



2022-2023

**124th NATIONAL CONVENTION
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
OF THE UNITED STATES**

**PHOENIX, ARIZONA
JULY 22 – 27, 2023**

PROPOSED BYLAW AND MANUAL OF PROCEDURE AMENDMENTS

SCHEDULE OF RESOLUTIONS

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR COMMITTEES



July 7, 2023

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 124th National Convention in accordance with provisions of Section 1401 of the National Bylaws and Manual of Procedure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Dan West". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end.

Dan West
Adjutant General

Veterans of Foreign Wars
of the United States

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TO COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL BYLAWS, MANUAL OF PROCEDURE AND RITUAL
This committee meets at 2:00 p.m., Sunday, July 23

Chairman: Vincent B.J. Lawrence, Past Commander-in-Chief, Post 7686, NM
Vice Chairman: Paul A. Spera, Past Commander-in-Chief, Post 144, MA

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

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO NATIONAL BYLAWS

B-1

Proposed by Department of Pacific Areas

ARTICLE I – MEMBERS

Sec. 101 – Eligibility.

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

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

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

B-2

Proposed by Department of Vermont

ARTICLE I – MEMBERS

Sec. 101 - Eligibility.

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

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

B-3

Recommended by National Bylaws Study Group

Proposed by the Commander-in-Chief

ARTICLE I – MEMBERS

Sec. 102 – Applications-Affiliation of New Members.

Amend Sec. 102 – Applications-Affiliation of New Members., National Bylaws, by replacing “**Members-At-Large.**” with the following:

“A. National Member-at-Large.

1. An individual who is eligible for membership who chooses not to join a Post and Department, may become a “National Member-at-Large”, for up to two (2) years.
2. To become a National Member-at-Large, the individual must submit the following to the Adjutant General’s office:
 - (a) Completed membership application; and
 - (b) Proof of eligibility; and
 - (c) Payment of annual membership dues.
3. Annual dues required for National Membership-at-Large shall be forty-five dollars \$45.00, unless a different amount is established by the National Council of Administration.
4. Annual dues received by the Quartermaster General under this section shall be distributed as follows:
 - (a) National shall retain fifty percent (50%) of the annual membership dues received; and
 - (b) The Quartermaster General shall deliver the remaining fifty percent (50%) to the appropriate Department Adjutant, as directed by the National Membership Department.
5. Upon the two (2)-year anniversary of becoming a National Member-at-Large; or, upon upgrading to Life Membership; the Adjutant General shall transfer the Member to the Department in which their home address of record is located.

B. Department Member-at-Large

1. An individual who is eligible for membership and chooses not to join a Post but wishes to join a Department (as permitted by these Bylaws), may become a “Department Member-at-Large” on an annual basis.
2. To become a Department Member-at-Large, the individual must submit the following to the State Adjutant for the identified Department:
 - (a) Completed membership application; and
 - (b) Proof of eligibility; and
 - (c) Payment of annual membership dues.
3. Annual dues required for Department Membership-at-Large shall be forty-five dollars \$45.00, \$26.00 of which shall be National Organization dues which shall be transmitted to the Quartermaster General monthly on a consolidated report and \$19.00 of which shall be Department dues, provided the Department Council of Administration may establish some other amount as Department dues.”

B-4

Proposed by Department of Pacific Areas

ARTICLE IV – DISTRICTS

Sec. 416 – Elected and Appointed Officers; Chairmen and Committees.

Amend Sec. 416 – Elected and Appointed Officers; Chairmen and Committees., National Bylaws, under (a), by removing “Chaplain”.

B-5

Proposed by Department of Pacific Areas

ARTICLE IV – DISTRICTS

Sec. 416 – Elected and Appointed Officers; Chairmen and Committees.

Amend Sec. 416 – Elected and Appointed Officers; Chairmen and Committees., National Bylaws, under (b), by adding “Chaplain” after “Adjutant”.

B-6

Proposed by Department of Illinois

ARTICLE IV – DISTRICTS

Sec. 421 - Voting.

Amend Sec. 421 – Voting., National Bylaws, in the first sentence of the first paragraph, by removing “except delegates elected by the Posts,”. At the beginning of the second sentence of the first paragraph, add “When a roll call vote is required,”.

B-7

Proposed by Department of Illinois

ARTICLE V – DEPARTMENTS

Sec. 521 - Voting.

Amend Sec. 521 – Voting., National Bylaws, in the first sentence, by removing “except delegates elected by the Posts,”. At the beginning of the second sentence, add “When a roll call vote is required,”.

B-8

Proposed by Department of Illinois

ARTICLE VI - NATIONAL

Sec. 621 - Voting.

Amend Sec. 621 – Voting., National Bylaws, in the first sentence, by removing “except delegates elected by the Posts,”. At the beginning of the second sentence, add “When a roll call vote is required,”.

B-9

Proposed by Department of Missouri

ARTICLE XI - AUXILIARY

Sec. 1102 - Eligibility.

Amend Sec. 1102 – Eligibility., National Bylaws, in the first paragraph, by adding the following as a second sentence:

“Veterans who served honorably who are not otherwise eligible for Veterans of Foreign Wars membership shall be permitted to join the Auxiliary.”

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE MANUAL OF PROCEDURE

M-1

Recommended by National Bylaws Study Group

Proposed by the Commander-in-Chief

ARTICLE I – MEMBERS

Sec. 101 – Eligibility.

Amend Sec. 101 – Eligibility., Manual of Procedure, under the ELIGIBILITY GUIDE, by adding “Air and Space Expeditionary Service Ribbon”.

M-2

Proposed by Department of Florida

ARTICLE I – MEMBERS

Sec. 101 – Eligibility.

Amend Sec. 101 - Eligibility., Manual of Procedure, by adding the following to the ELIGIBILITY GUIDE: “Silver Star, Bronze Star and Purple Heart”.

M-3

Proposed by Department of Vermont

ARTICLE I – MEMBERS

Sec. 101 – Eligibility.

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

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

M-4

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)(11), by replacing the first sentence of the first paragraph with the following:

“The District Inspector shall ensure that each Post in the District is inspected during the administrative year.”

M-5

Proposed by Department of Georgia

ARTICLE V – DEPARTMENTS

Sec. 518 – Officers: Duties and Obligations.

Amend Sec. 518 – Officers: Duties and Obligations., Manual of Procedure, under (a)(4)f., in the second sentence, by removing “and a hard copy”.

M-6

Recommended by National Bylaws Study Group

Proposed by the Commander-in-Chief

ARTICLE VII – MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Sec. 706 – National Home for Children Funds.

Amend Sec. 706 – National Home for Children Funds, Manual of Procedure, by renaming the section as “**National Home Funds**”.

M-7

Recommended by National Bylaws Study Group

Proposed by the Commander-in-Chief

ARTICLE VIII – UNIFORMS, BADGES, ETC.

Sec. 803 – Manufacture and Use of Seals, Emblems, Badges, Insignia and Uniforms.

Amend Sec. 803 – Manufacture and Use of Seals, Emblems, Badges, Insignia and Uniforms, Manual of Procedure, under **Cap.**, by replacing the second sentence with the following:

“The color shall be green, shade 51; Suntan; or other colors as the National Council of Administration may dictate.”

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.

124TH NATIONAL CONVENTION
ALL PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS
JULY 22-27, 2023
PHOENIX, ARIZONA

FINANCE & INTERNAL ORGANIZATION

- 201 CREATE VFW NATIONAL SUBMARINE LIAISON OFFICE
- 202 VFW BOYCOTT OF CHINESE MANUFACTURED GOODS

GENERAL

- 301 CREATE PATROL INSIGNIA AWARDS FOR THE SS, SSG, SSN, AND SSGN SUBMARINE CREWS
- 302 BUDDY POPPY ® DISTRIBUTION ON MILITARY INSTALLATIONS
- 303 NATIONAL FLAG TO HONOR AND REMEMBER THOSE WHO DIED WHILE SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES
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NATIONAL SECURITY & FOREIGN AFFAIRS

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- 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 AWARDING 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 TRANSLATORS
- 412 SUPPORT THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA ON TAIWAN
- 413 SUPPORT THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA
- 414 SUPPORT OF NATO DETERRENCE AND SUPPORT TO UKRAINE
- 415 SUPPORT THE STATE OF ISRAEL
- 416 SUPPORT THE AWARDING OF THE VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL FOR THOSE INVOLVED IN THE S.S. MAYAGUEZ INCIDENT
- 417 BRING BACK UNITED STATES NAVY RECRUITING IN THE PHILIPPINES

418 HONORING THE OATHS OF U.S. SERVICE MEMBERS
419 HONDURAS

VETERANS SERVICE

601 ADEQUATE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS BUDGET
602 VA PHARMACEUTICAL CO-PAYMENTS
603 VA MEDICARE AND TRICARE REIMBURSEMENT
604 NURSING HOME ELIGIBILITY
605 TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY HEALTH CARE
606 PTSD AND MENTAL HEALTH CARE
607 VA HEALTH CARE FOR WOMEN VETERANS
608 EXPAND VA CAREGIVER BENEFITS
609 SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY CARE OPTIONS
610 FOREIGN MEDICAL CLAIM PROGRAM (FMP)
611 ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD MODERNIZATION (EHRM)
612 EXTEND SERVICE CONNECTION PRESUMPTION TO BLAST SURVIVORS
613 TINNITUS AND HEARING LOSS PRESUMPTIVE COMPENSABLE SERVICE CONNECTION
614 VA CLAIMS WORKLOAD
615 TOXIC EXPOSURES
616 DIGITAL CLAIMS PROCESS
617 VA LIFE INSURANCE PROGRAM
618 DOMICILIARY PROGRAMS AND TEMPORARY TOTAL RATINGS
619 PROTECTING VA ACCREDITATION
620 APPEALS MODERNIZATION AND LEGACY REMANDS
621 VSO INVOLVEMENT WITH VA SCHEUDLE FOR RATING DISABILITIES
622 REVIEW OF VA DECISIONS
623 IMPROVE BENEFITS FOR SURVIVORS
624 VETERAN HOUSING AND FOOD SECURITY PRIORITIES
625 ENSURE VETERAN SUCCESS IN EDUCATION
626 VOCATIONAL READINESS AND EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY
627 SUPPORT VETERANS EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING PROGRAMS
628 VETERAN ENTREPRENEURSHIP
629 UNDERSERVED VETERANS
630 FORT MCCLELLAN, ALABAMA, TOXIC EXPOSURE
631 IMPROVING VA MENTAL HEALTH CARE FOCUS
632 EXPAND PACT ACT PRESUMPTIONS TO INCLUDE CANCERS AMONG MISSILEERS
633 JUSTICE FOR ALS VETERANS
634 TINNITUS & HEARING LOSS PRESUMPTIVE SERVICE-CONNECTION
635 INCREASE VETERANS' BURIAL BENEFITS
636 EXPAND VETERAN TREATMENT COURTS
637 CONTINUE FIGHTING TO END VETERAN HOMELESSNESS
638 SUPPORTING WOMEN VETERANS
639 MILITARY SEXUAL TRAUMA (MST)
640 PROTECT THE HOMES OF SURVIVING SPOUSES
641 GREEN STAR SERVICE FLAG

TO COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND INTERNAL ORGANIZATION

This committee meets at 2:00 p.m., Sunday, July 23

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

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

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

No. and Dept. Title		Convention Action
201	HI MO WI	CREATE VFW NATIONAL SUBMARINE LIAISON OFFICE..... BE IT RESOLVED, the members of VFW Department of Hawaii, Missouri and Wisconsin request that the VFW National Headquarters establish an office of the National VFW Liaison to the Submarine community to be manned by two VFW Submariners holding the offices of VFW National Liaison to the Submarine Community – East and West Coast. This office will contribute to greater understanding, enhance new member recruitment initiatives within the submarine community, target legislative actions to recognize the unique needs of our submarine veterans and contribute to better care for submarine veterans by the Veterans’ Administration.
202	MO	VFW BOYCOTT OF CHINESE MANUFACTURED GOODS..... BE IT RESOLVED, that in response to its expansionist policy and use of slave labor by the CCP, we, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, immediately implement an active boycott of Chinese manufactured goods for both organizational needs and the VFW Store.

TO COMMITTEE ON GENERAL RESOLUTIONS
This committee meets at 2:00 p.m., Sunday, July 23

Chairman: Robert E. Wallace, Past Commander-in-Chief, Post 9503, NJ

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.	Dept.	Title	Convention Action
301	HI MO UT WI	CREATE PATROL INSIGNIA AWARDS FOR THE SS, SSG, SSN, AND SSGN SUBMARINE CREWS..... BE IT RESOLVED, the members of VFW Department of Hawaii, Missouri, Utah and Wisconsin request that the VFW National Headquarters and leadership commence efforts to petition US Navy Submarine Force commands, commanders, and US Navy officials at the Pentagon to design, approve, and authorize patrol insignias for the SS, SSG, SSN, and SSGN crews retroactive to 1947 and holding the same award rank as the SCPI and SSBN Deterrent Patrol Insignias.	_____
302	VA	BUDDY POPPY ® DISTRIBUTION ON MILITARY INSTALLATIONS..... BE IT RESOLVED, that the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, engage with DoD to update this 17-year-old Instruction and/or enter into a Memorandum of Understanding to protect and perpetuate access to DoD installations by the VFW for the innocent distribution of Buddy Poppies and associated, non-coercive or predatory, fund-raising activities as a matter of mutual benefit.	_____
303	VA	NATIONAL FLAG TO HONOR AND REMEMBER THOSE WHO DIED WHILE SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, to endorse the Honor and Remember flag as the National flag of remembrance for those who gave the ultimate sacrifice to this nation; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that by endorsing the flag that the Veterans of Foreign Wars is demonstrating support for the families who have sacrificed so much for the nation.	_____
304	CA	DEPORTED VETERANS..... BE IT RESOLVED, that the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States hereby urges the United States House of Representative and United States Senate to amend the United States Code 8 U.S.C. 1101(a) (22) to	_____

clearly state “The following shall be nationals*, but not citizens of the United States: (1) A person who, by Conscription or enlistment, entered any branch of the United States armed forces and, this shall be retroactive to service members/veterans previously removed from the United States.”

305 CO 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.

306 CO OFFER RANKED CHOICE VOTING IN FEDERAL ELECTIONS.....
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge Congress to amend the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act to require states and territories to include a Ranked Choice Voting option to be used in Federal elections.

307 RI SUPPORTING ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION FOR APPLICANTS.....
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Rhode Island enthusiastically supports and strongly recommends National provide standardized guidance on how to review, assess and grant eligibility determination of applicants of brothers and sisters of America who want to join the VFW and preserve the rights of veterans and support each other as only those who share in the camaraderie forged by conflict can.

308 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.

309 PA PURPOSE OF OUR ORGANIZATION
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we petition Congress to remove the word “**FRATERNAL**” from our charter. We are no longer a fraternal organization. This is the first line under Purpose – SEC. 230102, page 7. Going forward the Purpose should read: “The purposes of the corporation are patriotic, historical, charitable, and educational and are:

1. to preserve and strengthen comradeship among its members;
2. to assist worthy comrades;

3. to perpetuate the memory and history of our dead, and to assist their surviving spouses and orphans;
4. to maintain true allegiance to the Government of the United States, and fidelity to its Constitution and laws;
5. to foster true patriotism;
6. to maintain and extend the institution of American freedom; and
7. to preserve and defend the United States from all enemies.”

310 NV EXPAND THE DATES OF ELIGIBILITY FOR THE ARMED FORCES
EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States,
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.

TO COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS
This committee meets at 2:00 p.m., Sunday, July 23

Chairman: John W. Stroud, Past Commander-in-Chief, Post 2313, NV
Vice Chairman: William A. Thien, Past Commander-in-Chief, Post 3281, IN

SUBCOMMITTEE ON POW/MIA
This committee meets at 2:00 p.m., Sunday, July 23

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

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	_____
	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, to end the sequester, and to help bring some permanent financial stability to a military that will continue to operate in a very dangerous and unpredictable world.	
402	CIC ELIMINATE SEXUAL ASSAULT AND HARASSMENT IN THE MILITARY	_____
	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	_____
	BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge Congress to conduct oversight of DOD's compliance with the TAP law, afford VA accredited representatives a consistent means to access TSMs during TAP, and require DOD and its partner agencies to continuously improve TAP and maximize access to materials and resources for TSMs, veterans, and their families.	

- 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 equal to
not less than 5 percent of GDP for the readiness, training, modernization,
healthcare, and quality of life initiatives for the armed forces of today
and tomorrow.
- 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.
Moreover, DOD should reform its healthcare programs by eliminating
institutional inefficiencies before considering fee increases; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United
States, 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 and EUROPEAN ASSURE,
DETER, and REINFORCE 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 TRANSLATORS
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States,
that we urge the President of the United States and the U.S. Congress to
recognize the contributions of Afghan and Iraqi Combat Interpreter
Immigrants who stood shoulder to shoulder with, assisted and protected
U.S. military service members, U.S. diplomats and government agents,
non-governmental organizations, and media organizations during U.S.
involvement in those countries.
- 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 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.
- 415 CIC SUPPORT THE STATE OF ISRAEL
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States,
that we urge the United States Government to continue to support the
State of Israel both diplomatically and militarily and continue to work
with them to ensure and promote regional stability in the Middle East,
and elsewhere.
- 416 CIC SUPPORT THE AWARDING OF THE VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL
FOR THOSE INVOLVED IN THE S.S. MAYAGUEZ INCIDENT
BE IT RESOLVED, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States,
petition the United States Congress and the Department of Defense to
consider awarding the Vietnam Service Medal for those involved in the
Mayaguez incident.
- 417 PI BRING BACK UNITED STATES NAVY RECRUITING IN THE PHILIPPINES
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States,
supports enactment of this legislation that would bring back the
recruiting of Filipino Citizens by the United States Navy in the
Philippines.
- 418 AK HONORING THE OATHS OF U.S. SERVICE MEMBERS
BE IT RESOLVED, the Veterans of Foreign Wars call upon Congress to re-
establish constitutional balance to American foreign policy decision-
making, to honor their imperative obligation to debate and officially
declare wars before sending American troops into harm's way; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Veterans of Foreign Wars advocate for the passing of any bill that immediately repeals outdated Authorizations for Use of Military Force.

419 IA HONDURAS
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we strongly urge Congress to issue an Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, or similar recognition of having served in an area of hostility, to all U.S. troops who served in Honduras from 1981 to 1992.

PROPOSED

TO COMMITTEE ON VETERANS SERVICE RESOLUTIONS

This committee meets at 2:00 p.m., Sunday, July 23

Chairman: Thomas A. Pouliot, Past Commander-in-Chief, Post 10010, MT

Vice Chairman: Keith E. Harman, Past Commander-in-Chief, Post 3035, OH

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 ADEQUATE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS BUDGET	_____
	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 and maintain the integrity and enhancement of veteran entitlement programs and health care system.	
602	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.	
603	CIC VA MEDICARE AND TRICARE REIMBURSEMENT	_____
	BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we support enactment into law of legislation authorizing 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 or TRICARE.	
604	CIC NURSING HOME ELIGIBILITY	_____
	BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge Congress to establish a standard Department of Veterans Affairs nursing home entitlement for all veterans enrolled in the VA health care system.	
605	CIC TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY HEALTH CARE	_____
	BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge Congress to provide sufficient funding to the Department of Veterans Affairs to ensure that appropriate screening, diagnostic	

services, treatment and life-long case management services are available to every veteran suffering from conditions associated with service-connected head trauma to include, but not limited to Traumatic Brain Injuries; and

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

606 CIC PTSD AND MENTAL HEALTH CARE _____

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we urge Congress to dedicate adequate resources to address the alarming rate at which Veterans die by suicide to include 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 assess what specific treatments or practices are the most effective in helping our veterans cope with their PTSD.

607 CIC VA HEALTH CARE FOR WOMEN VETERANS..... _____

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we urge the Secretary of Veteran Affairs to improve outreach to women veterans, allow women to choose the gender of their VA health care providers and properly train VA's workforce to treat women veterans with the respect and dignity they have earned and deserve.

608 CIC EXPAND VA CAREGIVER BENEFITS..... _____

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge Congress to provide the accurate resources to VA for the expansion of the Department of Veterans Affairs Comprehensive

Assistance for Family Caregivers Program to veterans of all eras; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we urge VA to establish regulations clarifying caregiver appeal procedures allowing VA to adjudicate caregiver appeals to address the growing backlog of veterans in need of caregiver benefits; and

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

609 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.

610 CIC FOREIGN MEDICAL CLAIM PROGRAM (FMP) _____

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge VA to revise their woefully inadequate paper-based system and utilize Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT), to allow veterans and service providers to file claims electronically directly to VA; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we urge VHA to provide adequate staffing

for the FMP to provide timely adjudication of the claims; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we urge the Secretary of Veteran Affairs to revise the FMPs banking system to align with the Veterans Benefits Administration's banking system, providing electronic funds transfer of reimbursements to veterans and service providers, eliminating the antiquated process of mailing US Treasury checks.

611 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.

612 CIC EXTEND SERVICE CONNECTION PRESUMPTION TO BLAST SURVIVORS..... _____

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge Congress to approve a presumption of service connection for conditions associated with blast exposure.

613 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.

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.

614 CIC VA CLAIMS WORKLOAD..... _____

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

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

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

615 CIC TOXIC EXPOSURES _____

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge Congress to invest adequate resources to study, diagnose, and treat conditions and illnesses associated with toxic exposures; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we urge Congress and the Department of Veterans Affairs to grant a presumption of service connection for all conditions and illnesses that are deemed by scientific evidence to be at least as likely as not associated with or caused by exposure to a toxic substance or environmental hazard and not solely on the basis of a definitive causal link or scientific certainty; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we urge the Department of Defense to disclose known and potential toxic exposures during all military operations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Congress ensures that the Department of Defense expedites declassification efforts related to exposure events and that the Department of Veterans Affairs extends presumptive service connection to veterans suffering from conditions or illnesses found to be associated with exposure to toxic substances.

616 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.

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 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.

619 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 attempting to by-pass the VA accreditation process;
and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we urge federal law enforcement
agencies to investigate and prosecute companies that prey on our
nation's veterans and their dependents by charging exorbitant fees under
the guise of providing claims assistance.

620 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 of VA claims by obtaining all pertinent records when claims
are initially processed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United
States 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, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the
United States 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.

- 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.
- 622 CIC REVIEW OF VA DECISIONS _____
BE IT RESOLVED, that Congress passes legislation granting representatives accredited by the Department of Veterans Affairs the ability to address development and rating errors prior to decisions being finalized, thus ensuring that accurate benefits decisions are made in a timely fashion.
- 623 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.
- 624 CIC VETERAN HOUSING AND FOOD SECURITY PRIORITIES _____
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge the President and Congress to continue to address veterans' homelessness by increasing the availability of affordable housing, expanding educational and employment opportunities and training and providing gender-specific services; and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Department of Veterans Affairs should periodically adjust Grant and Per Diem program rates for inflation to ensure sufficient operation of homeless veteran assistance programs; and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that VA compensation and non-service connected pension should not be considered countable income by the Department of Housing and Urban Development and Department of Agriculture in determining program eligibility; 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.

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 book stipends 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 VOCATIONAL 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.

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 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.

629 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 the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, 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.

630 NH FORT MCCLELLAN, ALABAMA, TOXIC EXPOSURE.....

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S., that we urge Congress to support legislation *“That the veterans who served at Fort McClellan who are suffering illnesses caused by a toxic exposure; that these illnesses be added to the list of VA’s Presumed Conditions.”*

631 VA IMPROVING VA MENTAL HEALTH CARE FOCUS.....

BE IT RESOLVED, that the VFW urges the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to expeditiously review and reissue the *National Strategy for Preventing Veteran Suicide 2018 - 2028* to ensure currency and functionality, and further emphasize consistency and symbiosis with other National and DoD strategies focused on reducing suicide among those who wear or have worn our country’s uniform.

632 VA EXPAND PACT ACT PRESUMPTIONS TO INCLUDE CANCERS AMONG MISSILEERS

BE IT RESOLVED, that the VFW urges Congress to adequate fund the Department of Defense (DoD) and VA studies to ensure inter-organizational cooperation and resources are brought to focus in these cancer studies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the VFW urges Congress to amend the PACT Act to recognize presumption of the aforementioned cancers as well as any other cancers the studies may identify among those serving or who have served in ICBM-related military occupational specialties; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that while such studies are being conducted and results assessed, that those personnel who hold or have held ICMD-related military occupational specialties and who are diagnosed with cancers of the cervix, thyroid, Hodgkin’s Lymphoma, or Non-Hodgkin’s Lymphoma receive presumptive causation to military service and associated compensation unless the study(ies) prove otherwise.

633 VA 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.

- 634 IL TINNITUS & HEARING LOSS PRESUMPTIVE SERVICE-CONNECTION
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge Congress and the VA to grant service-connection on a presumptive basis for any veteran diagnosed after discharge with hearing loss and/or tinnitus when there is evidence that the veteran participated in combat operations; worked in a position or occupational specialty likely to have damaged the veteran's hearing; or was exposed to any form of auditory trauma.
- 635 IL INCREASE VETERANS' BURIAL BENEFITS
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we believe there is still a serious deficit between the original value of the plot allowance benefit and its current value. Congress should increase the plot allowance for all eligible veterans and expand the eligibility for the plot allowance for all veterans who might be eligible for burial in a national cemetery, not just those who served during wartime; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United, that we urge Congress and the Administration to provide the resources required to meet the critical and sensitive nature of the National Cemetery Administration's mission thereby fulfilling the nation's commitment to all veterans who have served their country so honorably and faithfully.
- 636 IL 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.
- 637 IL CONTINUE FIGHTING TO END VETERAN HOMELESSNESS
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States wants to ensure that the issue of veteran homelessness remains a priority for both the Administration and Congress; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we encourage Congress to increase the availability of affordable housing; expand education/training programs; and provide employment opportunities until all veterans are properly housed and gainfully employed.

- 638 IL SUPPORTING WOMEN VETERANS
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States,
urges Congress to support and increase the availability of high quality
gender-specific services at the VA; and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the
United States, urges the VA to ensure that every VA facility has a zero
tolerance policy towards sexual harassment for employees and patients.
- 639 IL 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, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United
States 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.
- 640 CO PROTECT THE HOMES OF SURVIVING SPOUSES
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States,
that we urge Congress to establish a grant program to assist surviving
spouses who become eligible for DIC benefits to remain in their homes;
and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this grant program be named The
Sergeant. Sam Wybenga Grant Program.
- 641 NJ GREEN STAR SERVICE FLAG
PA BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States,
that we petition Congress to enact legislation that would federally
recognize the families of Veterans lost to suicide as "Green Star" family
members by approving the "Green Star Service Flag" currently proposed
as H.R. 3076 ; To amend title 36, United States Code, to direct the
Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a flag for next of kin of veterans
who die by suicide.

TO COMMITTEE ON CONVENTION RULES
This committee meets at 12:00 p.m., Sunday, July 23

☐ **APPROVED**

Chairman: Edward S. Banas, Past Commander-in-Chief, Post 10004, CT

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

CONVENTION RULES
124th National Convention
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States
Phoenix, Arizona

1. That, in accordance and conjunction with the National Bylaws and Manual of Procedure, and with any exception noted here, the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall be recognized as parliamentary authority for this Convention.
2. That when a registered delegate desires to make a motion or address the Convention, the delegate shall rise, address the Chair as "Comrade Commander-in-Chief," and after being recognized, shall state their name, Post number and Department before proceeding.
3. A registered delegate shall be permitted to speak but twice on any one subject, or any pending resolution for a period not to exceed five minutes each except by consent of two-thirds of the voting strength of the Convention present and voting, provided that chairmen of Convention committees may speak as frequently as necessary in connection with reports of their committees. In the event of controversy, the presiding officer shall not entertain any motion which will curtail further debate without affording the maker of the motion or a member of the delegation presenting the resolution an opportunity for five minutes of final rebuttal.
4. All resolutions offered by individual registered delegates must bear the endorsement of the Department Commander or, if absent, the Department Adjutant. All resolutions must be submitted to the office of the Adjutant General for numbering and referral to committee no later than 12:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 26, 2023 and must be accompanied by a written explanation as to why the resolution was not presented to the Department Convention for consideration.
5. All resolutions offered on the floor at the Convention will initially be in writing, and shall automatically and without reading, be referred to the Adjutant General for assignment to the proper committee.
6. Committee chairmen, in reporting on resolutions referred to their committee, shall first read the number of those resolutions on which favorable action is recommended. Specific resolutions may be set aside for individual action at the request of any delegate, the others being voted upon collectively. After action has been taken on all such resolutions, the chairman shall read the number and title of those resolutions which the committee has disapproved. A resolution disapproved by the committee shall be automatically rejected unless a motion is made and seconded that it be approved, in which case it shall be brought up for debate and Convention action.
7. This Convention will not consider any resolution dealing with the expenditure or appropriation of organizational funds.

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

NOTES