

## **Resolution No. 201**

### **PERIODIC REVALIDATION OF VFW NATIONAL RESOLUTIONS**

WHEREAS, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW) regularly adopts resolutions to announce the position of its membership on various issues of veterans' care, national security, et cetera, that, based upon national debate, are inherently fluid; and

WHEREAS, the VFW strives to ensure that the resolutions it adopts are germane to the national discussion and reflect its current policy on such issues; and

WHEREAS, the volatility of said issues may necessitate alteration of the VFW position as the organizational or societal values, or available options, change thereby rendering previously adopted resolutions successfully accomplished, no longer necessary, or potentially embarrassing to the VFW; and

WHEREAS, the delegates of the 120<sup>th</sup> National Convention adopted Resolution 201 which became effective upon the conclusion of the 121<sup>st</sup> National Convention, that set a standard five (5) year limit on adopted resolutions maintaining an active and ongoing status before becoming null and void, unless readopted; and

WHEREAS, there are numerous untracked resolutions still active that predate the 121<sup>st</sup> National Convention, creating potential confusion and inconsistency in policy implementation and these resolutions require systematic tracking and oversight to ensure administrative accuracy, historical integrity, and procedural efficiency; and

WHEREAS, upon conclusion of the 126<sup>th</sup> National Convention, all resolutions shall be adorned with the date of adoption to facilitate tracking, re-adoption, or expiration; now, therefore

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

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

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

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.

Submitted by the Commander-in-Chief  
To Committee on FINANCE & INTERNAL ORGANIZATION

## **Resolution No. 202**

### **RESTORE THE VOICE OF DEMOCRACY PARADE OF WINNERS TO THE NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE**

WHEREAS, the Veterans of Foreign Wars Voice of Democracy program is a premier youth scholarship initiative that honors the patriotism, scholarship, and civic engagement of high school students across the United States; and

WHEREAS, the longstanding tradition of honoring the first-place Department Voice of Democracy winners at the VFW National Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C., through a formal Parade of Winners, visits to national monuments, memorials, and meetings with elected officials has served to both reward the students and inspire future leaders; and

WHEREAS, the National Council of Administration voted during the 2025 Legislative Conference to discontinue the VOD Parade of Winners and associated activities from the Legislative Conference schedule; and

WHEREAS, Article VI, Section 604 of the National Bylaws affirms that the supreme power of this organization shall be the National Convention, and thus it retains the final authority on matters including national program structure and recognition; and

WHEREAS, concerns regarding liability and chaperone responsibilities have been cited as contributing factors for the program's removal; and

WHEREAS, many Comrades have expressed concern that this decision negatively affects the prestige and national visibility of the VOD program, and diminishes the recognition owed to our top youth scholars; now, therefore

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

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

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

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.

Submitted by Department of New York  
To Committee on FINANCE & INTERNAL ORGANIZATION

## **Resolution No. 203**

### **PRESERVING THE VOICE OF DEMOCRACY & PATRIOTS PEN WASHINGTON, D.C. PARADE OF WINNERS TRIP**

WHEREAS, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW) has a proud and longstanding tradition of supporting patriotic youth scholarship programs, including the Voice of Democracy (VOD) and Patriot's Pen, which cultivate civic responsibility, patriotic values, and respect for veterans among America's youth; and

WHEREAS, the annual Washington, D.C. Trip and Parade of Winners is the premier experience awarded to each Department-level Voice of Democracy winner and the National Patriot's Pen winner, offering them a unique opportunity to engage directly with the institutions of American democracy, connect with fellow winners from across the country, and be honored in our nation's capital by VFW leadership; and

WHEREAS, this event has become a cornerstone of the VFW's national identity and youth outreach, and serves to elevate the prestige of the Voice of Democracy program, inspire future participants, and reinforce the VFW's leadership in civic education and youth development; and

WHEREAS, any effort to replace the Washington, D.C. Trip with the Valley Forge trip—or to transfer the responsibility for this experience to an outside organization—undermines the significance of the award, dilutes the VFW's direct role in shaping the experience, and diminishes the visibility and impact of our premier scholarship program; and

WHEREAS, such a change would compromise the integrity and recognition that our youth participants have rightfully earned, and shift focus away from the VFW's historic commitment to honoring young Americans for their patriotism and academic achievement; now, therefore

**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.

## **Resolution No. 204**

### **FAMILY RATE**

WHEREAS, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States is committed to increasing membership to maintain a powerful voice in the nation's care of veterans; and

WHEREAS, these younger eligible veterans have family expenses that may prevent them from both paying the full dues amount; now, therefore

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.

Submitted by Department of Wyoming  
To Committee on FINANCE & INTERNAL ORGANIZATION

## **Resolution No. 205**

### **APPROVED USE OF NAUTICAL OFFICER TITLES FOR SHIPS**

WHEREAS, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States takes great pride in its history and honoring its past; and

WHEREAS, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States had previously named its units based upon the military service affiliation of that unit's founding members; and

WHEREAS, if all of the unit's founding members were veterans of the United States Navy or United States Marine Corp, the unit was named and chartered as a Ship. If the founding members were veterans of the United States Army Air Corp, or later, the United States Air Force, the unit was named and chartered as a Squadron. If the foundering members were all veterans of the Army, or a mixture of Services, the unit was named and chartered as a Post; and

WHEREAS, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, on a date that has been lost to history, began to name newly chartered units as Posts, but grandfathered the names of those Ships and Squadrons who remain in good standing; and

WHEREAS, through attrition, only three Ships remain in the entirety of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Ship 1774, Ship 4084 and Ship 8310 are all active units in the Department of California; and

WHEREAS, the Bylaws of Ship 4084 provide the use of the nautical equivalent of officer titles over the traditional officer titles has been approved by Veterans of Foreign Wars National. The title Captain is used in lieu of Commander, Executive Officer in lieu of Senior Vice Commander, Navigator in lieu of Junior Vice Commander, Pay Master in lieu of Quartermaster and Writer in lieu of Adjutant; and

WHEREAS, on the 7<sup>th</sup> of February 2025, Ship 4084 was notified by the Army Donations Program Office that Veterans of Foreign Wars National Headquarters that the Ship's nautical officer titles are not recognized in the National Bylaws and are not allowed to be used on official forms; now, therefore

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.

## **Resolution No. 206**

### **ESTABLISHMENT OF A TECHNOLOGY FEASIBILITY REVIEW COMMITTEE**

WHEREAS, the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) is dedicated to advocating for the welfare of veterans and ensuring their needs are met in an ever-evolving technological landscape; and

WHEREAS, the VFW recognizes the importance of leveraging technology to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of its operations; and

WHEREAS, the VFW acknowledges the growing prevalence of technology-driven solutions in addressing the diverse needs of veterans; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative to ensure that resolutions proposed by the VFW are not only well-intentioned but also feasible and practical in the context of modern technological capabilities; and

WHEREAS, a comprehensive review process is necessary to assess the technological feasibility of proposed resolutions, safeguarding the VFW from adopting initiatives that may prove impractical or unattainable; now, therefore

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.

## **Resolution No. 207**

### **ESTABLISH A NATIONAL VFW SUICIDE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, suicide among veterans remains one of the leading causes of preventable death, impacting families, friends, and communities across the nation; and

WHEREAS, research indicates that education, outreach, and early intervention can significantly reduce suicide rates; and

WHEREAS, the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) is uniquely positioned to advocate for and implement initiatives that address the critical issue of suicide prevention among veterans, service members, and their families; and

WHEREAS, while the VFW currently supports various mental health initiatives, an organized, comprehensive national program would enhance the organization's ability to educate, provide resources, and offer direct support to those in crisis; and

WHEREAS, establishing a National VFW Suicide Awareness and Prevention Program would formalize these efforts, ensuring sustained and strategic action in addressing veteran suicide; now, therefore

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

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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.

Submitted by Department of Arizona  
To Committee on FINANCE & INTERNAL ORGANIZATION

## **Resolution No. 208**

### **ENDORSE, FULLY SUPPORT, AND PARTNER WITH THE SUBMARINERS' ADVOCACY GROUP**

WHEREAS, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW) is “a national association of veterans who as soldiers, sailors, marines, and airmen served this Nation in wars, campaigns, and expeditions on foreign soil or in hostile waters,” and is committed to “Ensure that veterans are respected for their service, always receive their earned entitlements, and are recognized for the sacrifices they and their loved ones have made on behalf of this great country.”; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the VFW is “To foster camaraderie among United States veterans of overseas conflicts. To serve our veterans, the military and our communities.” And especially “To advocate on behalf of all veterans.”; and

WHEREAS, the VFW's membership is primarily comprised of Army, Marine, Navy , and Air Force combat veterans, there is less than 2% of that membership who have served in the US Navy's Submarine Force having experienced a unique form of duty and subject to an environment that has not been sufficiently studied; and

WHEREAS, the unique duty of Navy Submariners is not well understood, yet, these needs are critically important to those who have served on submarines; and

WHEREAS, submarine duty has exposed the veterans to many toxic chemicals, gases, radiation, and a toxic and hazardous environment within the confines of submerged submarines; and

WHEREAS, this toxic and hazardous exposure has resulted in many submarine veterans developing chronic and sometimes fatal health conditions that could be directly connected to submarine duty, exclusively; and

WHEREAS, the Submariners' Advocacy Group (SAG) was established to specifically bring to light this long ignored situation and to be an organization that is “Submariners Helping Submariners.”; and

WHEREAS, submarine veterans make up one of the smallest cohorts of the American veteran community; and

WHEREAS, SAG has identified at least 130 chemicals that are known to possibly contaminate submarine atmospheres, and almost 100 health issues that submarine veterans are or have experienced that could or should be connected to submarine duty; and

WHEREAS, the endorsement and support of the VFW would greatly assist SAG's efforts to bring to light these toxic and hazardous exposures, and are in keeping with the traditions, mission, and vision of the VFW; and

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WHEREAS, the VFW would benefit from partnering with experienced Submariners;  
and

WHEREAS, a VFW endorsement could enhance the VFW's reputation to the  
estimated 300,000 US Navy submarine veterans and active duty members, now therefore

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.

Submitted by Department of Missouri  
To Committee on FINANCE & INTERNAL ORGANIZATION

## Resolution No. 209

### ENDORSE AND FULLY SUPPORT THE SUBMARINERS' ADVOCACY GROUP (SAG)

WHEREAS, endorsing and supporting SAG correlates directly with proposed VFW National Resolution 602 Toxic Exposure and as presented by VFW National Commander-in-Chief Al Lipphardt during Congressional Hearing testimony on March 4, 2025, and in the May/June VFW Magazine article "Honor the Contract" PG 10-12, section "TOXIC/ENVIRONMENTAL EXPOSURES"; and

WHEREAS, SAG advocates for Submariners and other military service members/veterans who have been in an enclosed submarine environment and continuously subjected to toxic exposure to a wide variety of contaminants (as many as **200 toxic/hazardous** chemicals, gases, and radiation) for the entire period of submerged operations; and

WHEREAS, SAG's advocacy is aligned with the VFW's Proposed National Resolution 602 to declassify classified research and atmospheric surveys of enclosed submarine atmospheres to support submarine active duty and veterans in their VA claims; and

WHEREAS, SAG is endorsed and fully supported by the VFW BIG 10 Conference, 5 VFW State Depts (Missouri, Arizona, Wisconsin, Wyoming, and Utah), and was presented for discussion at the 2024 VFW Western Region Conference held in Hawaii, and is being presented to upcoming additional VFW State Depts Conventions; and

WHEREAS, SAG is working on a first-of-its-kind report entitled "**Submarine Toxic and Hazardous Exposures**" with the combined efforts of the Disabled American Veterans and Military Officers Association of America on toxic contaminants' exposure on land, airborne, at sea, and to include the enclosed environment of submarines; and

WHEREAS, the VFW Department of Hawaii continues to demonstrate its commitment "To advocate on behalf of all veterans." (VFW, "Our Mission") and "Ensure that veterans are respected for their service, always receive their earned entitlements, and are recognized for the sacrifices they and their loved ones have made on behalf of this great country" (VFW, "Our Vision") and to demonstrate that the VFW's mantra, "No One Does More For Veterans..." clearly does include small population veteran cohorts, which includes submarine veterans and those who deployed on submarines; and

WHEREAS, SAG Endorsement and Support requires **no** financial obligation attached. Donations are voluntary only; now, therefore

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.

Submitted by Department of Hawaii  
To Committee on FINANCE & INTERNAL ORGANIZATION