

1 August 2024

SUBJECT: Summary of VFW National Convention Information for Oklahoma Members

Commander and CoA members,

This information is provided by Judge Advocate Traxler of the Oklahoma VFW Bylaws Committee who attended the 125th National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky. Please share with Posts and members in your Districts.

Bylaw Changes:

- A document containing the proposed bylaws and resolutions presented at the convention is available on the Department webpage.
- The Bylaws Committee, including representatives from Oklahoma, reviewed these proposals and recommendations of the National Bylaws Study group.
- Many proposed changes were rejected for various reasons, including conflicts with the VFW charter or unclear language.
- Some proposals were debated and adopted despite initial recommendations for rejection from Bylaws Study Group.
- Notably, a roll call vote (the first in 3 decades) was held for bylaw change B15, ultimately rejected.
- National expects both print and digital copies of the updated bylaws (2024-2025) to be available in September.

Other Trainings Attended:

- **Post Commander Responsibilities as Non-profit:** This workshop covered topics like private benefit/inurement, contracts and partnerships, political activity, unrelated business income, and reporting requirements.
- **Member Rights & Post Commander Authority:** This workshop clarified member rights and will have a corresponding guide published under the "Trainings" tab on the national VFW website. It also discussed member participation, unruly members, and Commander's authority. * Highlight: Guides published are considered bylaws supplements.
- **Navigating the Hard Insurance Market for your VFW Post (Cancelled):** This workshop aimed to help Posts understand their insurance coverage and optimize spending. Efforts are underway to obtain training materials.
- **Parliamentary Procedure (Cancelled):** Information from this workshop will be posted on the Department website if available.

Department of Oklahoma

Comrade Randy Traxler

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Additional Resources:

- Recordings of the convention's business sessions might be available for viewing on www.vfw.org/convention.
- National Office highlights from the convention will be posted on the Department webpage.

Call to Action:

I encourage my fellow CoA Members not in attendance and any Oklahoma VFW member to ask questions of committee appointees and delegates. Members should have access to information gained by those serving in these roles. I have been a member since 2017, and I could recall only minimal if any information shared. This information is owed to the members, and it is their right to ask for it.

This information and other supporting information can be found at www.vfwoklahoma.org under the heading of News then 2024-2025 National Convention.

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**125th NATIONAL CONVENTION
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES**

**LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY
JULY 27 – AUGUST 1, 2024**



PROPOSED BYLAW, MANUAL OF PROCEDURE AND RITUAL AMENDMENTS

SCHEDULE OF RESOLUTIONS

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR COMMITTEES

MEET THE CHALLENGE



2023-2024



July 12, 2024

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 125th National Convention in accordance with provisions of Section 1401 of the National Bylaws and Manual of Procedure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan West". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end of the name.

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 28

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

C-1 Motion out of order as it requires congressional charter change

Proposed by Department of Georgia

CONGRESSIONAL CHARTER

Sec. 230101 - Organization.

Amend Sec. 230101 - Organization., Congressional Charter, under **(a) Federal Charter.**, by replacing “and airmen” with “airmen and guardians”.

B-1 Motion out of order: Conflict with Charter

Proposed by Department of Georgia

ARTICLE I – MEMBERS

Sec. 101 - Eligibility.

Amend Sec. 101 - Eligibility., National Bylaws, by replacing (2) with the text below and renumbering the current language in (2) and (3) as (3) and (4):

“(2) in a foreign war, insurrection or expedition which service has been recognized with an individual military medal or devices for valor or performance in foreign combat and is governed by the authorization of the award of an individual military medal by the Government of the United States, or”

B-2 Withdrawn and proposed as CiC resolution: defeated 29 July 2024.

Recommended by National Bylaws Study Group

Proposed by the Commander-in-Chief

ARTICLE I – MEMBERS

Sec. 101 – Eligibility.

Amend Sec. 101 - Eligibility., National Bylaws, (3), by adding “; or” at the end of the sentence and the following as (4):

“(4) in Cold War Service deployed on the continent of Africa, Asia, or Europe or their territorial waters for not less than 60 consecutive days, between September 2, 1945, and December 26, 1991.”

B-3 Motion out of Order: Conflict with Charter

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.”

B-4 Rejected: Fee schedule would have to change from proposed to ensure schedule E would be effective.

Proposed by Department of Massachusetts

ARTICLE I – MEMBERS

Sec. 111 – Life Members.

Amend Sec. 111 – Life Members., National Bylaws, under **(b) Life Membership Fees**, under **Attained Age** and **Plan E Life Member Fee**, by replacing “81 & over” with the following and adding new age ranges and fees as follows:

<u>Attained Age</u>	<u>Plan E Life Member Fee</u>
81 – 90	\$170
91 – 99	\$125
100 & over	\$80”

B-5 Adopted.

Proposed by Department of Wisconsin

ARTICLE II – POSTS

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

Amend Sec. 216 - Elected and Appointed Officers; Chairmen and Committees., National By-Laws, (b), by adding “may appoint” before “Service Officer.”

B-6 Rejected.

Proposed by Department of Wisconsin

ARTICLE II – POSTS

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

Amend Sec. 216 - Elected and Appointed Officers; Chairmen and Committees., National By-Laws, (c), by removing “Surgeon”.

B-7 Rejected. Current language did not change what current bylaws afford.

Proposed by Department of Virginia

ARTICLE II – POSTS

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

Amend Sec. 216 - Elected and Appointed Officers; Chairmen and Committees., National Bylaws, (c), at the end of the sentence, by replacing “required” with “allowed”.

B-8 Rejected: Language does not change what is afforded by current bylaws.

Proposed by Department of New York

ARTICLE II – POSTS

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

Amend Sec. 216 - Elected and Appointed Officers; Chairmen and Committees., National Bylaws, under (c), by replacing the current language with the following:

“The Post shall elect or the Post Commander shall appoint a Judge Advocate, Surgeon, Officer of the Day and/or Guard if appointment rather than election is required by Post Bylaws.”

B-9 Rejected: Delegates duties are not outlined and this motion may limit the individual voice of delegate.

Proposed by Department of Georgia

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, by changing the section title and section language to include “Delegates” and read as follows:

“Sec. 220 – Vacancies and Removal of Elected Officers, Delegates or Committee Members.

Vacancies. All vacancies occurring in the elected offices or delegates of the Post shall be filled in accordance with Section 220 of the Manual of Procedure at the next regular or special meeting as prescribed in Section 203 of the Manual of Procedure.

Removal. Elected officers, elected delegates, or elected committee members may be removed for just cause by the Post or the Department Commander as prescribed in Section 220 of the Manual of Procedure.

Any elected Post officer, delegate, or committee member removed, by reason of failure to pay current dues or under the provisions of this section shall not be eligible to serve in any Post office or committee or as a delegate in the same administrative year in which the officer, delegate, or committee member is removed.”

B-10 Rejected: Motion did not change what is afforded by current bylaws.

Proposed by Department of Virginia

ARTICLE IV – DISTRICTS

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

Amend Sec. 416 - Elected and Appointed Officers; Chairmen and Committees., National Bylaws, (c), at the end of the sentence, by replacing “required” with “allowed”.

B-11 Rejected: Motion did not change what is afforded by current bylaws.

Proposed by Department of New York

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 (c), by replacing the current language with the following:

“The District shall elect or the District Commander shall appoint a Judge Advocate, Surgeon, Chief of Staff or Officer of the Day if appointment rather than election is required by District Bylaws.”

B-12 Rejected: Does not change what is afforded by current bylaws.

Proposed by Department of Virginia

ARTICLE V – DEPARTMENTS

Sec. 516 – Elected and Appointed Officers; Chairmen and Committees.

Amend Sec. 516 - Elected and Appointed Officers; Chairmen and Committees., National Bylaws, (c), at the end of the sentence, by replacing “required” with “allowed”.

B-13 Rejected. Position will remain an appointed position.

Proposed by Department of North Carolina

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 “Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief”.

Under (b), remove “Adjutant General”.

B-14 Rejected.

Proposed by Department of North Carolina

ARTICLE VI – NATIONAL

Sec. 617 – Nomination, Election, Installation and Term of Office.

Amend Sec. 617 - Nomination, Election, Installation and Term of Office., National Bylaws, by replacing the last paragraph with the following:

“The Commander-in-Chief, Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief, Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief, Chaplain, Judge Advocate General and Surgeon General shall be elected for a term of one (1) year. The Adjutant General and Quartermaster General shall be elected to serve a term of four (4) years with the opportunity to hold a second four (4) term, if elected. National Officers shall assume their duties at the close of the National Convention.”

B-15 Rejected by Roll Call Vote on 29 July during General Business Section.

Recommended by National Bylaws Study Group

Proposed by the Commander-in-Chief

ARTICLE VI – NATIONAL

Sec. 618 – Officers: Duties and Obligations.

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

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

B-16 Adopted.

Recommended by National Bylaws Study Group

Proposed by the Commander-in-Chief

ARTICLE VI – NATIONAL

Sec. 619 – National Committees.

Amend Sec. 619 - National Committees., National Bylaws, in the first paragraph, by adding “c. National Legislative Committee.”

Add the following at the end of the section:

“(c) National Legislative Committee.

(1) Composition: The National Legislative Committee shall consist of committee members appointed by each Department Commander with the approval of the Commander-in-Chief. Department Commanders shall receive one committee appointment for every eight members of the federal Congressional delegation for the states and/or territories that comprise the Department. Appointments to the committee must be approved by the current Department Commander, the current Department Senior Vice Commander, and the current Department Junior Vice

Commander. Committee members shall be appointed to a three-year term with one-third of the committee receiving appointments each year. The Commander-in-Chief shall select a chairman for the committee and shall consult the Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief, Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief, and immediate Past Commander-in-Chief on selection of vice chairs. The Commander-in-Chief may remove committee members for failure to discharge their duties or for other conduct prejudicial to good order and discipline.

(2) Duties: The National Legislative Committee shall formally meet twice each year in Washington, D.C. to conduct training and advance the VFW legislative priority goals in accordance with the organization's legislative and welfare programs and policies approved by the National Convention. Committee members shall continually advance the VFW legislative priority goals in their home states and territories between formal meetings and shall complete monthly activity reports for submission to the Adjutant General or the Adjutant General's duly appointed authority in the VFW Washington office. The Commander-in-Chief may call additional meetings of the committee or promulgate General Orders necessary to the committee for the effective discharge of its business. Committee members shall discharge all duties in compliance with Section 702 of the National Bylaws."

B-17 Rejected: National Bylaw Study Group found language unclear.

Proposed by Department of Oklahoma

ARTICLE VII – MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Sec. 709 – Control of Units.

Amend Sec. 709 - Control of Units., National Bylaws, in the first paragraph, first sentence, by adding "and its subordinate units" after "United States" and "other" after the first word "any".

B-18 Rejected: Use of insignia is already accounted for by sections directing QM General.

Proposed by the National Judge Advocate General

ARTICLE VII – MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Sec. 717

Amend Sec. 717, National Bylaws, by adding a section title and the language below:

"Sec. 717 – Prohibition on Personal Gain; Conflicts of Interest.

1. No officer, past or present of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States shall use any VFW title or position he or she currently possesses or has possessed for personal private gain or for the private gain of any family member, personal friend, business associate or other person with whom a personal relationship exists.
2. No officer or member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States shall at any meeting or any other situation wherein VFW business is being transacted, either formally or informally, participate in any discussion or vote relating to any matter in which he or she may receive personal private gain or any matter that may bestow

private gain on any family member, personal friend, business associate or other person with whom a personal relationship exists. When such a situation presents itself, the officer or member must announce his or her conflict of interest and recuse him or herself from the discussion and/or vote.

3. Nothing within this Section shall be interpreted to preclude an officer, past or present or a member of the VFW from referencing their VFW membership or any VFW position held when describing his or her professional experience or involvement in a veteran service organization so long as the officer, past or present or member does not infer or imply the VFW endorses any product, service or enterprise. In addition, nothing in this Section shall be interpreted to preclude an officer, past or present or a member of the VFW from engaging in organizational sponsorship activities under the same terms and conditions offered to the general public.”

B-19 Rejected

Proposed by Department of Colorado

ARTICLE IX – DISCIPLINE

Sec. 902 – Offenses.

Amend Sec. 902 - Offenses., National Bylaws, No. 5., by adding the following at the end of the sentence:

“as long as the conviction, the guilty plea, or no contest plea, occurs after being accepted as a member.”

B-20 Rejected: 1 year is too short of a time span.

Proposed by the National Judge Advocate General

ARTICLE IX – DISCIPLINE

Sec. 903 - Procedure for Disciplinary Actions.

Amend Sec. 903 - Procedure for Disciplinary Actions., National Bylaws, under (a), by adding the following as (4):

- “4. No Disciplinary Action may be taken with respect to the act or acts of a member unless the Disciplinary Action has been initiated in accordance with Section 903(c) of the National Bylaws within one year of the offense having been committed but said time period shall be extended where the member has taken steps to conceal the act or acts from discovery in which case the one year period of time begins upon the date of discovery.”

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE MANUAL OF PROCEDURE

M-1 **Withdrawn: Presented as CiC resolution: Defeated**

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 **ELIGIBILITY GUIDE**, in the second paragraph, by adding the following at the end of the first sentence:

“; or served in Africa, Asia, or Europe during Cold War Service as outlined in the following guide.”

Under **Campaign Medal** and **Qualifying Dates**, add the following after **Korea Defense Service Medal...**:

Cold War Service

Sept. 2, 1945 – Dec. 26, 1991”

Service in Africa, Asia, or Europe, or its territorial waters for not less than 60 consecutive days.

M-2 **Adopted: *Note that is not only thing used to determine eligibility.**

Recommended by National Bylaws Study Group

Proposed by the Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief

ARTICLE I – MEMBERS

Sec. 101 – Eligibility.

Amend Sec. 101 - Eligibility., Manual of Procedure, under **Campaign Medal** and **Qualifying Dates**, add the following before **Combat Infantry Badge & Combat Medical Badge...**:

Purple Heart

Aug. 7, 1782 – Open”

M-3 **Rejected: Charter conflict**

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.”

M-4 Rejected: Language was unclear to Bylaw Study Group

Proposed by Department of Georgia

ARTICLE I – MEMBERS

Sec. 101 – Eligibility.

Amend Sec. 101 - Eligibility., Manual of Procedure, by adding the following at the end of the section:

“The following individual military medals for valor in combat have been recognized as meeting the medal requirements of membership:

Medal of Honor

Distinguished Service Cross Army

Navy Cross Navy, Marine Corps

Air Force Cross Air Force

Coast Guard Cross Coast Guard

Silver Star

Bronze Star

Prisoner of War Medal

Individual medals that are distinguished with the “V” device for valor in combat and individual medals that are distinguished with the “C” device for performance in combat meet the medal requirements of membership.”

M-5 Rejected: May interfere with appeals process

Proposed by Department of Georgia

ARTICLE I – MEMBERS

Sec. 109 – Right of Appeal.

Amend Sec. 109 - Right of Appeal., Manual of Procedure, under **Appeals to the Department Commander**;, in the third paragraph, by replacing the last sentence with the following:

“The Department Commander shall provide a written decision within thirty (30) days.”

M-6 Rejected: Can interfere with higher appeal

Proposed by Department of Georgia

ARTICLE I – MEMBERS

Sec. 109 – Right of Appeal.

Amend Sec. 109 - Right of Appeal., Manual of Procedure, under **Appeals to the Commander-in-Chief**;, in the third paragraph, by replacing the last sentence with the following:

“The Department Commander shall provide a written decision within one-hundred twenty (120) days.”

M-7 Rejected: See bylaw amendment for reason

Proposed by Department of Wisconsin

ARTICLE II – POSTS

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

Amend Sec. 218 – Officers and Chairmen, Duties and Obligations., Manual of Procedure, under **(a) Officers.**, by removing **(9) Surgeon.** in its entirety and renumbering subsections **Officer of the Day.** as **“(9)”**, **Trustees.** as **“(10)”** and **Service Officer.** as **“(11)”**.

M-8 Rejected: See bylaw amendment for reason

Proposed by Department of Georgia

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., Manual of Procedure, by changing the Section title to read **“Vacancies and Removal of Elected Officers, Delegates, or Committee Members.”**

Under **Vacancies.**, in the last paragraph, by adding “, Delegate position,” after “elected Post office”.

Under **Removal – Post.**, in the first paragraph, first sentence, by adding “, delegate,” after “removal of an officer”. In the second sentence, add “, delegate status,” after “The member holding such office”.

M-9 Rejected: See bylaw amendment for reason

Proposed by Department of Virginia

ARTICLE IV – DISTRICTS

Sec. 417 – Nomination, Election, Installation and Term of Office.

Amend Sec. 417 - Nomination, Election, Installation and Term of Office., Manual of Procedure, under **Order of Nominations and Elections.**, by adding “(unless appointed in accordance with District Bylaws)” after “Judge Advocate” and “Surgeon”.

M-10 Rejected: See bylaw amendment for reason

Proposed by Department of Wisconsin

ARTICLE IV – DISTRICTS

Sec. 418 – Officers; Duties and Obligations.

Amend Sec. 418 - Officers: Duties and Obligations., Manual of Procedure, under **(a) Officers.**, **(13) Surgeon.**, by removing the second sentence.

M-11 Rejected: See bylaw amendment for reason

Proposed by Department of Wisconsin

ARTICLE V – DEPARTMENTS

Sec. 518 – Officers; Duties and Obligations.

Amend Sec. 518 - Officers: Duties and Obligations., Manual of Procedure, under **(a) Officers., (10) Surgeon.**, in the second sentence, by replacing “Post” with “District”.

M-12 Rejected: See bylaw amendment for reason

Proposed by Department of North Carolina

ARTICLE VI – NATIONAL

Sec. 617 – Nomination, Election, Installation and Term of Office.

Amend Sec. 617 - Nomination, Election, Installation and Term of Office., Manual of Procedure, under **Order of nominations and elections.**, in the first sentence, by adding “Adjutant General” after “Quartermaster General”.

M-13 Rejected: See bylaw amendment for reason

Proposed by Department of Oklahoma

ARTICLE VII – MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Sec. 709 – Control of Units.

Amend Sec. 709 - Control of Units., Manual of Procedure, in the third paragraph, first sentence, by adding “and its subordinate units” after “United States”.

M-14 Rejected: Article 9 already provides these provisions.

Proposed by the National Judge Advocate General

ARTICLE IX – DISCIPLINE

Sec. 907 - Penalties.

Amend Sec. 907 - Penalties., Manual of Procedure, by removing “(See Section 907 of the Bylaws)” next to the section title and add the following:

“The penalty imposed upon a member shall be commensurate with the offense or offenses committed and should be corrective in nature reserving the most serious penalty of membership termination for the most egregious offenses. In determining an appropriate penalty under Section 907 of the National Bylaws, the adjudicating officer, adjudicating panel, appellate official or appellate body shall consider the following factors:

1. The nature and seriousness of the offense and its relation to: (a) membership within the Veterans of Foreign Wars; (b) the member’s duties and responsibilities in an elected or appointed position in the Veterans of Foreign Wars; (c) whether the offense was intentional or technical or inadvertent; and (d) whether the offense was committed maliciously or for gain or was frequently repeated;
2. The member’s past disciplinary record within the Veterans of Foreign Wars;

3. The member's past contributions to the Veterans of Foreign Wars and its mission including length of membership, volunteer activities and performance in appointed or elected positions;
4. Consistency of the penalty with those imposed upon other members for the same or similar offenses;
5. The impact of the offense upon the reputation of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and its members outside the organization;
6. The clarity with which the member was on notice of any rules that were violated in committing the offense or had been warned about the conduct in question;
7. Potential for the member's rehabilitation;
8. Mitigating circumstances surrounding the offense such as unusual personal issues, personality problems, mental impairment, harassment or bad faith, malice or provocation on the part of others involved in the matter; and
9. The adequacy and effectiveness of alternative sanctions to deter such conduct in the future by the member or others.

When applying these factors to determine an appropriate penalty under Section 907 of the National Bylaws, the adjudicating officer, adjudicating panel, appellate official or appellate body shall balance the needs of the Veterans of Foreign Wars to maintain good order and discipline with the membership rights bestowed upon a member by the National Bylaws. Where a lesser penalty set forth in Section 907 of the National Bylaws achieves the proper balance, the adjudicating officer, panel or appellate official or body shall choose the lesser penalty."

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE RITUAL

R-1 **Adopted: Language in ritual does not affect eligibility so not in conflict with charter.**

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Proposed by Department of Georgia

RITUAL

INITIATION CEREMONY (Brief Form)

Amend Chapter Title - Initiation Ceremony (Brief Form), Ritual, under **Junior Vice Commander**; in the first paragraph, first sentence, by replacing “marine or airman” with “marine, airman or guardian”.

R-2 **Rejected.**

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Proposed by Department of Wisconsin

RITUAL

INSTALLATION OF DISTRICT OFFICERS

Amend Chapter Title – Installation of District Officers, Ritual, in the second paragraph of **Installing Officer**; first sentence, by removing “and to assist Post Surgeons.”

R-3 **Rejected**

(Page 106)

Proposed by Department of Massachusetts

RITUAL

FUNERAL CEREMONIES

Amend Chapter Title - Funeral Ceremonies, Ritual, by adding the following new subsection after subsection “CHAPEL SERVICE”:

“CHAPEL SERVICE FOR GOLD STAR MEMBERS

We, the members of _____ Post No. _____, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, are here assembled to pay a lasting tribute of respect to our departed comrade *and Gold Star mother/father; husband/wife*. When the call of our country was heard Comrade (deceased) answered; self was forgotten in the cause of the greater good. Bravely they marched away with the abiding faith in their God, their country and their flag.

The red of our country’s flag was made redder by their heroism; the white more stainlessly pure by the motives which impelled them; and, in the starry field of our nation’s glorious banner, the blue has been glorified by the service they have given for American ideals.

(Name of Comrade) further gave to the defense of our great nation the most precious and painful gift of all, that of their son/daughter; husband/wife, (announce name of the deceased child or spouse), who gave his/her life in the service and defense of the United States.

Parade rest. (Detail responds.) The Chaplain will invoke the divine blessing. (Detail hold caps

over heart with right hand.)

Chaplain: (May extemporize or repeat): “O God, Father of us all, we here extend these final earthly tributes to our beloved comrade. Accept our prayers on behalf of the soul of Thy servant departed. Welcome them to Thy house to rest in peace. Look with mercy upon the loved ones bereaved by their passing. Comfort and console them through Thine own tenderness. These things we ask humbly in Thy name. Amen

(All repeat Amen. Replace caps.)

(A choir, quartet or soloist may sing “Sleep, Soldier Boy” or other appropriate song.)

Commander: One by one, as the years roll on, we are called upon to fulfill these sad duties of respect to our departed comrades.

Attention! Officers of _____ Post _____, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, you will now perform the last duties of your stations.

Junior Vice-Commander: (Faces the casket, approaches it, stands before the blue field of the casket flag in such position that their back is not toward the assembly. They fold back the blue corner of the flag to leave bare a portion of the casket. Then places the evergreen upon the casket and declares so all will hear):

“On behalf of _____ Post _____ Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, I present this evergreen tribute as a symbol of our undying love for our comrade.

(Junior Vice-Commander salutes casket and returns to their place in the line.)

Senior Vice-Commander: (Takes same position at the casket. Laying white flowers upon casket and says): “I place these white flowers as a symbol of purity upon this casket, and may each future generation emulate the unselfish devotion to duty even to the last of our comrades.

(Senior Vice-Commander salutes casket and returns to their place in line.)

Officer of the Day: (Takes same position at the casket. Laying wreath upon casket and says):

“We place this wreath as a last token of affection from their comrades-in-arms upon the casket of our departed comrade and crown their mortal dust with this symbol of victory.”

(Officer of the Day salutes casket and returns to their place in line.)

Chaplain: (Placing a gold or yellow flower upon the casket and says): I place this symbol upon you in honor of the glorious sacrifice you made in life; that of your son/daughter; husband/wife in defense of our nation. With all of the admiration and reverence that we possess for your life and for the life of your child/spouse. May this most precious of tokens serve as an emblem of your grace and perseverance.

Commander: (Takes same position at the casket. Placing small Flag of the United States upon casket and says):

“On behalf of our glorious republic, for whose integrity our comrades of the Veterans of Foreign Wars enlisted and served, we place upon their casket this emblem of our country, a country whose arms are always open to shelter the oppressed.”

(Commander then replaces folded corner of the casket flag, laying it over the evergreen, flowers, wreath, and flag symbols. Commander salutes casket and returns to their place in line.)

Chaplain: (Delivers brief address extemporaneously or repeats the following):

We come today to honor the memory of one who offered their life as a service to our nation’s cause and to our God. Proudly we remember their service. Because of men and women like our comrade, we live in a land freedom, peace and justice. May our ceremonies of today deepen our reverence for our honored comrade and friend.

We believe that our comrade is now in the hands of our Heavenly Father, the Supreme Commander and Judge of all. We lay our comrade’s body (ashes) to rest. Let us cherish their virtues and learn to imitate them. Let each of us be loyal and faithful to our remaining missions in life that we too will be able to join in that grand fraternity which is on earth and in heaven, and remains unbroken.

We realize how futile mere words are to express our deep and abiding sympathy in our loss. May we be comforted by the assurance that our comrade, friend and loved one is at rest in God’s eternal peace, and abides in a place where all burdens are lifted and there is no more sickness and pain.

Comrades, let us now pledge ourselves anew to provide support and protection for those left behind; to pick up the banner laid down by our comrade, and continue their march to face the challenges that confronts us in this life, and may our God always be our companion and guide.

Commander: This concludes our service.”

R-4 Rejected:

(Page 106)

Proposed by Department of Massachusetts

RITUAL

FUNERAL CEREMONIES

Amend Chapter Title - Funeral Ceremonies, Ritual, by adding the following new subsection after subsection "CHAPEL SERVICE":

"CHAPEL SERVICE FOR THE GOLD STAR COMMUNITY

Commander: Parade Rest!

We are here assembled to pay a lasting tribute of respect to our departed Gold Star father/mother; husband/wife.

When the call of our country was heard, their son/daughter; husband/wife (announce name of the deceased child or spouse) answered. He/she bravely marched away as their mother/father; husband/wife too so greatly sacrificed in their absence, knowing that they may not return.

There is no purer form of sacrifice or duty than that of those who lost a child/spouse in the service of their country.

One by one, as the years roll on, we are called upon to fulfill these sad duties of respect and reverence. We shall miss (name of departed Gold Star) and their hard attained wisdom, words of counsel, and watchful care over the memory of their son/daughter; husband/wife and in so doing, care over the memory of our nation.

Attention!

Commander: Officers, you will now perform the last duties of your stations.

Senior Vice-Commander: (Places a white flower upon the casket and says): As a symbol of purity, I place this flower upon you in remembrance of your departed life. For as much as it has pleased God to take out of this world the soul of (departed Gold Star) it shows how beautifully true is the comparison of life to this flower, which opens in the morning, but in the evening withers away. May each future generation emulate such unselfish devotion.

Chaplain: (Placing a gold or yellow flower upon the casket and says): I place this symbol upon you in honor of the glorious sacrifice you made in life; that of your son/daughter; husband/wife in defense of our nation. With all of the admiration and reverence that we possess for your life and for the life of your child/spouse, may this most precious of tokens serve as an emblem of your grace and perseverance.

Chaplain: We have come today to honor the memory of one who offered so much to God and to our Nation's cause, that of their child/spouse. Because of fathers/mothers; husbands/wives like (name of departed Gold Star) who were willing to give so greatly and who raised God's

children to love and honor Him and their country, we are therefore able to live in a land of freedom, peace, and justice. Let us cherish their virtues and learn to imitate them.

May our ceremonies today deepen our reverence for our departed friend, who we believe is now in the hands of our Heavenly Father.

We realize how futile mere words are to express our deep and abiding sympathy in your loss. May we be comforted by the assurance that our friend is at rest in God's eternal peace, and abides in a place where all burdens are lifted, where there is no more sickness, and where there is no more pain.

Let us pray: Heavenly Father, who art our refuge and strength in our time of trouble, enable us we pray, to put our trust in Thee. Amen."

PROPOSED

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.

125TH NATIONAL CONVENTION
ALL PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS
JULY 27-AUGUST 1, 2024
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

FINANCE & INTERNAL ORGANIZATION

A strike though means each was defeated

- ~~201~~ FAMILY RATE
- ~~202~~ INCLUSION OF MILITARY WORKING DOGS IN VFW MEMBERSHIP
- ~~203~~ MOTORCYCLE CLUBS, GROUPS AND ASSOCIATIONS

GENERAL

- ~~301~~ OFFER RANKED CHOICE VOTING IN FEDERAL ELECTIONS
- ~~302~~ PROTECT THESE LIVING SYMBOLS OF AMERICAN FREEDOM
- ~~303~~ NATIONAL FLAG TO HONOR AND REMEMBER THOSE WHO DIED WHILE SERVING IN AMERICA'S ARMED FORCES

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~~ 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 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~~ RECOGNITION OF ADDING 74 SAILORS ON THE VIETNAM MEMORIAL WALL
- 418 EXPAND THE DATES OF ELIGIBILITY FOR THE ARMED FORCES EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL
- 419 ARMED FORCES EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL FOR SUPPORT OF UKRAINE
- ~~420~~ DEFINITION OF "GOLD STAR FAMILY MEMBER"
- ~~421~~ SUPPORT THE DESIGNATION OF THE POW/MIA MEMORIAL AND MUSEUM TO THE NATIONAL POW/MIA MEMORIAL AND MUSEUM IN JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA

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 MENTAL HEALTH DISORDERS
- 607 VA HEALTH CARE FOR WOMEN VETERANS
- 608 EXPAND VA CAREGIVER BENEFITS
- 609 SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY CARE OPTIONS
- 610 FOREIGN MEDICAL PROGRAM (FMP) REFORM
- 611 ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD MODERNIZATION (EHRM)
- 612 MILITARY SEXUAL TRAUMA (MST)
- 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 SCHEDULE FOR RATING DISABILITIES
- 622 FAIR AND FAVORABLE EFFECTIVE DATES
- 623 JUSTICE FOR ALS VETERANS
- 624 IMPROVE BENEFITS FOR SURVIVORS
- 625 VETERAN HOUSING AND FOOD SECURITY PRIORITIES
- 626 ENSURE VETERAN SUCCESS IN EDUCATION
- 627 VETERAN READINESS AND EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY
- 628 SUPPORT VETERANS EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING PROGRAMS
- 629 VETERAN ENTREPRENEURSHIP
- 630 UNDERSERVED VETERANS
- 631 CONSUMER PROTECTIONS FOR VETERANS
- 632 EXPAND VETERAN TREATMENT COURTS
- 633 FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID
- 634 SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE FOR SURVIVING FAMILY MEMBERS OF VETERAN SUICIDE
- 635 GOVERNMENT HEADSTONES
- ~~636~~ TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY AND POST TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER PROGRAM
- 637 VA HOME LOAN CORRECTION
- 638 RECOGNIZE PRESUMPTIVE CONDITIONS FROM FT MCCLELLAN, AL
- ~~639~~ CONTINUE FIGHTING TO END VETERAN HOMELESSNESS
- ~~640~~ SUPPORTING WOMEN VETERANS
- ~~641~~ TINNITUS & HEARING LOSS PRESUMPTIVE SERVICE-CONNECTION
- ~~642~~ EXPAND VETERAN TREATMENT COURTS
- ~~643~~ MILITARY SEXUAL TRAUMA (MST)
- ~~644~~ INCREASE VETERANS BURIAL BENEFITS

- ~~645~~ URGE CONGRESS TO SUPPORT THE MAJOR RICHARD STAR ACT
- ~~646~~ AUTOMATICALLY GENERATE CLAIMS UPON DIAGNOSIS
- 647 REQUIRE CIVILIAN HEALTH AND MEDICAL PROGRAM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERAN AFFAIRS (CHAMPVA) ACCEPTANCE
- ~~648~~ VETERAN SUICIDE AWARENESS

TO COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND INTERNAL ORGANIZATION

This committee meets at 2:00 p.m., Sunday, July 28

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

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

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

No. and Dept. Title Convention Action

~~201~~ WY FAMILY RATE.....
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, to create a family plan for eligible married veterans that is 75% of the amount that would be paid by each member individually, both in annual and lifetime memberships.

~~202~~ MD INCLUSION OF MILITARY WORKING DOGS IN VFW MEMBERSHIP
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, shall extend membership eligibility to honorably discharged military working dogs with appropriate documentation of their service record and veterinary records confirming their status as retired service animals; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the VFW shall establish provisions for military working dogs to be recognized within VFW chapters, including ceremonies, events and memorials dedicated to honoring their service and sacrifice; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the VFW shall advocate for the welfare and well-being of retired military working dogs including support for programs and initiatives aimed at providing medical care, rehabilitation and adoption services to ensure a dignified and comfortable retirement for these deserving animals; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the VFW shall work in collaboration with relevant stakeholders including military branches, governmental agencies and nonprofit organizations to raise awareness about the contributions of military working dogs and to promote policies and legislation that uphold their rights and recognize their service to our nation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution shall be transmitted to the National Commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, urging swift and decisive action to implement the provisions outlined

herein and to ensure the full integration of military working dogs into the fabric of the VFW community.

- ~~203~~ CA MOTORCYCLE CLUBS, GROUPS AND ASSOCIATIONS _____
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that those motorcycle club, groups and associations that existed with authorization from the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States prior to the adoption of Resolution 308 at the 111th National Convention be allowed to continue to exist providing they adhere to the guidelines as provided for in Sections 708 and 709 of the National Bylaws.

PROPOSED

TO COMMITTEE ON GENERAL RESOLUTIONS
This committee meets at 2:00 p.m., Sunday, July 28

Chairman: William A. Thien, Past Commander-in-Chief, Post 3281, IN
 Vice Chairman: Harold J. Roesch, Past Commander-in-Chief, Post 3219, VA

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	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 mandate the ballot states and territories must already provide to U.S. citizens to vote absentee in Federal elections be Ranked Choice Voting style ballots.	_____
302	CO PROTECT THESE LIVING SYMBOLS OF AMERICAN FREEDOM BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that Congress shall amend the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burro Act of 1971 to require the Secretary of the Interior to prioritize the implement of nonsurgical, medically safe on-range fertility controls to manage populations of wild free-roaming horses and burros where presently found over their capture and removal.	_____
303	VA NATIONAL FLAG TO HONOR AND REMEMBER THOSE WHO DIED WHILE SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES 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 give 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 Gold Star families who have given so much to the nation.	_____

TO COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS
This committee meets at 2:00 p.m., Sunday, July 28

Chairman: John W. Stroud, Past Commander-in-Chief, Post 2313, NV
 Vice Chairman: Richard L. Eubank, Past Commander-in-Chief, Post 10165, CA

SUBCOMMITTEE ON POW/MIA
This committee meets at 2:00 p.m., Sunday, July 28

Chairman: John E. Hamilton, Past Commander-in-Chief, Post 5450, FL
 Vice Chairman: Keith E. Harman, Past Commander-in-Chief, Post 3035, OH

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 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 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 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.

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, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars, that we urge DOD to 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 nonmedical 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~~ 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.

- 418 NV 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.
- 419 VA 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.
- ~~420~~ VA DEFINITION OF "GOLD STAR FAMILY MEMBER"
 BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we define a "Gold Star family member," for purposes of Veterans Service advocacy only, as a widow, widower, parent, stepparent, child, stepchild, sibling, and stepsibling of a servicemember who died while serving on active duty or died subsequent to active duty from a service-connected injury or illness; and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that said "Gold Star family member" definition in no way impacts a survivor's status or eligibility for governmental entitlements at any level.
- ~~421~~ FL SUPPORT THE DESIGNATION OF THE POW/MIA MEMORIAL AND MUSEUM TO THE NATIONAL POW/MIA MEMORIAL AND MUSEUM IN JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA.....
 BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge Congress to support the passing of H.R. 3670 in the 118th Congress to officially designate the POW/MIA Memorial and Museum as the "National POW/MIA Memorial and Museum".

TO COMMITTEE ON VETERANS SERVICE RESOLUTIONS

This committee meets at 2:00 p.m., Sunday, July 28

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

Vice Chairman: 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 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 all staffing 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 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, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, 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.

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 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.

606 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

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

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

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 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.

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 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.

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 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.

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; 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.

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 legitimate 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, the VA should revisit their production goals to reduce error rates; 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 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.

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.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Veterans of Foreign Wars urges VA to integrate their current antiquated claims management systems into one modern data management system.

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, 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.
- 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 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, 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; 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 FAIR AND FAVORABLE EFFECTIVE DATES
BE IT RESOLVED, 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.

623 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.

624 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.

625 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.

626 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.

627 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.

628 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.

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 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.
- 631 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.
- 632 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.
- 633 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.
- 634 NJ 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 veteran suicide awareness through the Department of Veterans Affairs and instituting 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.

635 MI 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.

~~636~~ MI TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY AND POST TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER PROGRAM
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge Congress to provide funding to DOD and VA for innovative TBI and PTSD treatments currently used in the private sector, such as HBOT in those ten states (OK, TX, IN, AZ, KY, FL, NC, WY, MD, VA) who have enacted HBOT legislation or resolutions and other non-pharmacological treatments; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we urge Congress to increase the budgets of DOD and VA to improve the HBOT treatments available across all states, screening diagnosis such as FDA approved Right Eye and FDA cleared Brain Scope, and treatment of TBI/PTSD as well as provide oversight over DOD/VA to develop joint collaboration between DOD/VA and the private and public HBOT research and medical treatment communities of IRB clinical trial research already completed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that DOD/VA both establish single offices for their agency's research and serve as a clearinghouse to track all DOD or VA research, and that all DOD/VA individual research programs and activities coordinate and provide monthly and as needed updates on research activities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that service members and veterans who participate in DOD/VA TBI/PTSD research studies are properly informed and give their consent to be included in the study as well as be provided with a disclosure of any negative effects of treatment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that DOD/VA accelerate research efforts to properly diagnose brain wounds and develop evidence-based treatments for TBI/PTSD, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Veterans of Foreign Wars urge Congress to exercise oversight over DOD/VA to ensure service members and veterans are only prescribed evidence-based treatments for

TBI/PTSD and not prescribed off-label and non-FDA approved medications or treatments for TBI/PTSD.

637 GA 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.

~~638~~ IL RECOGNIZE PRESUMPTIVE CONDITIONS FROM FT MCCLELLAN, AL
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge Congress to establish a concession of exposure for all veterans who served at Fort McClellan. This should include all of the toxins listed in the 2005 National Academy of Medicine report and those VA has acknowledged. This will remove the burden of veterans having to prove their exposures to at Fort McClellan and ease their ability to establish direct service connection in lieu of waiting years for potential presumptive diseases; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we urge the Secretary of Veterans' Affairs and the work group to include Fort McClellan as one of the research activities to expedite actions in establishing presumptive diseases. The PACT Act requires the creation of the Toxic Exposures Research Work Group to research and study toxic exposures and associated negative health impacts.

~~639~~ IL CONTINUE FIGHTING TO END VETERAN HOMELESSNESS
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we want to ensure that the issue of veteran homelessness remains a priority for both the Administration and Congress; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, 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.

~~640~~ IL SUPPORTING WOMEN VETERANS.....
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge Congress to support and increase the availability of high-quality gender-specific services at the VA; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we urge the VA to ensure that every VA facility has a zero tolerance policy towards sexual harassment for employees and patients.

~~641~~ 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.

~~642~~ 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.

~~643~~ 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, 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.

~~644~~ 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, 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.

~~645~~ SD URGE CONGRESS TO SUPPORT THE MAJOR RICHARD STAR ACT
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we support the immediate passage of the Major Richard Star Act and urge our Federal Legislators to support its passage either as a stand-alone bill or as an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act.

~~646~~ CO AUTOMATICALLY GENERATE CLAIMS UPON DIAGNOSIS.....
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge Congress to amend The Sergeant First Class (SFC) Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act to require the VHA to notify the VBA upon the diagnosis or treatment of any condition that appears on any presumptive list; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Veterans Benefit Administration shall be required to initiate a claim for compensation on behalf of the veteran who received said diagnosis or treatment, or the veteran's surviving spouse.

647 CO 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.

~~648~~ PA VETERAN SUICIDE AWARENESS
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S., that we petition Congress to enact legislation which would provide veteran suicide awareness through The Veterans Administration and instituting 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.

TO COMMITTEE ON CONVENTION RULES
This committee meets at 12:00 p.m., Sunday, July 28

APPROVED

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

CONVENTION RULES
125th National Convention
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States
Louisville, Kentucky

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 31, 2024 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. If a roll call is required, the following is the order of voting precedence: National Officers, Past Commanders-in-Chief, National Council of Administration, Department Commanders followed by Unaffiliated Posts. 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.
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