Ukraine and  
deterrence of further Russian aggression in eastern Europe, with an award  
start date of 18 March 2014 and an ending date to be determined.
- 419    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.
- 420    CIC    ENSURE DOD COMPLIANCE WITH TAP LAW.....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States,  
that we urge Congress to pass the TAP Promotion Act, to ensure every  
TSM is allowed to attend TAP classes with sufficient time to participate in  
the Benefits Delivery at Discharge program and require DOD and its  
partner agencies to continuously improve TAP and maximize access to  
materials and resources for TSMs, veterans, and their families; and  
  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we urge Congress to require the  
Department of Defense to establish an Under Secretary of Defense for  
Transition Assistance to oversee, coordinate, and modernize all transition  
programs to ensure service members receive timely, effective, and  
standardized transition assistance; and  
  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we call upon DOD to enforce existing TAP  
requirements, ensure full access to VSOs providing critical transition  
services, and implement policies that prioritize the long-term success of  
transitioning service members and their families.

- 421    CIC    RESEARCH BLAST OVERPRESSURE .....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge Congress to direct the Department of Defense to continue to conduct comprehensive research on the long-term health effects of blast overpressure exposure and to implement policies ensuring proper documentation, monitoring, and prevention of such injuries; and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we call upon the Department of Defense to acknowledge the risks associated with blast overpressure exposure, develop enhanced protective equipment and training protocols, and ensure service members receive appropriate medical care, screening, and long-term support for conditions related to blast overpressure injuries.
- 422    CIC    REPATRIATE AMERICA’S FIRST FOREIGN WAR CASUALTIES .....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge Congress, the Department of Defense, and the Department of State to seek the disinterment and repatriation of the 13 brave American Sailors and Marines who perished aboard the USS Intrepid during the First Barbary War in 1804 and who are currently interred in Libya; and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we urge our grateful nation to welcome these Americans home, ensuring their interment in a place of honor at Arlington National Cemetery so that future generations of Americans may properly honor their unique sacrifice in our nation’s first major foreign war.
- 423    CIC    SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION FORMS SSA-7161 AND SSA-7162 .....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we petition Congress to enact legislation which would enable the Social Security Administration to initiate immediate reform to end the current unreliable method being used to submit these annual reports and allow for the use of a secure online reporting system; and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that part of this legislation include procedures that would allow authorized beneficiaries to submit said forms to any U.S. embassy or U.S. Consulate worldwide.
- 424    CIC    SUPPORTING THE SOVEREIGN RIGHTS OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES IN THE WEST PHILIPPINE SEA .....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we strongly support the sovereign rights of the Republic of the Philippines in the West Philippine Sea, as recognized under international law and affirmed by the 2016 Arbitral Tribunal ruling; and by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we strongly support the sovereign rights of the Republic of the Philippines in the West Philippine Sea, as recognized under international law and affirmed by the 2016 Arbitral Tribunal ruling; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the VFW urges the United States Government to Reaffirm its commitment to the Mutual Defense Treaty with the Philippines and work closely with the Philippine government to ensure its security and territorial integrity; continue to conduct freedom of navigation operations in the West Philippine Sea to uphold international law and ensure the right of all nations to navigate these waters freely; increase diplomatic and economic support to the Philippines to help it protect its sovereign rights and promote its economic development; work with allies and partners in the Indo-Pacific region to promote a rules-based order, deter aggression, and maintain peace and stability in the West Philippine Sea; publicly condemn the unlawful actions of the PRC within the West Philippine Sea; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the VFW urges the United States Government to continue to conduct freedom of navigation operations in the West Philippine Sea to uphold international law and ensure the right of all nations to navigate these waters freely; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the VFW urges the United States Government to increase diplomatic and economic support to the Philippines to help it protect its sovereign rights and promote its economic development; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the VFW urges the United States Government to work with allies and partners in the Indo-Pacific region to promote a rules-based order, deter aggression, and maintain peace and stability in the West Philippine Sea; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the VFW urges the United States Government to publicly condemn the unlawful actions of the PRC within the West Philippine Sea; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the VFW will communicate this resolution to the President of the United States, Members of Congress, the Department of State, the Department of Defense, and the Embassy of the Republic of the Philippines in Washington, D.C.

425 CIC ADDING A 'RECOVERED AWAITING DNA CONFIRMATION' CATEGORY TO THE DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY (DPAA) AND IMPLEMENTING DNA MATCH NOTIFICATIONS THROUGH ANCESTRY WEBSITES .....

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States petitions Congress, the Department of Defense, and the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency to establish a 'Recovered Awaiting DNA Confirmation' category and to explore partnerships with ancestry and genealogy databases to facilitate responsible DNA matching for the identification of missing service members; and



BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the VFW supports the continued improvement of identification efforts for missing service members and the use of modern DNA technology to bring closure to their families.

426 CIC ARMED FORCES EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL ELIGIBILITY FOR UNRECOGNIZED MILITARY ACTIONS AND CONFLICTS.....

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW) urges the Secretary of Defense and the Congress of the United States to formally recognize previously unacknowledged U.S. military operations involving direct or near-direct combat roles, herein referred to as the “Forgotten Conflicts”; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the VFW calls upon the Secretary of Defense to authorize the award of the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal to eligible U.S. military personnel who participated in these designated operations where the criteria of exposure to hostile action, combat conditions, or operational deployment were met, with retroactive effective dates to be determined per operation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the VFW supports legislative or executive action to declassify records, issue service documentation, and enable access to earned veteran benefits for those who served honorably and at risk in these unacknowledged operations.

427 CIC RECOGNITION AND SUPPORT FOR ADDRESSING MORAL INJURY AMONG SERVICE MEMBERS AND VETERANS .....

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that the VFW supports increased research into moral injury among service members and veterans, including those serving in remote or technologically mediated operational roles; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the VFW urges the Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs to incorporate education and training on moral injury into programs supporting service member resilience, military-to-civilian transition, and veteran health care; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the VFW supports the development and expansion of programs addressing moral injury through interdisciplinary approaches, including mental health care, peer support, spiritual care, and community reintegration; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the VFW encourages collaboration among federal agencies, veteran service organizations, academic institutions, and community partners to advance understanding of moral injury and its potential relationship to suicide risk among service members and veterans.

- 428 AK CONGRESS TO HONOR THE OATHS OF U.S. SERVICE MEMBERS AND  
REPEAL THE 2001 AUTHORIZATION FOR USE OF MILITARY FORCE .....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States,  
that we call upon Congress to honor their most sacred duty to debate and  
officially declare wars before sending American troops into harm's way,  
and to immediately repeal the 2001 AUMF.
- 429 NJ RECOGNITION OF ADDING 74 SAILORS ON THE VIETNAM MEMORIAL WALL ..  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States,  
that we urge the Congress and DOD to reconsider and make exceptions  
to have these 74 Sailors be enshrined on the Vietnam Memorial Wall  
with their brothers and sisters.
- 430 VA PRESERVE U.S. ARMY RESERVE'S DEDICATED AEROMEDICAL EVACUATION  
CAPABILITY .....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States,  
that we encourage Congress to pass the RESCUE Act of 2025 and  
encourage the President of the United States to sign it into law.
- 431 EU COLD WAR CAMPAIGN MEDAL FOR OVERSEAS VETERANS .....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States,  
that Congress be urged to establish a Cold War Campaign Medal for  
overseas veterans because they stood on the front lines of a prolonged,  
dangerous, and historically significant conflict—one whose very success  
(no world war) has made their sacrifices too easy to overlook without  
formal recognition.
- 432 EU CONGRESSIONAL RECOGNITION OF OVERSEAS U.S. VETERANS AS A  
STRATEGIC NATIONAL RESOURCE .....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States,  
that we urge Congress to officially recognize U.S. veterans living abroad as  
a strategic national resource whose presence, expertise, and community  
ties contribute directly to American security, alliance strength, and global  
stability posture; and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the VFW urges Congress to direct relevant  
Departments and agencies—including the Department of Defense, the  
Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Department of State—to identify,  
consult with, and include overseas veterans as stakeholders in planning  
for:
1. Force health protection and medical support overseas, including  
reforms to TRICARE Overseas and related programs to ensure that the  
needs and insights of overseas veterans and their families inform  
resilient, U.S.-directed medical support to forward-deployed forces;
  2. Crisis and contingency planning, including non-combatant evacuation  
operations, surge medical capacity, reception and staging of forces,  
and civil-military coordination, where overseas veterans' skills,

language abilities, and local knowledge can enhance readiness and response; and

3. Public diplomacy and alliance support, recognizing that veterans living abroad often serve as informal ambassadors of the United States and can help strengthen public understanding of the U.S. commitment to collective defense and shared democratic values; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the VFW urges Congress to ensure that legislative and regulatory changes affecting overseas healthcare, veteran benefits, or data protections explicitly consider the impact on overseas veterans as part of maintaining a credible, sustainable, and strategically sound presence; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Secretary of State, and to the Members of Congress, with the request that they give it full and favorable consideration.

433 PAC MEDICARE ACCESS FOR OVERSEAS VETERANS.....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge Congress and the Department of Health and Human Services to extend Medicare coverage to eligible veterans residing overseas, ensuring parity with domestic beneficiaries.

434 MT PROTECTING GRACE PERIODS FOR MILITARY & OVERSEAS VOTERS.....  
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Veterans of Foreign Wars shall advocate for the rights of states to determine their own election laws and rules as they pertain to reasonable Election Day grace periods for Military and Overseas (UOCAVA) voters; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we shall oppose any federal legislation (or, Executive Order) that would eliminate or restrict Election Day grace periods for Military and Overseas (UOCAVA) Voters, or any legislation making it more difficult for states to fully count every single Military and Overseas (UOCAVA) vote, within the parameters of state law.

435 CO PROTECTING MAIL IN BALLOTS AND GRACE PERIODS FOR OVERSEAS VOTERS.....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we advocate for the rights of states to determine their own election laws and rules as they pertain to reasonable Election Day grace periods for Military and Overseas (UOCAVA) voters; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we shall oppose any federal legislation (or, Executive Order) that would eliminate or restrict the use of mail-in ballots and/or Election Day grace periods for Military and Overseas (UOCAVA) Voters, or any legislation making it more difficult for states to fully count every single Military and Overseas (UOCAVA) vote, within the parameters of state law.

436 CA    SUPPORT THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL FOR WWII NURSES.....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that the  
U.S. Congress must pass the WWII Nurses Congressional Gold Medal Act.

PROPOSED

# TO COMMITTEE ON VETERANS SERVICE RESOLUTIONS

## This committee meets at 1:00 p.m., Sunday, July 26

Chair: Keith E. Harman, Past Commander-in-Chief, Post 3035, OH  
 Vice Chair: Timothy M. Borland, Past Commander-in-Chief, Post 9972, AZ

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 BUDGET .....<br/>           BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge the Congress of the United States to authorize appropriations for the Department of Veterans Affairs which fully fund all staffing and maintain the integrity and enhancement of veteran entitlement programs and health care system.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 602           | CIC   | <p>VA CLAIMS WORKLOAD.....<br/>           BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that Congress require Department of Veterans Affairs to accept legitimate private medical evidence and opinions in lieu of VA examinations whenever they are sufficient for rating purposes; and</p> <p>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</p> <p>BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the VA should revisit their production goals to reduce error rates; and</p> <p>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.</p> |
| 603           | CIC   | <p>VFW OPPOSES BUDGET CUTS THAT HARM VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES .....<br/>           BE IT RESOLVED, that the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, supports fiscal discipline that does not harm veterans, the military, or their families; and</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we call upon Congress and the President of the United States to reject proposed cuts and reverse implemented cuts that harm veterans, the military, and their families.

604    CIC    APPEALS MODERNIZATION AND LEGACY REMANDS ..... \_\_\_\_\_

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs enforces proper development and timely adjudication of VA claims by obtaining all pertinent records when claims are initially processed and ensuring the Board expeditiously and ethically discharges its pending workload without arbitrary bureaucratic hurdles; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we urge that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs enforces policies mandating that exams are requested with accurate information and eliminating biases caused by improper phrasing on exam order requests; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we urge that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs enforces policies authorizing the assignment of earlier effective dates when claims are continuously pursued without the veteran submitting an additional appeal for the effective date.

605    CIC    USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AT THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS ..... \_\_\_\_\_

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we call upon the Department of Veterans Affairs, Congress, and other relevant stakeholders to ensure that any adoption of artificial intelligence enhances service delivery through VA's fully staffed, highly-trained, and accountable workforce dedicated to serving veterans; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that artificial intelligence tools must be implemented in a manner that preserves human oversight, protects veteran data, and strengthens—rather than replaces—the workforce committed to assisting veterans, service members, survivors, and their families.

606    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 VFW supports the use of Automated Decision Support in assisting RVSRs to accurately adjudicate claims for benefits, we encourage the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to continue to 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 we urge VA to integrate their current antiquated claims management systems into one modern data management system.

- 607    CIC    PROTECTING VA ACCREDITATION .....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge Congress to pass legislation protecting VA beneficiaries from predatory companies, organizations, agencies and individuals attempting to by-pass the VA accreditation process and monetize the wartime illnesses and injuries of our veterans; and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we urge federal law enforcement agencies to investigate and prosecute companies, organizations, agencies and individuals that prey on our nation's veterans and their dependents by charging exorbitant fees under the guise of providing claims assistance.
- 608    CIC    FAIR AND FAVORABLE EFFECTIVE DATES .....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge Congress pass veteran-centric legislation granting effective dates based on when the entitlement arose, regardless of the date a claim is received by VA.
- 609    CIC    UNDERSERVED VETERANS.....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge VA to improve data collection and better analyze results to identify challenges and disparities in benefits of underserved veterans; and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we urge VA to implement favorable changes to the benefit of underserved veterans based on findings of fact and not anecdotal or arbitrary statistics.
- 610    CIC    SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE FOR SURVIVING FAMILY MEMBERS OF VETERAN SUICIDE .....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we petition Congress to enact legislation which would provide support and assistance for surviving family members to include a review of all eligible benefits, bereavement counseling, career counseling and job placement assistance for next of kin of covered veterans who are deceased as the result of suicide.
- 611    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, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, 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.

612    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 provide oversight of VA's presumptive decision process; 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, to be transparent about the presumptive decision process, and to include input from veterans on what exposures and conditions will be reviewed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, urge Congress to direct the Department of Veterans Affairs to conduct comprehensive research on the correlation between environmental conditions aboard submarines, including the submarine atmosphere and ionizing radiation, and the medical conditions diagnosed and treated in Active-Duty and Veteran Submariners; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we urge Congress and the Department of Defense to reduce or eliminate the use of known toxins on and around military installations and disclose known and potential toxic exposures during all military operations and at facilities within the United States and abroad; 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.

613    CIC    FEMALE REPRODUCTIVE CANCERS AND OTHER GYNECOLOGICAL  
CONDITIONS DUE TO TOXIC EXPOSURE ..... \_\_\_\_\_

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we call upon the Department of Veterans Affairs to recognize as



presumptive, any and all female reproductive cancers and other gynecological conditions after exposure in Southeast Asia and Camp Lejeune and to include, as presumptive, birth defects to the children of any veteran who has served in areas effected by chemical contamination both overseas and within the United States and its overseas territories.

- 614    CIC    JUSTICE FOR ALS VETERANS .....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we call upon the VA to carve out an exception to the eight-year disability rule to allow survivors of veterans who die from ALS to receive the increased monthly DIC payment; and  
  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we call upon Congress to renew efforts to legislate and fund such action as a matter of extreme urgency.
- 615    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.
- 616    CIC    IMPROVE 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 benefits on par with comparable federal survivor programs; and to reflect the rising costs of living and education expenses, with future increases indexed to reflect the average cost of living increase by the Department of Social Security and tuition costs as reported by the Department of Education.
- 617    CIC    VA LIFE INSURANCE PROGRAM .....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge Congress and Department of Veterans Affairs to continue to ensure that VA life insurance rates are competitive with private insurance company rates; and  
  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we urge Congress to pass legislation to index for inflation the maximum coverage rate of the VA Life Insurance program.
- 618    CIC    RECOGNITION OF MILITARY SEXUAL VIOLENCE.....  
BE RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we call upon the Department of Defense and all branches of the military to acknowledge the severity of military sexual violence and to implement comprehensive measures to prevent such incidents; and  
  
BE FURTHER RESOLVED that the VFW supports the establishment of October 11th as the Day of Recognition for Military Sexual Violence to

honor and support survivors, raise awareness, and promote necessary reforms within the military to address and prevent sexual violence.

- 619    CIC    DESIGNATION AND PROTECTION OF MILITARY GRAVES AS SACRED GROUND .....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we call upon all levels of government—federal, state, and local—to recognize all military graves as sacred ground, ensuring that no changes are made to these locations that would convert them into parks or any other type of public space; and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the VFW strongly urges the immediate restoration of all cemeteries containing military graves that have been converted into parks or other non-cemetery uses, and that these cemeteries be returned to their proper status, to honor the memory and sacrifice of our nation's veterans; and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be forwarded to the President of the United States, members of Congress, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, state governors, and other relevant authorities, urging their support and action on this matter of national significance.
- 620    CIC    GOVERNMENT HEADSTONES .....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we petition the Department of Veterans Affairs, National Cemetery Administration, to amend the instructions for VA Form 40-1330 and the implementing policies, to allow for the option of “Era” to be inscribed following the inscription of any period of war that is listed in item # 16, if the individual did not serve in the actual place of war, without additional inscription charge.
- 621    CIC    VSO INVOLVEMENT WITH VA SCHEDULE FOR RATING DISABILITIES.....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to collaborate with VSO stakeholders prior to proposing any regulation or policy changes which impact our nation’s veterans; and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide updates to the VSO community providing the status of proposed and final rules whenever there are significant delays in the rule making process.
- 622    CIC    EXPAND VETERAN TREATMENT COURTS .....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we advocate for the continued use and expansion of Veteran Treatment Courts across the country.

- 623    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 safe and affordable housing for veterans and their families, 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; and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Department of Veterans Affairs should annually adjust grant and per diem program rates for inflation, based on separate instances 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.
- 624    CIC    CONSUMER PROTECTIONS FOR VETERANS .....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge Congress to pursue legislation criminalizing unscrupulous business practices and fraudulent scams that prey upon service members, veterans, and their families; and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge the Department of Justice to pursue criminal charges and convictions when deplorable business practices and scams are identified.
- 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 reimbursement 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 urge Congress to increase stipends for books, electronic devices such as laptops and tablets, instructional support applications and cost of living adjustments to give student veterans the proper resources and tools to be successful in their pursuit of higher education; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we work to extend full GI Bill benefits for all combat veterans and preserve 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    FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID.....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge the Department of Education to remove any questions related to a parent's Untaxed Income related to veteran benefits from the Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

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 systems, such as 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    VA HOME LOAN CORRECTION.....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge Congress and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enable veterans from World War II and after, who were unable or prohibited from using their VA home loan benefit, to be able to transfer their benefit to their descendants; and  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Congress and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs provide the VA home loan benefit to the descendants of deceased veterans from World War II and onward who were unable or prohibited from using the benefit while alive.

- 629    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 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.
- 630    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 Vocational 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 services for life; and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the VA must restructure performance measures to emphasize long-term readiness versus the current short-term indicators of success. Furthermore, VR&E should continually follow up with veterans considered to be rehabilitated to ensure that the rehabilitation 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.
- 631    CIC    PROTECTING HEALTH CARE AND BENEFITS .....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge the President, Congress, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Department of Defense to “Honor the Contract” and protect the current suite of benefits and services for veterans, service members, survivors, and their families.

- 632    CIC    DENTAL CARE ELIGIBILITY .....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge Congress to authorize Department of Veterans Affairs to expand eligibility for no cost dental coverage and care to all service-connected veterans enrolled in VA health care which will improve the health of all service-connected veterans and can reduce the overall healthcare costs of veterans since dental health impacts all other health care concerns.
- 633    CIC    ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD MODERNIZATION (EHRM) .....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge VA to provide competent command and control from VHA leadership and to enforce standardization of the electronic health record (EHR) integration across VHA facilities and continued partnership and collaboration with VSO stakeholders; and  
  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we urge the Secretary of Veteran Affairs to adopt best practices from DoD to work with the vendor and VHA facilities to implement the EHR on schedule.
- 634    CIC    FOREIGN MEDICAL PROGRAM (FMP) REFORM.....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge VA to revise its antiquated paper-based system and utilize Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT), to allow veterans and service providers to file claims and receive reimbursement from VA through electronic means; and  
  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we urge Congress to address the statutory loophole that restricts FMP to only providing reimbursement for service-connected care, offering similar care access for overseas veterans; and  
  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we urge Congress and VA to provide structure to the Foreign Medical Program by potentially utilizing a third-party administrator to coordinate and deliver care for overseas veterans, similar to TRICARE Overseas, VA contract compensation and pension exams, and VA's domestic Community Care programs.
- 635    CIC    FOREIGN MEDICAL PROGRAM MEDICAL RECORDS .....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge the Department of Veterans Affairs to fully integrate Foreign Medical Program medical records into the Veterans Health Administration medical system and Veterans Benefits Administration, Veterans Benefits Management System upon receiving medical reimbursement claims by veterans.

- 636    CIC    HEALTHCARE PROGRAM FOR OVERSEAS VETERANS .....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States,  
that we urge the VA to commit to leveraging technological tools and  
resources to enroll all veterans, regardless of location into a VA Healthcare  
program.
- 637    CIC    VA TO REIMBURSE ELIGIBLE OVERSEAS VETERANS FOR URGENT CARE  
AND EMERGENCY ROOM VISITS.....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States,  
that we urge the VA to promptly amend this policy to include  
reimbursement for such services incurred abroad, the VA can alleviate  
financial burdens on eligible veterans, honor its commitment to their  
well-being, and ensure that they have access to adequate and timely  
medical care, regardless of their location.
- 638    CIC    VA MEDICARE REIMBURSEMENT .....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States,  
that we support enactment of legislation authorizing the Department of  
Veterans Affairs to receive reimbursement for the cost of non-service-  
connected care that is provided to veterans who are enrolled in  
Medicare.
- 639    CIC    MEDICARE.....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States,  
that we support the abolishment of penalties for veterans for delayed  
Medicare enrollment; and  
  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United  
States, that we urge Congress to authorize veterans enrolled in  
Department of Veterans Affairs health care to be exempt from registering  
for Medicare if they so choose.
- 640    CIC    REQUIRE CIVILIAN HEALTH AND MEDICAL PROGRAM OF THE  
DEPARTMENT OF VETERAN AFFAIRS (CHAMPVA) ACCEPTANCE.....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States,  
that we urge Congress to amend the necessary statutes to mandate ALL  
medical providers and facilities that accept Medicare to accept all  
beneficiaries enrolled in a Veteran family member program, including  
CHAMPVA.
- 641    CIC    VA PHARMACEUTICAL CO-PAYMENTS .....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States,  
that we oppose increases in Department of Veterans Affairs  
pharmaceutical co-payments; and  
  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Congress must exempt preventive  
medicines from VA pharmaceutical co-payment requirements.

- 642    CIC    SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY CARE OPTIONS .....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States,  
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 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 the VFW opposes any out-of-pocket costs  
for care coordinated by VA for service-connected disabilities; 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.
- 643    CIC    NURSING HOME ELIGIBILITY.....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States,  
that we urge VA to ensure that Community Nursing Homes, state nursing  
homes, and contract nursing homes receive proper oversight and are  
accountable to the same high standards expected through the VA  
Healthcare System; and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we urge Congress to establish a standard  
Department of Veterans Affairs and state veteran nursing home  
entitlement for all veterans enrolled in the VA health care system.
- 644    CIC    VA NURSING HOME ANNUAL INSPECTIONS .....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States,  
that we support VA's engagement to increase the quality of care and  
improve the physical environment provided in nursing homes and long-  
term care facilities, to include the creation of additional enforcement  
measures to require compliance with VA care standards when receiving  
funds for the care of a veteran; and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we urge Congress to compel the  
Department of Veterans Affairs conducts annual onsite inspections of all  
VA, State Veterans Homes and contracted long-term care facilities within  
VA's scope to promote compliance with standards.



- 645    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 all TBIs regardless of if they are 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.
- 646    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 improve the staffing, equipping, monitoring and consistency of health care and reproductive 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, to include ensuring that every VA facility has a zero tolerance policy towards sexual harassment for employees and patients.
- 647    CIC    MENTAL HEALTH DISORDERS .....  
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 ensure clinicians are equipped to properly identify and diagnose veterans’ symptoms; 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 moving the Office of Suicide Prevention from Veterans Health Administration to the enterprise level of the Department of Veterans Affairs; and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we urge the Department of Veterans Affairs to research different treatments or practices that are most

effective in helping our veterans cope with their PTSD and CPTSD, understanding that there is no one-size-fits-all treatment plan and each veteran must be evaluated and treated holistically; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that VA institute strong signatory informed consent protocols on all mental health medications, implement proper and ethical deprescribing guidelines for veterans seeking to stop medication, train prescribers on the emerging reports on psychotropic and psychiatric drugs, and publicize all data to inform the growing concern of overprescription and harm in the veteran community related to psychiatric drugs.

648    CIC    MILITARY SEXUAL TRAUMA (MST) ..... \_\_\_\_\_

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States that we call on DoD to continue to enhance its MST awareness programs, and calls on VA to continually improve its MST treatment programs and to disseminate evidence-based clinical practice guidelines to clinicians who care for veterans who have suffered from MST; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we call upon Congress to continue its oversight and hearings related to military sexual trauma care and benefits with the goal of improving VA and DoD collaboration and improving policies and practices for military sexual trauma care and disability compensation.

649    CIC    THE IMPERATIVE OF THE VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION  
PROVIDING NEXUS STATEMENTS ..... \_\_\_\_\_

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge VA to change all current policies preventing VHA Healthcare providers from producing Nexus statements that are appropriate and supported by medical evidence and/or military service. By doing this, VHA providers will alleviate the unnecessary burden placed on many veterans to prove the relationship between their current medical condition and their military service through a third party. This expedites the adjudication process, significantly reducing the time and effort required for veterans and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to reach a fair resolution at the same time reducing the risk of the Nation's veterans falling prey to exploitation and abuse.

650    CIC    SUPPORTING PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS/ASSOCIATES (PAS) ..... \_\_\_\_\_

BE IT RESOLVED, that VFW urges the VA to recruit and hire the most qualified health care occupations, including PAs. Physician Assistants/Associates shall be included for vacancies to strategically expand in critical areas; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that PAs should be included as a care team provider within mental health services; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that VFW supports the continuation of the HPSP scholarships for veterans employed by the VHA to become PAs.

- 651    CIC    FULLY SUPPORT PRESIDENT TRUMP’S EXECUTIVE ORDER HOLDING THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS ACCOUNTABLE TO UTILIZING THE WEST LOS ANGELES CAMPUS AS INTENDED, AND MORE, BY ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL CENTER FOR WARRIOR INDEPENDENCE (NR 25-3).....

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we petition Congress to ensure that the Department of Veterans Affairs carries out the full intent of the President’s Executive Order forthwith.

- 652    WI    SUPPORT LEGISLATION FOR SPINAL CORD INJURY RESEARCH .....

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge Congress to restore and expand federal funding for spinal cord injury research within the National Institutes of Health, the Department of Defense Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs, and the Department of Veterans Affairs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we strongly support federal legislation that advances SCI research focused on improving treatment options, restoring function, enhancing quality of life, and reducing the long-term personal and public costs associated with spinal cord injury; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we will advocate for sustained national investment in scientific and clinical research—public, private, and within the VA system—aimed at achieving meaningful functional recovery for veterans and the general population affected by spinal cord injury.

- 653    GA    ENHANCE VETERAN PATIENT ADVOCACY ACCOUNTABILITY .....

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we petition the Department of Veterans Affairs for the mandatory placement of a full-time, physically present, and clearly identified patient advocate at all VA healthcare facilities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Patient Advocate shall maintain an on-site presence during all regular business hours, with clearly posted office location and contact information, and shall engage directly with veterans to assist with complaint resolution, care coordination, and the protection of patient rights.

- 654    PAC    CAREGIVER PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY ABROAD.....

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge the Department of Veterans Affairs to extend caregiver program eligibility to veterans residing overseas, ensuring equitable family support while potentially reducing overall program costs.

- 655 PAC TRAVEL PAY FOR OVERSEAS VETERANS .....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we advocate for expanded travel pay reimbursement policies that account for overseas distances and costs, ensuring veterans abroad can access necessary care without undue burden.
- 656 PAC TRI-CARE COVERAGE FOR OVERSEAS VETERANS .....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, to advocate for expanded Tri-Care provider networks, equitable coverage for hospitalization abroad, and streamlined reimbursement processes to ensure veterans and their dependents residing overseas receive the same level of care and financial protection as those within the United States.
- 657 IL WOMEN VETERANS REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH EQUITY .....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we support ensuring women veterans have access to comprehensive reproductive and gynecological health services through the Department of Veterans Affairs, consistent with prevailing medical standards of care; and  
  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that such services include, but are not limited to, contraception, fertility services, prenatal and postnatal care, miscarriage management, treatment following sexual assault, management of high-risk pregnancies, and other clinically indicated reproductive health services as determined by medical necessity and the patient-provider relationship; and  
  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the VFW supports policies that promote parity of care, continuity within the VA health care system, and the fulfillment of earned benefits for women veterans without exclusions that create inequitable or fragmented access to care.
- 658 CO SUPPORT FOR EXPANDED ADDICTION RECOVERY AND REHABILITATION PROGRAMS FOR VETERANS .....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we strongly support the expansion of Department of Veterans Affairs funding, access, and infrastructure for addiction rehabilitation, recovery, and long-term relapse-prevention programs tailored specifically for veterans; and  
  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we encourage the development and support of peer-based, veteran-led recovery programs in partnership with accredited treatment providers and veteran service organizations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we call upon the Posts, Districts, and Departments to promote addiction recovery through education, stigma reduction, sober-supportive programming, and outreach efforts consistent with the VFW mission; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the VFW National Legislative Service is urged to advocate for federal legislation and appropriations that expand veteran-specific addiction recovery and rehabilitation services within the Department of Veterans Affairs.

659 CO BURIAL BENEFITS FOR NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE MEMBERS .....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we advocate for legislation to provide full burial benefits to National Guard and Reserve members that meet the same requirements as Active Duty members.

660 EU ACCOUNTABILITY ACROSS BORDERS: RAISING THE BAR FOR VA C&P EXAMINERS GLOBALLY .....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge the Department of Veterans Affairs to establish and maintain transparent, continuous quality control and monitoring mechanisms for all C&P examiners—VA-employed and Contracted by VA, domestic and overseas; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that such mechanisms include clear, uniform certification and training requirements; periodic audits of examination reports and medical opinions; corrective action for examiners who fail to meet standards; and public reporting of aggregate quality metrics, including data specific to overseas examinations, to the extent permitted by law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the VA Office of Inspector General be requested to conduct regular reviews and, when appropriate, investigations into the adequacy and accuracy of C&P examinations and medical opinions—domestic and overseas—and to issue recommendations to improve examiner performance and claim adjudication outcomes;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States support legislative or regulatory changes, as necessary, to ensure that all C&P examinations and medical opinions, whether conducted within the United States or overseas and whether by VA-employed or contracted examiners, fully comply with accepted medical and legal standards required to fairly adjudicate veterans' claims.

- 661 TX SUPPORT FOR THE DIVESTMENT OF UNAVAILABLE SAVINGS TO LIVE (DUSL) ACT .....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we strongly support the immediate passage of the Divestment of Unavailable Savings to Live (DUSL) Act; and  
  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the VFW National Legislative Service actively advocate for this legislation before the United States Congress and urge its prioritization for prompt enactment; and  
  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be transmitted to appropriate members of Congress, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and other relevant federal agencies to advance this critical measure.
- 662 NE RETURN OF IN-PERSON APPEAL HEARINGS TO DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS REGIONAL OFFICES .....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we call upon Congress to direct the Department of Veterans Affairs to return to the pre-COVID practice of in-person appeal hearings at Department of Veterans Affairs Regional Offices.
- 663 CT APPROVE THE CRUCIFIX AS AN ELIGIBLE EMBLEM OF BELIEF ON VETERAN HEADSTONES OR MARKERS.....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we strongly urge the Department of Veterans Affairs and the National Cemetery Administration to officially offer the crucifix as an eligible emblem of belief for inscription on requested standard government headstones or markers.
- 664 NJ PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR H.R. 6022 .....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we publicly support H.R. 6022, the Sgt. Walter F. Hartnett IV Green Star Veterans Service Act, as a federal recognition measure for families of Veterans who died by suicide; and  
  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution is intended only as a public statement of support for H.R. 6022 and shall not be interpreted as directing the VFW to lobby, administer, implement, or adopt H.R. 6022 as a formal legislative priority unless separately approved through VFW procedures.
- 665 NY AMEND THE BLUE WATER NAVY VIETNAM VETERANS ACT OF 2019 .....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we encourage the United States Congress to amend the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019 in addition to the 12 nautical mile limit with “and those aircraft carriers (CVAs) who launched and recovered aircraft that experienced combat within the limits of the geographical area denoted as Vietnam”.

## OVERSEAS BUT NOT SECOND CLASS: GUARANTEEING EQUAL ONLINE ACCESS TO VA BENEFITS.....

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we strongly urge the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in coordination with the Administrator of General Services and other relevant Federal agencies, to:

1. Eliminate or mitigate barriers to account creation and verification for veterans and Service Members living abroad, including:
  - Enabling reliable multi-factor authentication for foreign phone numbers and email addresses;
  - Expanding and documenting support for authenticator applications and non-SMS verification methods suitable for overseas users;
  - Reducing over-reliance on U.S. credit and address records and incorporating alternative identity proofing methods, including service records, VA records, and DoD data; and
  - Ensuring APO/FPO/DPO and other legitimate overseas addresses are fully recognized and accepted by identity verification systems.
2. Develop and publish clear guidance and dedicated support channels for overseas users of VA.gov and related digital services, including:
  - Step-by-step instructions tailored to veterans and Service Members abroad;
  - International or DSN-accessible help desk numbers and support hours;
  - Escalation procedures for manual verification or exception processing when automated checks fail due to overseas status.
3. Conduct a comprehensive review and assessment of digital access for veterans abroad, to include:
  - Measuring failure rates and barriers specific to overseas account creation and login attempts;
  - Consulting with veterans' service organizations, including the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, and with overseas veteran communities; and
  - Reporting findings publicly along with a corrective action plan and implementation timeline.
4. Ensure that future modernization efforts for VA digital services explicitly include requirements and testing for usability and accessibility by veterans, Service Members, and eligible dependents residing overseas, including those in U.S. territories and foreign countries.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States urges the U.S. Congress to:

1. Exercise robust oversight of VA and GSA to ensure timely remediation of the digital access barriers affecting veterans and Service Members abroad;
2. Provide any necessary funding, statutory authority, or direction to support inclusive, secure, and globally accessible identity verification and multi-factor authentication methods for VA.gov and other Federal veteran-facing digital services; and

3. Require regular reporting to Congress on progress made to improve digital access and identity proofing for overseas veterans, including measurable performance indicators and user feedback.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States will actively advocate for these changes before the Department of Veterans Affairs, the General Services Administration, and the U.S. Congress, and will work with other veterans' service organizations to ensure that no veteran or service member is denied or delayed access to VA services solely because they reside outside the United States; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be transmitted to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Administrator of General Services, the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and to each member of Congress, and that it be made known that the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States stands firmly in support of equal digital access to VA services for all veterans and Service Members, regardless of where they live.

667 EU ENSURING MEANINGFUL HUMAN OVERSIGHT OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND AUTOMATED SYSTEMS AT THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.....

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BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that the VFW urges the Department of Veterans Affairs to maintain meaningful human oversight over any automated system, artificial intelligence tool, algorithm, or automated communication process used in support of decisions, notices, correspondence, or other actions affecting veterans; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the VFW urges the Department of Veterans Affairs to implement random, periodic, and unannounced integrity tests and quality-control reviews of employees, reviewers, raters, and other personnel to verify that they are independently reviewing claims, notices, correspondence, and other veteran-facing outputs and can identify flawed, incomplete, inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise questionable automated or artificial intelligence-generated recommendations and communications before any final decision, notice, or communication is made or sent; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the VFW urges the Department of Veterans Affairs to require that such testing include claims and communication scenarios designed to determine whether personnel can recognize errors produced by automated processes or artificial intelligence, including misstatements of fact, failure to consider relevant evidence, incorrect application of law or policy, unsupported



recommendations, misleading explanations, and inaccurate or confusing communications to veterans; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the VFW urges the Department of Veterans Affairs to ensure that its employees, reviewers, raters, and other personnel retain the training, experience, legal knowledge, communication competency, and independent adjudicative skills necessary to correctly evaluate and decide veterans' claims and to ensure the accuracy, clarity, and fairness of veteran-facing communications without improper dependence on automated or artificial intelligence-generated recommendations or messages; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the VFW urges the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide ongoing training, supervision, performance standards, auditing, and documentation designed to preserve human competency, accountability, transparency, fairness, and the protection of veterans' rights in all claims adjudication, decision-making, and communications processes involving automation or artificial intelligence; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the VFW urges the Department of Veterans Affairs to ensure that no automated or artificial intelligence-generated recommendation, notice, correspondence, or communication is treated as final, binding, or dispositive without accountable human review.

668 EU VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION TRANSPARENCY INITIATIVE .....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge the Department of Veterans Affairs to utilize current and emerging technologies for all veterans, regardless of their location or program type. The framework of transparency must be accessible to all veterans and applied uniformly across all Department of Veterans Affairs programs.

669 EU VULNERABILITY TO ADVANTAGE: REFORMING OVERSEAS MILITARY HEALTHCARE.....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge Congress to review current capabilities and establish an end-state military health service support system overseas where life, limb, eyesight, dental care, routine primary care, and a significant portion of specialty and surgical care can be provided by U.S. organic (military or DoD-controlled) capabilities that support overseas warfighters and dependents. Ensure host-nation resources are supplementary and not critical single points of failure for a military commander overseas. Require that the systems in place are scalable from peacetime to contingency and conflict.

670 EU ENDING THE HIDDEN COST OF VA EXAMS FOR OUR TROOPS ..... \_\_\_\_\_

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we strongly urge the United States Congress and the Department of Veterans Affairs, in coordination with the Department of Defense, to establish and implement clear, uniform policies that:

1. Relieve Service Members and their military commands of the financial burden for travel related to mandated VA Compensation and Pension examinations under the BDD and IDES processes, including international travel for those stationed abroad;
2. Provide direct VA-funded travel arrangements and reimbursement mechanisms for all reasonable and necessary transportation, lodging, meals, and incidental expenses associated with such exams, in accordance with federal travel regulations, whether travel is domestic or international;
3. Guarantee that no Service Member is denied, delayed, or discouraged from completing required C&P examinations due to inability to afford travel costs, including those for overseas or international travel, or because of a lack of command funds;
4. Develop interagency agreements and standard procedures between the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense to streamline the scheduling and funding of these exams, utilizing mobile exam teams, telehealth options where suitable, and closer-to-duty location facilities whenever possible, especially for Service Members stationed outside the continental United States; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States shall support and advocate for any legislation, regulatory changes, or policy directives necessary to ensure full government coverage of travel-related costs for required VA C&P examinations in the BDD and IDES processes, including international travel for those stationed overseas.

671 CA EXPANDING POST-9/11 GI BILL TRANSFERABILITY ..... \_\_\_\_\_

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we petition the Department of Veterans Affairs, Department of Defense, and the United States Congress to amend existing law to allow Post-9/11 GI Bill education benefits to be transferred to extended family members (e.g. nieces, nephews, siblings, or grandchildren) when a service member has no spouse or dependent children who can use them.

672 PAC SUPPORT FOR IMPROVED PROCESSING, TRACKING, AND ASSISTANCE FOR OVERSEAS DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION (DIC) CLAIMS. \_\_\_\_\_

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we strongly urge the Department of Veterans Affairs to track, publish, and report DIC claim processing times for survivors residing outside the United States; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the VFW urges the VA to establish dedicated procedures, timelines, and support mechanisms for overseas DIC claims, including improved coordination with foreign medical facilities, translation services, and the Foreign Medical Program (FMP); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the VFW advocates for expanded VSO access and survivor assistance for families residing overseas, including virtual intake support, standardized evidence checklists, and improved communication channels; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the VFW calls upon the VA to recognize and mitigate the documented structural disadvantages faced by overseas survivors to ensure equitable access to earned benefits.

673 EU UNLOCKING GLOBAL CLASSROOMS FOR AMERICA'S VETERANS.....

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BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge the U.S. Congress to direct the Department of Veterans Affairs to review, revise, and, where appropriate, amend its Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) policies governing payments to foreign institutions of higher learning, with the explicit aim of restoring practical, broad-based access to VA education benefits for veterans and eligible dependents seeking to study overseas; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we call upon Congress to require VA, in coordination with the U.S. Department of the Treasury and other relevant agencies, to develop and publish one or more standardized, cost-neutral or low-cost mechanisms for foreign public and private institutions to receive VA tuition and fee payments, including but not limited to:

- Reinstating and formalizing the use of vetted third-party financial service providers capable of receiving ACH payments and forwarding funds to foreign institutions in compliance with anti-money-laundering regulations; and/or
- Establishing, endorsing, or facilitating access to pooled or umbrella banking arrangements—whether through U.S.-based partner institutions, accredited exchange consortia, or trusted financial intermediaries—that can satisfy EFT and due diligence requirements without imposing undue financial burdens on individual foreign universities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we urge Congress to require VA to:

- Assess and report to Congress on the number of veterans and eligible beneficiaries adversely affected by the 2023 EFT policy changes, including estimates of lost or delayed access to foreign education programs;
- Consult with representatives of foreign public and private universities, relevant foreign ministries (where appropriate), U.S.

institutions participating in exchange programs, and veteran service organizations to identify practical compliance pathways that balance financial integrity with reasonable access; and

- Implement clear, transparent, and timely communication to veterans, schools, and veteran service organizations regarding any current and future EFT requirements, including listing compliant banking models and step-by-step procedures for foreign institutions that wish to participate; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States calls upon on Congress to affirm, as a matter of policy, that VA education benefits should remain fully portable to qualified foreign institutions of higher learning, subject to appropriate academic and security vetting, and that administrative or banking requirements must not, in practice, nullify or unduly restrict this portability while maintaining robust safeguards against fraud, waste, and abuse.

674 MI SUPPORT FOR THE POST-9/11 GI TRANSFERABILITY REFORM BILL OF 2025 .....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we formally endorse the Post-9/11 GI Transferability Reform Bill of 2025 and urges Congress to pass it without delay; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we shall include this proposal in its legislative priorities and communicate its support to federal lawmakers, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and partner organizations.

675 VA ENSURE READINESS AND POST-SERVICE EMPLOYMENT THROUGH CREDENTIALING.....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge DoD to ensure compliance with its own guidance (DoDI 1322.33 – *DoD Credentialing Programs*) by retitling it in the singular and developing and applying a single Department-wide Credentialing Assistance program with uniform standards, limits, definitions, and policy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the VFW urges Congress to implement a reporting requirement for DoD to provide reasonable assurance periodically that such a program has been implemented, is being professionally managed, and is yielding the results sought by 10 USC § 2015, et. seq., including controlling costs, consistent opportunities to participate, and adequate reimbursement to participants or appropriately vetted providers in accordance with legislative mandates.

676 PAC EDUCATION BENEFITS FOR OVERSEAS DEPENDENTS .....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, to petition the Department of Veterans Affairs and Congress to expand recognition of overseas institutions, eliminate inequitable pay

restrictions, and ensure full and equitable access to Chapter 35 education benefits for dependents abroad, building upon the intent of H.R. 1669.

677 PAC SUPPORT FOR EXPANDED SURVIVOR OUTREACH AND ASSISTANCE FOR FAMILIES RESIDING OVERSEAS.....

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge the VA to expand survivor outreach, virtual support, and educational resources for families residing overseas; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we encourage the development of standardized survivor intake checklists, multilingual guidance, and improved communication channels for overseas families.

PROPOSED

**TO COMMITTEE ON CONVENTION RULES**  
**This committee meets at 11:00 a.m., Sunday, July 26**

☐ **APPROVED**

Chair: Thomas A. Pouliot, Past Commander-in-Chief, Post 10010, MT  
Vice Chair: John W. Stroud, Past Commander-in-Chief, Post 2313, NV

CONVENTION RULES  
127th National Convention, Reno, Nevada  
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

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 the committee no later than 12:00 p.m. Tuesday, July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2026, 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 present at a meeting of the National Convention may speak in debate, make motions and vote and shall be entitled to vote the full strength to which the Post is entitled.

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. Delegate credential registration shall close at 12:00 p.m., Tuesday, July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2026. 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. 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. All motions and matters brought before the Convention shall first be decided by a voice vote of the delegates. Following the announcement of the result of a voice vote, a roll call may be requested in accordance with this section.
13. If a roll call is required, the following is the order of voting precedence: Department Commanders, National Council of Administration, Past Commanders-in-Chief followed by National Officers. Ascending alphabetical order by Department will be utilized for the National Council of Administration and Department Commanders. The Department Commander of each delegation shall poll their delegation's registered delegates on the floor and shall announce the vote of their delegation.
14. 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.
15. 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.
16. 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.
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. In the event any election for a National officer position is contested, each candidate shall have no more than five minutes to address the delegates prior to the election. For contested positions the candidates shall speak in the reverse order in which they were nominated.
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. The 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



