

# **126th NATIONAL CONVENTION VETERANS OF FOREIGN WAR'S OF THE UNITED STATES**

**COLUMBUS, OHIO  
AUGUST 9 - 13, 2025**



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

**SCHEDULE OF RESOLUTIONS**

**GENERAL INFORMATION FOR COMMITTEES**





July 25, 2025

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 126th 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".

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 1:30 p.m., Sunday, August 10**

Chairman: Harold J. Roesch, Past Commander-in-Chief, Post 3219, VA  
Vice Chairman: Eric M. Dudash, Post 3128, AL  
Vice Chairman: Kevin C. Jones, Post 7356, MO

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

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**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO NATIONAL BYLAWS**

**B-1**

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

**ARTICLE I – MEMBERS**

**Sec. 111 – Life Members.**

Amend Sec. 111 - Life Members., National Bylaws, under (b), in the third paragraph, by replacing the last sentence with the following:

“An individual who is discharged from the organization by reason of disciplinary action or is eligible but wishes to voluntarily resign their membership shall forfeit their life membership and will not be entitled to any refund of fees paid.”

**B-2**

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

**ARTICLE II – POSTS**

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

Amend Sec. 216 - Elected and Appointed Officers; Chairmen and Committees., National Bylaws, under (b), by replacing “Service Officer” with “Benefits Advisor”.

**B-3**

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 Bylaws, under (b), by adding “and Surgeon” after “Service Officer”.

Under (c), remove “Surgeon”.

#### **B-4**

Proposed by Department of California

#### **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:

“Depending on what Post Bylaws state, a post may elect, or a Post Commander may appoint a Judge Advocate, Surgeon, Officer of the Day, and/or Guard.”

#### **B-5**

Recommended by National Bylaws Study Group

Proposed by the Commander-in-Chief

#### **ARTICLE II – POSTS**

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

Amend Sec. 220 - Vacancies and Removal of Elected Officers or Committee Members., National Bylaws, under **Removal**, in the first paragraph, by adding the following as a second sentence:

“If elected officers and committee members removed in accordance with this section hold more than one elected office and there is cause to remove them from additional offices, each removal shall be treated separately by issuance of a unique Special Order.”

#### **B-6**

Recommended by National Bylaws Study Group

Proposed by the Commander-in-Chief

#### **ARTICLE IV – DISTRICTS**

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

Amend Sec. 416 - Elected and Appointed Officers; Chairmen and Committees., National Bylaws, under (b), by replacing “Service Officer” with “Benefits Advisor”.

#### **B-7**

Recommended by National Bylaws Study Group

Proposed by the Commander-in-Chief

#### **ARTICLE IV – DISTRICTS**

#### **Sec. 420 – Vacancies and Removal of Elected Officers or Committee Members.**

Amend Sec. 420 - Vacancies and Removal of Elected Officers or Committee Members., National Bylaws, under **Removal**, in the first paragraph, by adding the following as a second sentence:

“If elected officers and committee members removed in accordance with this section hold more than one elected office and there is cause to remove them from additional offices, each removal shall be treated separately by issuance of a unique Special Order.”

**B-8**

Proposed by Department of Illinois

**ARTICLE IV – DISTRICTS**

**Sec. 421 – Voting.**

Amend Sec. 421 - Voting., National Bylaws, in the first paragraph, first sentence, by removing “, except delegates elected by the Posts,”.

In the first paragraph, at the end of the second sentence, add “when a roll call vote is held.”

**B-9**

Recommended by National Bylaws Study Group

Proposed by the Commander-in-Chief

**ARTICLE V – DEPARTMENTS**

**Sec. 520 – Vacancies and Removal of Elected Officers or Committee Members and Salaried Officers.**

Amend Sec. 520 - Vacancies and Removal of Elected Officers or Committee Members and Salaried Officers., National Bylaws, under **Removal**, in the first paragraph, by adding the following as a second sentence:

“If elected officers and committee members removed in accordance with this section hold more than one elected office and there is cause to remove them from additional offices, each removal shall be treated separately by issuance of a unique Special Order.”

**B-10**

Proposed by Department of Illinois

**ARTICLE V – DEPARTMENTS**

**Sec. 521 – Voting.**

Amend Sec. 521 - Voting., National Bylaws, in the first sentence, by removing “, except delegates elected by the Posts,”.

At the end of the second sentence, add “when a roll call vote is held.”

**B-11**

Proposed by Department of Wisconsin

**ARTICLE V – DEPARTMENTS**

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

Amend Sec. 522 - Council of Administration-Composition, Powers and Duties., National Bylaws, under (a), by adding the following after the 3<sup>rd</sup> sentence:

“If the immediate Past Department Commander is elected to a consecutive term as the Department Commander, or is deceased, the next Immediate Past Department Commander shall serve on the Council of Administration.”

**B-12**

Proposed by Department of Wisconsin

**ARTICLE VI – NATIONAL**

**Sec. 615 – Eligibility to Office.**

Amend Sec. 615 - Eligibility to Office., National Bylaws, by adding the following to the section:

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

**B-13**

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, under (c)(2), in the 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence, by removing “monthly”.

**B-14**

Recommended by National Bylaws Study Group

Proposed by the Commander-in-Chief

**ARTICLE VI – NATIONAL**

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

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

“If elected officers and committee members removed in accordance with this section hold more than one elected office and there is cause to remove them from additional offices, each removal shall be treated separately by issuance of a unique Special Order.”

**B-15**

Proposed by Department of Illinois

**ARTICLE VI – NATIONAL**

**Sec. 621 – Voting.**

Amend Sec. 621 - Voting., National Bylaws, in the first sentence, by removing “, except delegates elected by the Posts,”.

At the end of the second sentence, add “when a roll call vote is held.”

## **B-16**

Proposed by Department of Illinois

### **ARTICLE VI – NATIONAL**

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

Amend Sec. 622 - National Council of Administration-Composition, Powers and Duties., National Bylaws, under (b)(12), in the second sentence by replacing “15” with “16”.

In the last sentence, add “National” before “Commander-in-Chief” and remove “regular” from the end of the sentence.

## **B-17**

Proposed by Department of Wyoming

### **ARTICLE IX - DISCIPLINE**

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

Amend Sec. 903 - Procedure for Disciplinary Actions., National Bylaws, under (a), by adding the following after 3.:

"4. If a VFW Member has been criminally charged with a felony crime and the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) or Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Auxiliary, to include National, Department, District or Post, has been named as the victim in the criminal complaint, the charged VFW members membership can be temporarily suspended, pending outcome of the criminal proceeding. The VFW member should be notified in writing by certified mail. The Commander-in-Chief or Department Commander has the authority to initiate suspension and should notify the National Adjutant within five (5) business days of suspending the VFW member. Once the criminal proceedings have concluded, if the VFW member is found not guilty, their membership will immediately be reinstated and should be notified in writing within five (5) business days. If the member is found guilty, the charging authority should initiate disciplinary action as listed in Sec. 903 and the temporary suspension will continue until the outcome of the disciplinary process."

## **B-18**

Recommended by National Bylaws Study Group

Proposed by the Commander-in-Chief

### **ARTICLE IX – DISCIPLINE**

#### **Sec. 908 – Administrative Actions.**

Amend Sec. 908 - Administrative Actions., National Bylaws, by adding the following as the last paragraph:

“In the event a member or former member sentenced is declared deceased prior to having served at least five years of the pertinent sentence, the Commander-in-Chief shall have the authority, at their sole discretion, to issue a pardon or commute the sentence. Upon a written request submitted by any interested party or initiated independently by the Commander-in-Chief any such pardon or commuted sentence shall only have the effect of restoring the deceased member’s good standing for historical and ceremonial purposes.”

## **B-19**

Recommended by National Bylaws Study Group

Proposed by the Commander-in-Chief

### **ARTICLE XIII**

Amend Article XIII, National Bylaws, by adding the following as the new Article:

#### **“Article XIII – National VFW Riders**

##### **Sec. 1301 – Formation**

- (a) The National VFW Riders is a membership association separately constituted as a subordinate unit chartered by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. Such association shall be governed by and subject to the jurisdiction of the National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, the Commander-in-Chief, the National Council of Administration, and shall be governed by and subject to jurisdiction of the respective Department Convention, Commander and Council of Administration or Post.
- (b) The National VFW Riders shall be governed by such Bylaws and Ritual as may be adopted by it, and by the lawful orders issued by its National Officers, provided such Bylaws, Ritual and Orders do not conflict with the Congressional Charter, Bylaws, Manual of Procedure or Ritual of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States or the lawful orders or directives of the National Convention, the Commander-in-Chief or the National Council of Administration of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.
- (c) The National VFW Riders may issue charters to subordinate chapters, provided that the establishment of such chapter shall have been approved by the respective Department or Post of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and subject to its control. Formation, control and disbandment of National VFW Riders chapters, as well as suspension or cancellation of charters, shall be in the manner prescribed in the Manual of Procedure.

##### **Sec. 1302 - Eligibility.**

Eligibility for membership in the National VFW Riders shall be limited to those members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States who have met the requirements as outlined in the National VFW Riders Bylaws and have been approved for membership by a majority vote of the members present and voting at a meeting of a chapter. Application for membership and certification thereof will be in the manner prescribed in the Manual of Procedure.

##### **Sec. 1303 - Bylaws, Ritual.**

The National VFW Riders may adopt such Bylaws and Ritual as are deemed necessary and may authorize subordinate chapters to adopt Bylaws. In the event any part of the Bylaws and Ritual so adopted are inconsistent with the Congressional Charter, Bylaws, Manual of Procedure or Ritual of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, or the Bylaws, Rules and Regulations and Procedures of the respective Department or Post, such part shall be considered null and void.



## **Sec. 1304 - Incorporation.**

- (a) The National VFW Riders is authorized to incorporate under appropriate not for profit corporation laws, provide such incorporation, and the Articles of Incorporation and any amendments thereto, are reviewed and approved by the Commander-in-Chief and approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the VFW Riders National Convention and provided further that the Articles of Incorporation include those provisions specified in Section 708 the Manual of Procedure. Failure to comply with these provisions will result in suspension or revocation of the charter.
- (b) The National VFW Riders, by duly approved amendments to its Bylaws, authorize subordinate chapters to incorporate under appropriate not for profit corporation laws and may adopt such Rules and Regulations as are appropriate concerning such incorporation, provided that the respective Department or unit of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States approves such incorporation, which approval shall be in the same manner as for the initial formation of a subordinate chapter, and approves the Articles of Incorporation and any amendments thereto and, provided further, that the Articles of Incorporation of any such corporation include the provisions specified in Section 708 of the Manual of Procedure. Should any state law prohibit the provisions specified in the Manual of Procedure for Articles of Incorporation, it shall be permissible to change the provisions sufficiently to conform to state law so long as the change is not inconsistent with the purposes of the Manual of Procedure provision. Failure to comply with those provisions will result in suspension or revocation of the charter.

(End of Article XIII)"

## PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE MANUAL OF PROCEDURE

### **M-1**

Recommended by National Bylaws Study Group

Proposed by the Commander-in-Chief

#### **ARTICLE I – MEMBERS**

##### **Sec. 108 – Challenging Members Eligibility.**

Amend Sec. 108 - Challenging Members Eligibility., Manual of Procedure, by adding the following at the beginning of the second paragraph:

“A Department Commander may initiate a challenge of eligibility of any member in their respective Department after the member has been properly notified in writing by certified or registered mail addressed to the member’s last known address, at which time they shall have fifteen (15) days to provide proof of eligibility to the Department Commander for disposition.”

Remove third paragraph.

### **M-2**

Proposed by Department of Virginia

#### **ARTICLE II – POSTS**

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

Amend Sec. 218 - Officers and Chairmen, Duties and Obligations., Manual of Procedure, under (a)(6)d., no. 1., by adding the following at the end of the sentence:

“at least until that record is successfully processed into the VFW National Membership Database (e.g. OMS).”

### **M-3**

Recommended by National Bylaws Study Group

Proposed by the Commander-in-Chief

#### **ARTICLE II – POSTS**

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

Amend Sec. 218 - Officers and Chairmen, Duties and Obligations., Manual of Procedure, under (a)(12), by replacing with the following:

“(12) **Benefits Advisor.** The Post Benefits Advisor shall advise members of the Post, their family members and survivors of benefits and services that are available in the local community such as homeless services, employment opportunities, and companies that offer discounted goods or services to veterans. The Post Benefits Advisor shall direct individuals seeking Federal benefits assistance to the Department Service Officer. The work of a Post Benefits Advisor shall be performed in accordance with the instructions contained in the VFW Guide for Post Benefits Advisor under the general supervision of the Post Commander. The Post Benefits Advisor shall perform such other duties as may be incident to the office and as may from time to time be required by the laws and usages of this organization or lawful orders from proper authority.”

#### **M-4**

Proposed by Department of Georgia

#### **ARTICLE II – POSTS**

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

Amend Sec. 222 - Delegates, District Convention & Meetings, Department and National Conventions., Manual of Procedure, by adding the following as a new paragraph:

“Only in the event a Post is left without at least one elected delegate or alternate during the year, the Post shall elect replacement delegates, according to delegate strength, at the next Regular or Special Meeting.”

#### **M-5**

Recommended by National Bylaws Study Group

Proposed by the Commander-in-Chief

#### **ARTICLE IV – DISTRICTS**

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

Amend Sec. 418 - Officers: Duties and Obligations., Manual of Procedure, under (a)(14), by replacing with the following:

“(14) **Benefits Advisor.** The District Benefits Advisor shall assist Post Benefits Advisor.”

#### **M-6**

Proposed by Department of Oklahoma

#### **ARTICLE IV – DISTRICTS**

#### **Sec. 420 – Vacancies and Removal of Elected Officers or Committee Members.**

Amend Sec. 420 - Vacancies and Removal of Elected Officers or Committee Members., Manual of Procedure, under **Vacancies**, by moving the entire 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph and adding it after the last sentence under **Removal – District** to read:

“A copy of the notice shall be provided to the Department Commander at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting. The District, at the next regular or special meeting, may by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present and voting declare vacant the position of any an elected officer or elected committee member who may have:

1. Absented themselves from two (2) consecutive meetings.
2. Failed to fulfill the duties of office specified in Section 418 of the Bylaws and Manual of Procedure.

## **M-7**

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

### **ARTICLE VIII – UNIFORMS, BADGES, ETC.**

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

Amend Sec. 803 – Manufacture and Use of Seals, Emblems, Badges, Insignia and Uniforms., Manual of Procedure, by adding the following after the section titled **Cap**:

**“Alternative Cap.** A baseball-style cap, black in color, lettered with VFW initials, Post numerals, state, rank of office (when applicable), Veterans of Foreign Wars and bearing the Cross of Malta may be worn by members other than officers during meetings of the Post and District. Lettering on each cap shall be in gold.

The trim on the front of the bill shall be either gold, green, red, or silver, corresponding to the official braid colors for the respective organizational echelon.

The baseball-style cap shall be an alternative to, but not a replacement for the regulation overseas cap and shall not be worn in place of the regulation cap at formal ceremonies, when in business attire, or at events where the regulation cap is prescribed.”

## **M-8**

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

### **ARTICLE X – RULES OF ORDER**

#### **Sec. 1004 – Order of Business-Posts.**

Amend Sec. 1004 - Order of Business-Posts., Manual of Procedure, under (a)12, by replacing “Service Officer” with “Benefits Advisor”.

Under (b)7, replace “Service Officer” with “Benefits Advisor”.

## **M-9**

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

### **ARTICLE XIII**

Amend Article XIII, Manual of Procedure, by adding the following as the new Article:

#### **“Article XIII – National VFW Riders**

##### **Sec. 1301 - Formation.**

###### **(a) Formation.**

- (1) **Chapters.** Chapters may be formed and chartered in accordance with the National Bylaws of the VFW Riders provided no chapter shall be formed by less than eight (8) members in good standing of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States or its Auxiliary, and, provided further that no chapter shall be chartered unless the Post with which such chapter is to be affiliated has consented to the chartering thereof. Consent shall require two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present and

voting at a regular or special meeting, provided that Post members are given written notice that a vote will take place, such notice to be given the entire membership in writing at least ten (10) days prior to the regular or special meeting called for the aforementioned purpose.

Each chapter shall be assigned a number by the VFW Riders.

Each chapter shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the Post with which it is affiliated. It shall also be subject to the jurisdiction of the Department Convention, Council of Administration and Commander of its respective Department of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States with respect to matters within their authority.

Each chapter shall function in accordance with the National Bylaws, Ritual and lawful orders issued by National and Department officers of the VFW Riders, provided they do not conflict with the Congressional Charter, Bylaws and Manual of Procedure of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, the Bylaws of the Department in which it is situated or the Post with which it is affiliated or lawful orders issued by the Commander-in-Chief, the National or Department Council of Administration or Department Commander.

- (2) **Department Chapters.** Department Chapters may be formed by a vote of the Department Convention. Each Department Unit of the VFW Riders shall be governed by and under the jurisdiction of the Convention, Council of Administration, and Commander of its respective Department of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, who shall decide questions of law and usage for the Department Unit subject to an appeal to the Commander-in-Chief or National Council of Administration; but the Department Chapter shall function in accordance with the National Bylaws and Ritual of the VFW Riders and lawful orders issued by National and Department officers thereof, provided they do not conflict with the Congressional Charter, Bylaws and Manual of Procedure of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and Bylaws of the Department with which the Department Chapter is affiliated or the lawful orders issued by the Commander-in-Chief and/or National or Department Council of Administration and the Department Commander.

(b) **Suspension and Discontinuance.**

- (1) The Commander-in-Chief or National Council of Administration of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States may suspend the National Charter of the VFW Riders for a period not to exceed sixty (60) days, for conduct of the organization, its Convention, National Officers or National Council of Administration which may be detrimental to the best interest of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. Upon recommendation of the Commander-in-Chief, the National Council of Administration may, by two-thirds (2/3) vote, cancel and revoke the charter of the VFW Riders, provided written notice of such recommendation is given to the National Commander at least ten (10) days prior to any National Council action and the National Commander of the VFW Riders or their designee has been afforded an opportunity to appear before the National Council and be heard concerning such recommendation.
- (2) The Commander-in-Chief may direct the suspension, for a period not to exceed sixty (60) days, or the cancellation of the charter of any subordinate chapter of the VFW Riders, upon recommendation of the Commander of the Department wherein such chapter is located, when it is shown the conduct of officers or members

thereof may be detrimental to the best interest of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

- (3) **Disbanding of Chapter by a Post.** A Post may, by vote of eighty percent of its members present and voting at a meeting following a written notice mailed or delivered to each member of the Post in good standing at least ten (10) days before said meeting, vote to request cancellation of the charter of its chapter. The notice must state the contemplated action and the reason therefor. If the Post votes to request cancellation of the charter of its chapter, it shall certify the action in writing and forward same to the Department Commander who shall forward it to the Commander-in-Chief with their recommendations. If the Commander-in-Chief believes that it is in the best interest of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States to do so, the Commander-in-Chief shall direct the National Commander of the VFW Riders to cancel the charter of the chapter.

- (4) **Change of Post Affiliation.** For a chapter to change affiliation, it must first receive consent from two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members of the Post to which it is now affiliated present and voting at a regular or special meeting providing the Post members are given written notice that a vote will take place, such notice to be given the entire membership in writing at least ten (10) days prior to the regular or special meeting called for the aforementioned purpose.

The new Post to which the chapter will be affiliated must provide consent by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present and voting at a regular or special meeting, providing the Post members are given written notice that a vote will take place, such notice to be given the entire membership in writing at least ten (10) days prior to the regular or special meeting called for the aforementioned purpose.

The change of affiliation then must be approved by the Department Commander, as well as the National Commander of the VFW Riders.

Once approval has been given, all records and properties of the chapter will then be transferred with the chapter to the new Post of affiliation.

- (5) While the charter of the National Organization of the VFW Riders , or a subordinate chapter thereof, is suspended said chapter shall not be permitted to function and the officers thereof shall be without authority; provided, however, it or its officers shall have the right to appeal to the Commander-in-Chief to lift the suspension; and in the case of suspension of the charter of the National Organization, an appeal may be made to the National Council of Administration of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

- (c) **Suspension of Officers.** The officers (elected and appointed) of the VFW Riders or of subordinate chapters thereof may be suspended by action of the Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, subject to review by the National Council of Administration. While so suspended, the offending officer or officers of the VFW Riders shall be without authority, and if it is found that the conduct of an officer or officers thereof is detrimental to the best interest of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, the National Council of Administration of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States may order the removal of such officer or officers.

- (d) **Disposition of Property.** In the event of a surrender, cancellation or forfeiture of a charter of a subordinate chapter of the VFW Riders, all official records, money and other property shall be surrendered to such officer or officers as is provided in the National Bylaws and Ritual of the VFW Riders.

(e) **Reports.**

- (1) The National Commander of the VFW Riders shall, within thirty (30) days after induction into office, submit to the Commander-in-Chief an itemized report of the financial and membership status of the National Organization of the VFW Riders for their information and for submission by the Commander-in-Chief to the National Council of Administration.
- (2) The Department Commander of the VFW Riders shall within thirty (30) days after induction into office, submit to the Department Commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States an itemized report of the financial and membership status of the Department Chapter of the VFW Riders for their information and for submission by the Commander to the Department Council of Administration.

- (f) **Liaison.** The Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States may appoint a committee who shall meet with a committee appointed by the National Commander of the VFW Riders. This combined committee when appointed shall meet at intervals between National Conventions of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States to consider all matters affecting the welfare of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States insofar as the activities of the VFW Riders are concerned. The purpose of this committee shall be to coordinate the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and the activities of the VFW Riders so that there shall be full compliance with the Congressional Charter, Bylaws and Manual of Procedure of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and best interest of both the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and the VFW Riders are furthered.

**Sec. 1302 - Eligibility.**

An application for membership in the VFW Riders must be accompanied by a certificate verifying satisfaction of the requirements for membership specified in the VFW Riders Bylaws. The certificate shall bear the endorsement of the Post Commander attested by the Post Adjutant.

**Sec. 1303 - Bylaws, Ritual.** (See Section 1303 of the Bylaws)

**Sec. 1304 - Incorporation.**

- (a) The Articles of Incorporation of the National VFW Riders, should it incorporate, and any amendments thereto, must have the following provisions:
- (1) The active and voting membership of this corporation shall, at all times, consist of and be confined to the active membership in good standing of the VFW Riders.
  - (2) This incorporated organization shall be and remain under the jurisdiction of the National Convention, Commander-in-Chief and National Council of Administration of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and subject to its charter, Bylaws and Manual of Procedure and the Bylaws and Ritual of the VFW Riders.
  - (3) In the event of a dissolution of this corporation, or the simultaneous dissolution of this corporation and the forfeiture of the charter issued to it by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, title to all of the assets shall pass to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States to be disposed of according to its Bylaws. At no time shall the assets of the corporation be distributed among the individual members thereof.
  - (4) The Articles shall, in addition, contain a provision specifically excluding from the

- powers of the corporation the power to own or hold real property.
- (b) The Articles of Incorporation of any Department Chapter should it incorporate, and any amendments thereto, must include the following provisions:
- (1) The active and voting membership of this corporation shall, at all times, consist of and be confined to the active membership in good standing of the (Department Chapter, VFW Riders, Department of Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States) or (Chapter, VFW Riders, Post \_\_\_\_\_, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States).
  - (2) This incorporated organization shall be and at all times remain under the jurisdiction of the National Convention, National Commander and National Council of Administration of the VFW Riders, the Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and the (Department of \_\_\_\_\_, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States) or (Post No. \_\_\_\_\_, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States) and subject to the Bylaws and Ritual of the VFW Riders and the Charter, Bylaws and Manual of Procedure of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.
  - (3) In the event of a dissolution of this corporation or the simultaneous dissolution this corporation and loss or forfeiture of its charter, title to all assets shall pass to the Department Chapter of the VFW Riders to be disposed of according to the Bylaws. At no time shall the assets of this corporation be distributed among the individual members thereof.
  - (4) The Articles shall, in addition, contain a provision specifically excluding from the powers of the corporation the power to own or hold real property.

(End of Article XIII)"



## PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE RITUAL

### R-1

(Page 2)

Recommended by National Bylaws Study Group

Proposed by the Commander-in-Chief

#### **RITUAL**

#### **GENERAL RULES**

Amend Chapter Title - General Rules, Ritual, in the first sentence, by adding "National Council of Administration or the" before "National Convention."

Remove No. 4 and renumber the current Nos. 5 - 13 as 4 - 12.

### R-2

(Page 14)

Proposed by Department of California

#### **RITUAL**

#### **OPENING POST CEREMONIES**

Amend Chapter Title - Opening Post Ceremonies, Ritual, under **PRAYER**, next to **Chaplain**, by replacing the section with the following:

**"Chaplain:** Let us bow our heads. O, Sovereign Ruler of the Universe who is God of Peace, without You our efforts are in vain. Continue Your blessings upon us and our families and guide us during our deliberations. We ask You O God, to bless the dependents of our departed comrades, and to comfort all who gave their loved ones to our nation's cause. Bless and strengthen the sick, the needy, and the afflicted. Bless the children, families, and staff of our National Home and help us to fulfill our duty toward them. Continue Your favor upon our order and help us to practice the spirit of true comradeship, both in our councils, and with the world at large. Enable us to better the community in which we live through our devotion to duty as citizens. We now have a moment of silent prayer for our departed comrades and for those missing in action and those held as prisoners of war.

(Short pause.)

These and all other necessary blessings we ask of You, Mighty Ruler of the Universe. Amen.

(All respond – Amen. Chaplain takes their regular station.)

### **R-3**

(Pages 18 and 19)

Recommended by National Bylaws Study Group

Proposed by the Commander-in-Chief

#### **RITUAL**

#### **ORDER OF BUSINESS – Traditional (Post) and Contemporary (Post)**

Amend Chapter Title - Order of Business - Traditional (Post), Ritual, No. 12, by replacing “Service Officer” with “Benefits Advisor.”

Amend Chapter Title - Order of Business - Contemporary (Post), Ritual, No. 7, by replacing “Service Officer” with “Benefits Advisor”.

### **R-4**

(Page 20)

Proposed by Department of California

#### **RITUAL**

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

Amend Chapter Title - Closing Ceremonies (Post), Ritual, under **PRAYER**, next to **Chaplain**, by replacing the section with the following:

**“Chaplain:** Almighty God, the hour has come when we must part.

We commit ourselves to Your care. You who are our strong tower of defense and our protection, grant that in life's battles we may be strong and brave, living such lives of stainless integrity so that we reflect honor upon our country and the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and glorify Your great and Holy Name.

May Your good providence shield us from all harm, watch over those who even now guard the gates of freedom, and bring us together again in true comradeship and peace. Amen.

(All respond – Amen.)”

### **R-5**

(Page 22)

Proposed by Department of California

#### **RITUAL**

#### **INITIATION CEREMONY (Brief Form)**

Amend Chapter Title - Initiation Ceremony (Brief Form), Ritual, under **PRAYER**, next to **Chaplain**, by replacing the section with the following:

**“Chaplain:** Almighty God, we ask Your blessing upon these our comrades who now become fellow members. May the tender ties formed amid the privations and dangers of war be drawn closer by our fellowship in this order. May our union foster among us an enduring comradeship and a spirit of mutual loyalty and support in every walk of life.

May these comrades dedicate and devote their lives to Your service as You spared them during the perils of wars. Grant that hereafter they may be spared for a useful life to the honor and glory of Your Holy Name. Amen.

(All respond – Amen.)”

#### **R-6**

(Page 29)

Proposed by Department of California

#### **RITUAL**

#### **CEREMONIAL INITIATION**

Amend Chapter Title – Ceremonial Initiation, Ritual, under **PRAYER**, next to **Chaplain**, by replacing the section with the following:

“**Chaplain:** Almighty God, we ask Your blessing upon our comrades who now become fellow members.

May the tender ties formed amid the privations and dangers of war be drawn closer by our fellowship in this order.

May our union foster among us an enduring comradeship and a spirit of mutual loyalty and support in every walk of life.

May these comrades dedicate and devote their lives to Your service as You spared them during the perils of war. Grant that hereafter they may be spared for a useful life to the honor and glory of Your Holy Name. Amen.

(All respond – Amen.)”

#### **R-7**

(Page 47)

Proposed by Department of California

#### **RITUAL**

#### **INSTITUTING NEW POST**

Amend Chapter Title - Instituting New Post, Ritual, under the first **PRAYER**, next to **Chaplain**, by replacing the section with the following:

“**Chaplain:** Almighty God, we ask Your blessing upon these our comrades who now become fellow members. May the tender ties formed amid the privations and dangers of war be drawn closer by our fellowship in this order. May our union foster among us an enduring comradeship and a spirit of mutual loyalty and support in every walk of life. May these comrades dedicate and devote their lives to Your service as You spared them during the perils of war. Grant that hereafter they may be spared for a useful life, to the honor and glory of Your Holy Name. Amen.

(All respond—Amen.)”

Under the second **PRAYER**, next to **Acting Chaplain**, replace the section with the following:

**“Acting Chaplain:** Almighty God, our guidance and Divine Protector, give Your blessings upon these, our Comrades, who now become fellow officers. We ask You O Lord, who is ever present among us, grant wisdom to them, so that in their deliberations they continue to favor You, our glorious Country, and to better our organization. May Your strength sustain them. May Your power preserve them. May Your hand protect them in the faithful and fruitful performance of their duties. Amen.”

#### **R-8**

(Page 56)

Recommended by National Bylaws Study Group

Proposed by the Commander-in-Chief

#### **RITUAL**

#### **INSTALLATION OF POST OFFICERS**

Amend Chapter Title - Installation of Post Officers, Ritual, under the 6<sup>th</sup> **Installing Officer**, in the first paragraph, at the end of the last sentence, by replacing “officers-elect” with “elected and appointed officers.”

In the last paragraph, 1<sup>st</sup> sentence, remove “in a semi-circle”.

In the last paragraph, 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence, replace “semi-circle” with “the officers to be installed.”

In the last paragraph, 3<sup>rd</sup> sentence, replace “Officers elect” with “Elected and appointed”.

Under **Retiring Commander or Aide**, in the first paragraph, replace “officers elect” with “elected and appointed officers”.

Under the last **Installing Officer** before **OFFICERS’ OBLIGATION**, in the first paragraph, replace “Officers-elect” with “Elected and appointed officers”.

#### **R-9**

(Page 56)

Proposed by Department of California

#### **RITUAL**

#### **INSTALLATION OF POST OFFICERS**

Amend Chapter Title - Installation of Post Officers, Ritual, under **PRAYER**, next to **Retiring or Acting Chaplain**, by replacing the section with the following:

**“Retiring or Acting Chaplain:** Almighty God, our guidance and Divine Protector, give Your blessings upon these, our Comrades, who now become fellow officers. We ask You, O Lord, who is ever present amongst us, grant wisdom to them, so that in their deliberations they continue to favor You, our glorious Country, and to better our organization.

May Your strength sustain them. May Your power preserve them. May Your hand protect them in the faithful and fruitful performance of their duties. Amen.”

#### **R-10**

(Page 60)

Recommended by National Bylaws Study Group

Proposed by the Commander-in-Chief

#### **RITUAL**

#### **INSTALLATION OF DISTRICT OFFICERS**

Amend Chapter Title - Installation of District Officers, Ritual, under the 6<sup>th</sup> **Installing Officer**, in the first paragraph, at the end of the last sentence, by replacing “officers-elect” with “elected and appointed officers.”

In the last paragraph, 1<sup>st</sup> sentence, remove “in a semi-circle”.

In the last paragraph, 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence, replace “semi-circle” with “officers to be installed.”

In the last paragraph, 3<sup>rd</sup> sentence, replace “Officers elect” with “Elected and appointed officers”.

Under **Retiring Commander or Aide**, in the first paragraph, replace “officers elect” with “elected and appointed officers”.

Under the last **Installing Officer**, before **OFFICERS’ OBLIGATION**, in the first paragraph, replace “Officers-elect” with “Elected and appointed officers”.

#### **R-11**

(Page 65)

Recommended by National Bylaws Study Group

Proposed by the Commander-in-Chief

#### **RITUAL**

#### **INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS (National or Department)**

Amend Chapter Title - Installation of Officers (National or Department), Ritual, under the 9<sup>th</sup> **Installing Officer**, in the first paragraph, by replacing “officers-elect” with “elected and appointed officers”.

Under **Aide-de-Camp**, replace “officers-elect” throughout this section with “elected and appointed officers”.

Under the last **Installing Officer**, before **OFFICERS’ OBLIGATION**, in the first sentence, replace “Officers-elect” with “Elected and appointed officers”.

## **R-12**

(Page 65)

Proposed by Department of California

### **RITUAL**

#### **INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS (National or Department)**

Amend Chapter Title – Installation of Officers (National or Department), Ritual, under **PRAYER**, next to **Retiring or Acting Chaplain**, by replacing the section with the following:

**“Retiring or Acting Chaplain:** Almighty God, our guidance and Divine Protector, give Your blessings upon these, our Comrades, who now become fellow officers. We ask You, O Lord, who is ever present amongst us, grant wisdom to them, so that in their deliberations they continue to favor You, our glorious Country, and to better our organization. May Your strength sustain them. May Your power preserve them. May Your hand protect them in the faithful and fruitful performance of their duties. Amen.”

## **R-13**

(Page 79)

Proposed by Department of California

### **RITUAL**

#### **MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE**

Amend Chapter Title - Memorial Day Service, Ritual, next to **Chaplain**, by replacing the section with the following:

**“Chaplain:** Almighty God. In the depth of our silent reverence, we realize the truth of the inspired words, “I am the Resurrection and the Life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.”

As comrade after comrade departs, we march on with our ranks grown thinner. Help us to be faithful to You and to one another. Look in mercy on the surviving spouses and children of our departed comrades, and with Your own tenderness console and comfort those who are bereaved.

Heavenly Father bless our country with freedom, peace and righteousness. Through Your favor may we meet at last before Your throne in Heaven.

(All respond Amen.)”

## **R-14**

(Page 84)

Proposed by Department of California

### **RITUAL**

#### **DEDICATING A MEMORIAL**

Amend Chapter Title - Dedicating A Memorial, Ritual, next to **Chaplain**, by replacing the section with the following:

**“Chaplain:** Almighty God guide these men and women we honor through every day and night. Give them unlimited strength and courage to continue their efforts for lasting peace. Make their victory a true service to all humanity.

Give them growing faith in Your teachings. Make them Your chosen servants to carry on forever a victorious crusade against all evil forces seeking to destroy that which is just and good in the hearts of men and women.

Help them to bring brotherly love to all lands. Bless and comfort those whom they have left bereaved. And, finally, O God, help us to increase our spiritual unity and our love for all. In reverent humility we ask these blessings. Amen.

(All respond – Amen.)

(Chaplain resumes place in ranks. Officer of day brings color bearers and guards to present arms.)”

#### **R-15**

(Page 89)

Proposed by Department of California

#### **RITUAL**

#### **FUNERAL CEREMONIES**

Amend Chapter Title - Funeral Ceremonies, Ritual, under **CHAPEL SERVICE**, next to first **Chaplain**, by replacing the section with the following:

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

(All repeat Amen. Replace caps.)

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

Under **COMMITTAL**, replace the section with the following:

#### **“COMMITTAL**

The chaplain or minister in charge will then recite the following committal service:

The Master said: “I am the Resurrection and the Life. Anyone who believes in Me will live, even after dying.” (This paragraph to be used at discretion of Post.) Dust shall be returned to dust and the spirit to God who gave it.

Earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust and spirit to spirit that watches over the lives and souls of men and women. Amen.

**All Comrades:** Amen.”

**RITUAL**

**UNSERVICEABLE FLAG RETIREMENT CEREMONY**

Add new Chapter Title **UNSERVICEABLE FLAG RETIREMENT CEREMONY** section, Ritual, before Chapter Title **FUNERAL CEREMONIES** as written below:

**“UNSERVICEABLE FLAG RETIREMENT CEREMONY**

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

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

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

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

**Officer of the Day:** “Comrade Commander, I wish to present this flag of our Country for examination and retirement.”

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

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

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

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

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

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

(Junior Vice Commander looks down upon the flag)



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

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

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

Both exchange slow salutes as they pass possession of the flag to their counterpart.

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

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

(Senior Vice Commander looks down upon the flag)

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

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

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

Both exchange slow salutes as they pass possession of the flag to their counterpart.

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

**Officer of the Day:** "Comrade Commander, In accordance with United States Code Title 4, Section 8 (k), when the flag is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning."

**Commander:** "Very well."

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

**Commander:** "Comrade Chaplain, please offer the prayer."

**Chaplain:** "Uncover" "Lord, we thank You for our Country, its flag, and the liberty for which it stands. We humbly ask You to watch over our Servicemembers now serving under our flag. We commit these flags, worn-out in worthy service, to a clean and purging flame. As they yield their substance to the fire, may Thy holy light spread over us, bring warmth to our Prisoners-Of-War, provide a beacon for our Missing-In-Action to be returned home, and bring renewed devotion to God and Country. Amen."

**Chaplain:** "Cover, two"

**Commander:** "We will now commit this flag to the flame and pledge our allegiance to the Flag. Present Arms."

(Officer of the Day moves to the fire then lowers flag and places the flag on the fire.

Steps back and salutes)

(Color Guard presents arms. Post colors are dipped. All officers and members salute.

All in attendance recite the *Pledge of Allegiance*.)

**Commander:** (at conclusion of the Pledge) "Order arms."

**Master of Ceremonies:** "Let us have a moment of silence while the flag burns, reflecting on its significance and the freedoms it represents.

(The Color Guard shall resume its station)

(Color Guard retires and posts colors)

**Master of Ceremonies:** "This concludes our ceremony."

## **R-17**

(Page 116)

Proposed by Department of California

### **RITUAL**

#### **TRIBUTE TO COMRADES - - P.O.W. OR M.I.A.**

Amend Chapter Title - Tribute To Comrades – P.O.W. or M.I.A., Ritual, under third  
**Chaplain**, by replacing the section with the following:

**"Chaplain:** "Almighty God, we praise You, we glorify You, and we thank You for sparing us from the grasp of our enemies. Grant us full understandings of the suffering being endured by our comrades who are being held as prisoners of war or are still missing."

"We ask Your blessings upon them, that whatever comforts they are denied, whatever evil they must endure may result in their everlasting happiness." "Especially we ask Your support for their loved ones. May Your grace be with them always, giving them the strength to do their daily tasks and the courage to meet the problems of life." "We pray for those missing comrades who have been called to Your arms that whatever justice they have been denied in this life has been granted them a hundredfold. Amen."

## 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.

**126TH NATIONAL CONVENTION**

**ALL PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS**

**AUGUST 9-13, 2025**

**COLUMBUS, OHIO**

**FINANCE & INTERNAL ORGANIZATION**

- 201 PERIODIC REVALIDATION OF VFW NATIONAL RESOLUTIONS
- 202 RESTORE THE VOICE OF DEMOCRACY PARADE OF WINNERS TO THE NATIONAL  
LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE
- 203 PRESERVING THE VOICE OF DEMOCRACY & PATRIOTS PEN WASHINGTON, D.C. PARADE  
OF WINNERS TRIP
- 204 FAMILY RATE
- 205 APPROVED USE OF NAUTICAL OFFICER TITLES FOR SHIPS
- 206 ESTABLISHMENT OF A TECHNOLOGY FEASIBILITY REVIEW COMMITTEE
- 207 ESTABLISH A NATIONAL VFW SUICIDE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION PROGRAM
- 208 ENDORSE, FULLY SUPPORT, AND PARTNER WITH THE SUBMARINERS' ADVOCACY  
GROUP
- 209 ENDORSE AND FULLY SUPPORT THE SUBMARINERS' ADVOCACY GROUP (SAG)

**GENERAL**

- 301 AFFIRMING THE U.S. FLAG AND THE POW/MIA FLAG AS THE SOLE FLAGS ENDORSED BY  
THE VFW TO HONOR AND REMEMBER THOSE WHO GAVE THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE
- 302 NATIONAL FLAG TO HONOR AND REMEMBER THOSE WHO DIED WHILE SERVING IN THE  
ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES
- 303 PRESERVING SECOND WORLD WAR HISTORY
- 304 LET ALL UNITED STATES VETERANS VOTE

**NATIONAL SECURITY & FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

- 401 PROTECT POW/MIA FULL ACCOUNTING MISSION FUNDING
- 402 ENSURE DOD COMPLIANCE WITH TAP LAW
- 403 RESEARCH BLAST OVERPRESSURE
- 404 REPATRIATE AMERICA'S FIRST FOREIGN WAR CASUALTIES
- 405 SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION FORMS SSA-1761 AND SSA-7162
- 406 SUPPORTING THE SOVEREIGN RIGHTS OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES IN THE  
WEST PHILIPPINE SEA
- 407 ADDING A 'RECOVERED AWAITING DNA CONFIRMATION' CATEGORY TO THE DEFENSE  
POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY (DPAA) AND IMPLEMENTING DNA MATCH  
NOTIFICATIONS THROUGH ANCESTRY WEBSITES
- 408 SUPPORT FOR ESTABLISHING GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM VETERANS DAY ON AUGUST  
30
- 409 RECOGNITION OF ADDING 74 SAILORS ON THE VIETNAM MEMORIAL WALL

## **VETERANS SERVICE**

- 601 PROTECTING HEALTH CARE AND BENEFITS
- 602 TOXIC EXPOSURES
- 603 MENTAL HEALTH DISORDERS
- 604 ENSURE VETERAN SUCCESS IN EDUCATION
- 605 VA NURSING HOME ANNUAL INSPECTIONS
- 606 DENTAL CARE ELIGIBILITY
- 607 MEDICARE
- 608 FOREIGN MEDICAL PROGRAM MEDICAL RECORDS
- 609 THE IMPERATIVE OF THE VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION PROVIDING NEXUS STATEMENTS
- 610 HEALTHCARE PROGRAM FOR OVERSEAS VETERANS
- 611 VA TO REIMBURSE ELIGIBLE OVERSEAS VETERANS FOR URGENT CARE AND EMERGENCY ROOM VISITS
- 612 FEMALE REPRODUCTIVE CANCERS AND OTHER GYNECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS DUE TO TOXIC EXPOSURE
- 613 TOXIC EXPOSURE TO US NAVY SUBMARINERS
- 614 VFW OPPOSES BUDGET CUTS THAT HARM VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES
- 615 SUPPORTING HARM REDUCTION AND OPPOSING PROHIBITION IN NICOTINE USE POLICY
- 616 SUPPORTING CLINICAL PSYCHEDELIC DRUG TREATMENT
- 617 SUPPORTING PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS/ASSOCIATES (PAS)
- 618 FULLY SUPPORT PRESIDENT TRUMP'S EXECUTIVE ORDER HOLDING THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS ACCOUNTABLE TO UTILIZING THE WEST LOS ANGELES CAMPUS AS INTENDED, AND MORE, BY ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL CENTER FOR WARRIOR INDEPENDENCE (NR 25-3)
- 619 DESIGNATION AND PROTECTION OF MILITARY GRAVES AS SACRED GROUND
- 620 RECOGNITION OF MILITARY SEXUAL VIOLENCE

## TO COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND INTERNAL ORGANIZATION

**This committee meets at 1:30 p.m., Sunday, August 10**

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

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

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

No. and Dept.	Title	Convention Action
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201	CIC	<p>PERIODIC REVALIDATION OF VFW NATIONAL RESOLUTIONS.....</p> <p>BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that any resolution adopted by the National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States shall be considered null and void if not readopted within five (5) years of its most recent adoption date; and</p> <p>BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all resolutions adopted prior to the 121<sup>st</sup> National Convention shall be considered expired and shall no longer have effect; and</p> <p>BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Adjutant General shall be responsible for maintaining an official record made available to members for all adopted resolutions from the 121<sup>st</sup> National Convention forward that may require subsequent readoption or amendments; and</p> <p>BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution will take effect at the conclusion of the 126<sup>th</sup> National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.</p>
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202	NY	<p>RESTORE THE VOICE OF DEMOCRACY PARADE OF WINNERS TO THE NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE .....</p> <p>BE IT RESOLVED, that the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, through its 126th National Convention assembled in Columbus, Ohio, August 9–13, 2025, does hereby call for the full reinstatement of the Voice of Democracy Parade of Winners to the VFW National Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C.; and</p> <p>BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this reinstated program includes a formal awards ceremony, organized tours of the United States Capitol, monuments, national cemeteries, and opportunities to meet with members of Congress and other national leaders; and</p> <p>BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the VFW encourage National Headquarters to explore feasible liability coverage options and professional chaperone training resources to ensure a safe and enriching experience for all participants; and</p>
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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Departments be encouraged, where feasible and financially sustainable, to assist in identifying or supporting qualified chaperones to help ensure a safe and successful program.

203 MT PRESERVING THE VOICE OF DEMOCRACY & PATRIOTS PEN WASHINGTON, D.C. PARADE OF WINNERS TRIP ..... \_\_\_\_\_

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we strongly urge the continuation, direct oversight, and full funding by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the Washington, D.C. Trip and Parade of Winners for all Department-level Voice of Democracy winners and the National Patriot's Pen winner; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we firmly oppose any efforts to substitute the Valley Forge trip for the Washington, D.C. experience or to delegate the responsibility of this hallmark VFW program to another organization or entity.

204 WY FAMILY RATE..... \_\_\_\_\_

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, to create a family plan for eligible veterans that is 75% of the amount that would be paid by each member individually, in lifetime memberships.

205 CA APPROVED USE OF NAUTICAL OFFICER TITLES FOR SHIPS..... \_\_\_\_\_

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that the nautical titles of the Ships Officers be authorized for use on all official documents of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, including the Army Donations Program Office.

206 MD ESTABLISHMENT OF A TECHNOLOGY FEASIBILITY REVIEW COMMITTEE ..... \_\_\_\_\_

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, shall establish a Technology Feasibility Review Committee (TFRC) responsible for the thorough evaluation of all resolutions that involve the incorporation of technology into VFW initiatives; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the TFRC shall be composed of members with expertise in technology, veterans' affairs and project management, ensuring a well-rounded and knowledgeable perspective in the evaluation process; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the TFRC shall work in collaboration with relevant VFW committees to assess the potential impact of proposed resolutions on the veteran community, taking into account the diverse needs and preferences of veterans; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the TFRC shall provide detailed reports outlining the technological feasibility, potential challenges and recommended adjustments for each resolution under consideration, enabling the VFW to make informed decisions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the TFRC shall regularly update the VFW leadership on technological advancements and emerging trends that could be leveraged to enhance the organization's mission and objectives; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the establishment of the Technology Feasibility Review Committee shall be effective immediately upon the adoption of this resolution and the committee shall commence its duties promptly thereafter.

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

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this program shall include:

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

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



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

- 208 MO ENDORSE, FULLY SUPPORT, AND PARTNER WITH THE SUBMARINERS' ADVOCACY GROUP .....  
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, endorse, fully support, and partner with the Submariners' Advocacy Group in all efforts regarding bringing to light submarine toxic and hazardous exposures, gaining VA acknowledgment, concessions, and establishing submarine-connected disabilities associated with the above, to work with SAG as necessary for the benefit and support of submarine veterans in keeping with the VFW's Mission and Vision.
- 209 HI ENDORSE AND FULLY SUPPORT THE SUBMARINERS' ADVOCACY GROUP (SAG) .....  
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, endorse and fully support the Submarine Advocacy Group efforts to Advocate for Submariners and those who deployed onboard submarines in reference to Enclosed Environmental Toxic/Exposures.

**TO COMMITTEE ON GENERAL RESOLUTIONS**  
**This committee meets at 1:30 p.m., Sunday, August 10**

Chairman: William A. Thien, Past Commander-in-Chief, Post 3281, IN  
Vice Chairman: Thomas A. Pouliot, Past Commander-in-Chief, Post 10010, MT

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	CIC	<p>AFFIRMING THE U.S. FLAG AND THE POW/MIA FLAG AS THE SOLE FLAGS ENDORSED BY THE VFW TO HONOR AND REMEMBER THOSE WHO GAVE THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE.....</p> <p>BE IT RESOLVED, by the National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that the VFW formally affirms the United States Flag and the POW/MIA Flag as the only flags officially endorsed by the VFW for the purpose of honoring and remembering those who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to this nation; and</p> <p>BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the VFW encourages all Posts, Auxiliaries, Departments, and members to continue the proud tradition of displaying and honoring these two sacred emblems at all ceremonies, memorials, and events dedicated to the fallen.</p>
302	VA	<p>NATIONAL FLAG TO HONOR AND REMEMBER THOSE WHO DIED WHILE SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES .....</p> <p>BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, to recognize and endorse, at the National level, the presentation, display, and flying of the Honor and Remember flag as a visual reminder to the American public of the true personal cost of American freedom.</p>
303	VA	<p>PRESERVING SECOND WORLD WAR HISTORY.....</p> <p>BE IT RESOLVED, that the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, insists that the sacrifices of our veterans be preserved and be returned to websites and education curricula to inform recruits, service personnel, and the American people, in general, of the blood spilled and lives lost by all veterans regardless of race, creed, religion, gender, or national origin, in the sacrifices to earn and preserve American freedom.</p>
304	MT	<p>LET ALL UNITED STATES VETERANS VOTE .....</p> <p>BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we petition Congress to pass H.R. 155, the Let America Vote Act to protect and enhance the franchise by allowing all United States military veterans to participate in the primary election process.</p>

## TO COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS

**This committee meets at 1:30 p.m., Sunday, August 10**

Chairman: Brian J. Duffy, Past Commander-in-Chief, Post 1170, KY

Vice Chairman: Bruce M. Ashley, Post 7387, KY

### SUBCOMMITTEE ON POW/MIA

**This committee meets at 1:30 p.m., Sunday, August 10**

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

Vice Chairman: Duane T. Sarmiento, Past Commander-in-Chief, Post 5579, NJ

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
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401	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
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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.

402	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.
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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United  
States, that we urge Congress to require the Department of Defense to  
establish an Under Secretary of Defense for Transition Assistance to  
oversee, coordinate, and modernize all transition programs to ensure  
service members receive timely, effective, and standardized transition  
assistance; and

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

- 403    CIC    RESEARCH BLAST OVERPRESSURE .....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge Congress to direct the Department of Defense to conduct comprehensive research on the long-term health effects of blast overpressure exposure and to implement policies ensuring proper documentation, monitoring, and prevention of such injuries; and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we call upon the Department of Defense to acknowledge the risks associated with blast overpressure exposure, develop enhanced protective equipment and training protocols, and ensure service members receive appropriate medical care, screening, and long-term support for conditions related to blast overpressure injuries.
- 404    CIC    REPATRIATE AMERICA’S FIRST FOREIGN WAR CASUALTIES .....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge Congress, the Department of Defense, and the Department of State to seek the disinterment and repatriation of the 13 brave American Sailors and Marines who perished aboard the USS Intrepid during the First Barbary War in 1804 and who are currently interred in Libya; and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we urge our grateful nation to welcome these Americans home, ensuring their interment in a place of honor at Arlington National Cemetery so that future generations of Americans may properly honor their unique sacrifice in our nation’s first major foreign war.
- 405    PAC    SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION FORMS SSA-1761 AND SSA-7162 .....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we petition Congress to enact legislation which would enable the Social Security Administration to initiate immediate reform to end the current unreliable method being used to submit these annual reports and allow for the use of a secure online reporting system; and further
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that part of this legislation include procedures that would allow authorized beneficiaries to submit said forms to any U.S. embassy or U.S. Consulate worldwide.
- 406    PAC    SUPPORTING THE SOVEREIGN RIGHTS OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES IN THE WEST PHILIPPINE SEA.....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we strongly support the sovereign rights of the Republic of the Philippines in the West Philippine Sea, as recognized under international law and affirmed by the 2016 Arbitral Tribunal ruling; and by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we strongly support the sovereign rights of the Republic of the Philippines in the West

Philippine Sea, as recognized under international law and affirmed by the 2016 Arbitral Tribunal ruling; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4938, that we urge the Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Oklahoma to support and submit this resolution for consideration at the national level; and

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

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

408 OK SUPPORT FOR ESTABLISHING GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM VETERANS DAY ON AUGUST 30.....

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we petition Congress and the President of the United States to formally designate August 30 as Global War on Terrorism Veterans Day; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the VFW encourages all Americans to recognize and honor the service and sacrifices of Global War on Terrorism veterans through appropriate ceremonies, educational programs, and community initiatives each year on this day.

409 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.

# TO COMMITTEE ON VETERANS SERVICE RESOLUTIONS

## This committee meets at 1:30 p.m., Sunday, August 10

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.	Dept.	Title	Convention Action
601	CIC	PROTECTING HEALTH CARE AND BENEFITS .....	_____
		BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge the President, Congress, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Department of Defense to "Honor the Contract" and protect the current suite of benefits and services for veterans, service members, survivors, and their families.	
602	CIC	TOXIC EXPOSURES.....	_____
		BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge Congress to invest adequate resources to study, diagnose, and treat conditions and illnesses associated with toxic exposures and provide oversight of VA's presumptive decision process; and	
		BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we urge Congress and the Department of Veterans Affairs to grant a presumption of service connection for all conditions and illnesses that are deemed by scientific evidence to be at least as likely as not associated with or caused by exposure to a toxic substance or environmental hazard, to be transparent about the presumptive decision process, and to include input from veterans on what exposures and conditions will be reviewed; and	
		BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we urge Congress and the Department of Defense to reduce or eliminate the use of known toxins on and around military installations and disclose known and potential toxic exposures during all military operations and at facilities within the United States and abroad; and	
		BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Congress ensures that the Department of Defense expedites declassification efforts related to exposure events and that the Department of Veterans Affairs extends presumptive service connection to veterans suffering from conditions or illnesses found to be associated with exposure to toxic substances.	

- 603    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 proper and ethical deprescribing guidelines for veterans seeking to stop medication, train prescribers on the emerging reports on psychotropic and psychiatric drugs, and publicize all data to inform the growing concern of overprescription and harm in the veteran community related to psychiatric drugs.
- 604    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 ensures 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, provide cost of living adjustments, and provide appropriate housing benefits for in-person, online and hybrid programs 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 earning GI Bill benefits for every day in uniform served, including for those in the Reserve components, and preserve quality GI Bill benefits for veterans of all conflicts to ensure they have access to quality education assistance programs.

605    CIC    VA NURSING HOME ANNUAL INSPECTIONS ..... \_\_\_\_\_

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we support VA's engagement to increase the quality of care and improve the physical environment provided in nursing homes and long-term care facilities, to include the creation of additional enforcement measures to require compliance with VA care standards when receiving funds for the care of a veteran; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge Congress to authorize the Department of Veterans Affairs to conduct annual onsite inspections of all VA and contracted long-term care facilities within VA's scope to promote compliance with standards.

606    CIC    DENTAL CARE ELIGIBILITY ..... \_\_\_\_\_

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge Congress to authorize Department of Veterans Affairs to expand eligibility for dental coverage and care to all service-connected veterans enrolled in VA health care.

607    CIC    MEDICARE ..... \_\_\_\_\_

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we support the abolishment of penalties for veterans for delayed Medicare enrollment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge Congress to authorize veterans enrolled in Department of Veterans Affairs health care to be exempt from registering for Medicare if they so choose.

608    EU    FOREIGN MEDICAL PROGRAM MEDICAL RECORDS ..... \_\_\_\_\_

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge the Department of Veterans Affairs to fully integrate Foreign Medical Program medical records into the Veterans Health Administration medical system and Veterans Benefits Administration, Veterans Benefits Management System upon receiving medical reimbursement claims by veterans.

- 609 EU THE IMPERATIVE OF THE VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION  
PROVIDING NEXUS STATEMENTS.....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States,  
that we urge VA to change all current policies preventing VHA Healthcare  
providers from producing Nexus statements that are appropriate and  
supported by medical evidence and/or military service. By doing this,  
VHA providers will alleviate the unnecessary burden placed on many  
veterans to prove the relationship between their current medical  
condition and their military service through a third party. This expedites  
the adjudication process, significantly reducing the time and effort  
required for veterans and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to  
reach a fair resolution at the same time reducing the risk of the Nation's  
veterans falling prey to exploitation and abuse.
- 610 EU HEALTHCARE PROGRAM FOR OVERSEAS VETERANS .....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States,  
that we urge the VA to commit to leveraging technological tools and  
resources to enroll all veterans, regardless of location into a VA  
Healthcare program.
- 611 EU VA TO REIMBURSE ELIGIBLE OVERSEAS VETERANS FOR URGENT CARE  
AND EMERGENCY ROOM VISITS.....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States,  
that we urge the VA to promptly amend this policy to include  
reimbursement for such services incurred abroad, the VA can alleviate  
financial burdens on eligible veterans, honor its commitment to their  
well-being, and ensure that they have access to adequate and timely  
medical care, regardless of their location.
- 612 KY FEMALE REPRODUCTIVE CANCERS AND OTHER GYNECOLOGICAL  
CONDITIONS DUE TO TOXIC EXPOSURE .....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States,  
that we call upon the Department of Veterans Affairs to recognize as  
presumptive, any and all female reproductive cancers and other  
gynecological conditions after exposure in Southeast Asia and Camp  
Lejeune and to include, as presumptive, birth defects to the children of  
any veteran who has served in areas effected by chemical contamination  
both overseas and within the United States and its overseas territories.
- 613 WI TOXIC EXPOSURE TO US NAVY SUBMARINERS .....  
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United  
States, urge Congress to direct the Department of Veterans Affairs to  
conduct comprehensive research on the correlation between  
environmental conditions aboard submarines and the medical  
conditions diagnosed and treated in Active-Duty and Veteran  
Submariners; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we urge Congress and the Department of 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 toxic substances, gases and ionizing radiation, and to be transparent about the presumptive decision process, and to include input from Submariners on what exposures and conditions will be reviewed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we urge Congress and the Department of Defense to reduce or eliminate the use of known toxins aboard US Navy Submarines and disclose known and potential toxic exposures experienced aboard US Navy Submarines; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Congress ensures that the Department of Defense expedites declassification efforts related to exposure events aboard US Navy Submarines 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.

614 VA VFW OPPOSES BUDGET CUTS THAT HARM VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES .....

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, supports fiscal discipline that does not harm veterans, the military, or their families; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States calls upon Congress and the President of the United States to reject proposed cuts and reverse implemented cuts from DOGE that harm veterans, the military, and their families.

615 CO SUPPORTING HARM REDUCTION AND OPPOSING PROHIBITION IN NICOTINE USE POLICY.....

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, urges all government agencies, including the Department of Veterans Affairs, to adopt evidence-based, compassionate tobacco harm reduction policies, including offering veterans access to and education about significantly safer alternatives to cigarettes such as e-cigarettes, nicotine pouches, and heated tobacco products; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Veterans of Foreign Wars will oppose prohibition-based policies at the federal, state, and local levels that ban or restrict access to legal nicotine alternatives — particularly those policies that unfairly restrict freedom of choice, misrepresent the science, and fail to recognize the legitimate role of harm reduction in improving the health and well-being of America's veterans; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Veterans of Foreign Wars supports changes to VA healthcare policy that would ensure these reduced-risk nicotine products are included in cessation recommendations and made available to veterans who are unable or not ready to quit nicotine entirely.

616 CO SUPPORTING CLINICAL PSYCHEDELIC DRUG TREATMENT .....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we petition Congress to enact legislation to allow the use of Psychedelic drugs, in a clinical environment, to be used in the treatment of PTSD.

617 CO SUPPORTING PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS/ASSOCIATES (PAS) .....  
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, at its convention in August 2025, urges the United States Congress to enact legislation providing high quality access to rural primary care services, women's health, and mental health and suicide prevention; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, it is essential to recruit and hire the most qualified health care occupations, including PAs. Physician Assistants/Associates shall be included with dual postings for vacancies to strategically expand in critical areas of mental health, rural and primary care, women's health, emergency medicine, and geriatric care; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, these critical enhancements in the VHA system: (1) the inclusion of PAs as a Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) mental health discipline in VHA mental health policies and directives; and (2) the continuation of the HPSP scholarships for veterans employed by the VHA to become PAs, the continuation of PA residences in mental health, and an enhanced strategic national recruitment policy to support the utilization of veteran PAs in a multitude of aforementioned needed specialties.

618 CA FULLY SUPPORT PRESIDENT TRUMP’S EXECUTIVE ORDER HOLDING THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS ACCOUNTABLE TO UTILIZING THE WEST LOS ANGELES CAMPUS AS INTENDED, AND MORE, BY ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL CENTER FOR WARRIOR INDEPENDENCE (NR 25-3).....  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we petition Congress to ensure that the Department of Veterans Affairs carries out the full intent of the President’s Executive Order forthwith.

619 CA DESIGNATION AND PROTECTION OF MILITARY GRAVES AS SACRED  
GROUND .....

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we call upon all levels of government—federal, state, and local—to recognize all military graves as sacred ground, ensuring that no changes are made to these locations that would convert them into parks or any other type of public space; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the VFW strongly urges the immediate restoration of all cemeteries containing military graves that have been converted into parks or other non-cemetery uses, and that these cemeteries be returned to their proper status by Veterans Day, November 11th, 2025, to honor the memory and sacrifice of our nation's veterans; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be forwarded to the President of the United States, members of Congress, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, state governors, and other relevant authorities, urging their support and action on this matter of national significance.

620 CA RECOGNITION OF MILITARY SEXUAL VIOLENCE.....

BE RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we call upon the Department of Defense and all branches of the military to acknowledge the severity of military sexual violence and to implement comprehensive measures to prevent such incidents; and

BE FURTHER RESOLVED that the VFW supports the establishment of October 11th as the Day of Recognition for Military Sexual Violence to honor and support survivors, raise awareness, and promote necessary reforms within the military to address and prevent sexual violence.

**TO COMMITTEE ON CONVENTION RULES**  
**This committee meets at 11:00 a.m., Sunday, August 10**

☐ **APPROVED**

Chairman: Larry W. Rivers, Past Commander-in-Chief, Post 1736, LA  
Vice Chairman: Lawrence M. Maher, Post 7356, MO

CONVENTION RULES  
126th National Convention, Columbus, Ohio  
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

1. That, in accordance and conjunction with the National Bylaws and Manual of Procedure, and with any exception noted here, the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall be recognized as parliamentary authority for this Convention.
2. That when a registered delegate desires to make a motion or address the Convention, the delegate shall rise, address the Chair as "Comrade Commander-in-Chief," and after being recognized, shall state their name, Post number and Department before proceeding.
3. A registered delegate shall be permitted to speak but twice on any one subject, or any pending resolution for a period not to exceed five minutes each except by consent of two-thirds of the voting strength of the Convention present and voting, provided that chairmen of Convention committees may speak as frequently as necessary in connection with reports of their committees. In the event of controversy, the presiding officer shall not entertain any motion which will curtail further debate without affording the maker of the motion or a member of the delegation presenting the resolution an opportunity for five minutes of final rebuttal.
4. All resolutions offered by individual registered delegates must bear the endorsement of the Department Commander or, if absent, the Department Adjutant. All resolutions must be submitted to the office of the Adjutant General for numbering and referral to the committee no later than 12:00 p.m. Tuesday, August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025, and must be accompanied by a written explanation as to why the resolution was not presented to the Department Convention for consideration.
5. All resolutions offered on the floor at the Convention will initially be in writing, and shall automatically and without reading, be referred to the Adjutant General for assignment to the proper committee.
6. Committee chairmen, in reporting on resolutions referred to their committee, shall first read the number of those resolutions on which favorable action is recommended. Specific resolutions may be set aside for individual action at the request of any delegate; the others being voted upon collectively. After action has been taken on all such resolutions, the chairman shall read the number and title of those resolutions which the committee has disapproved. A resolution disapproved by the committee shall be automatically rejected unless a motion is made and seconded that it be approved, in which case it shall be brought up for debate and Convention action.
7. This Convention will not consider any resolution dealing with the expenditure or appropriation of organizational funds.
8. The Convention will not consider any resolution endorsing legislation sponsored by any other veterans' organization or requesting us to join with any other organization in sponsoring legislation not expressly proposed by the members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.
9. Only delegates present at a meeting of the National Convention may speak in debate, make motions and vote and shall be entitled to vote the full strength to which the Post is entitled.

10. Delegates shall vote individually on any item of business coming before the Convention and cannot be required to vote as a block with others from their delegation.
11. Delegate credential registration shall close at 12:00 p.m., Tuesday, August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Voting strength shall be determined by those delegates registered as of the close of the credential registration booth the previous day and as reported to the National Convention. The Department Commanders will receive, prior to the beginning of each business session, a list of Posts that have properly registered delegates. Only delegates representing those Posts listed on the report will be accorded voting privileges.
12. In accordance with Section 621 of the National Bylaws, voting shall be by acclamation as defined within Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, except a roll call may be demanded by ten registered delegates representing Posts in ten separate Departments, or by order of the Commander-in-Chief. All motions and matters brought before the Convention shall first be decided by a voice vote of the delegates. Following the announcement of the result of a voice vote, a roll call may be requested in accordance with this section.
13. If a roll call is required, the following is the order of voting precedence: Unaffiliated Posts, Department Commanders, National Council of Administration, Past Commanders-in-Chief followed by National Officers. Ascending alphabetical order by Department will be utilized for the National Council of Administration and Department Commanders. The Department Commander of each delegation shall poll their delegation's registered delegates on the floor and shall announce the vote of their delegation.
14. Registered delegates of a delegation may arrive at a vote in any manner but shall announce it in terms of full units and not in terms of a fractional part of a vote.
15. Reconsideration of a motion or resolution upon which final disposition has been made shall not be allowed after the meeting at which it was acted on has been recessed, unless the body is notified of such contemplated action prior to the close of that meeting.
16. When the report of the Department Commander of the delegation is not acceptable to all registered delegates of the delegation and a poll of the Department registered delegates is demanded by three registered delegates of said Department, the Adjutant General shall poll the registered delegates, without discussion of question.
17. Nominating speeches for the National officers shall be limited to five minutes each. The time allocated to encompass all seconding speeches shall be limited to four minutes total. Nomination and election of National officers will be held according to the Congressional Charter, Bylaws, and Section 617 of the National Manual of Procedure.
18. Registered delegates and persons recognized by the Chair shall be entitled to a respectful hearing, and the Chair shall have the authority to clear the gallery or the floor or have the Sergeant-at-Arms escort from the floor any person or persons who may create any disturbance which interferes with the orderly procedure of the Convention.
19. The Commander-in-Chief may, as may be necessary and appropriate to informing the membership of the activities of this Convention, authorize that all or parts of the Convention be streamed through the website of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.
20. The consent of two-thirds of the voting strength of the Convention present and voting is necessary for suspension of the rules of this Convention.

## NOTES