

## **Resolution No. 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**

WHEREAS, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW) is a congressionally chartered organization dedicated to honoring the service and sacrifice of all who have worn the uniform of the United States military; and

WHEREAS, the American flag is the preeminent national symbol of our nation, representing the ideals of freedom, unity, and the sacrifices made by generations of Americans in defense of liberty; and

WHEREAS, the POW/MIA flag was officially recognized by Congress as a symbol of our nation's concern and commitment to resolving the fates of Americans still prisoner, missing, or unaccounted for in service to our country, and it serves as a powerful reminder of their sacrifice and our pledge to never forget; and

WHEREAS, the VFW holds sacred its responsibility to ensure the memory of those who gave the ultimate sacrifice is preserved with the highest degree of dignity and respect; and

WHEREAS, the VFW has consistently supported the National POW/MIA Flag Act, which requires the POW/MIA flag to be displayed alongside the U.S. flag at all prominent federal properties as a mark of respect and remembrance for those who have not returned home; and

WHEREAS, various alternative flags, symbols, or banners have been proposed or adopted in some settings to commemorate military service and sacrifice, but may not reflect the official position, mission, or heritage of the VFW; now, therefore,

**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

**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.

Submitted by Commander-in-Chief  
To Committee on GENERAL RESOLUTIONS

## **Resolution No. 302**

### **NATIONAL FLAG TO HONOR AND REMEMBER THOSE WHO DIED WHILE SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES**

WHEREAS, the Congressional Charter of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW) includes the purpose, “to perpetuate the memory and history of our dead, and to assist their surviving spouses and orphans”; and

WHEREAS, Congress has established both a Gold Star Lapel Button (GSLB) and a Next-of-Kin Button (NOKB) to be awarded by the military services of those who have lost their lives in combat, military actions, terrorist actions, and other non-combatant military service while serving honorably on active duty – including Reserve and National Guard duty for training; and

WHEREAS, over the course of American history, nearly 38 percent of the more than one million military service casualties are due to illness, accident, or military operations in other than combat; and

WHEREAS, since 1980, the toll of deceased military servicemen and women is more than 1,400 per annum; more than 90 percent of which occur during training, Reserve, Guard, and operations other than combat; and

WHEREAS, save for high-profile incidents, most of these losses and attendant familial sacrifices go under-reported or unreported by media and are therefore unknown to the American public; and,

WHEREAS, the Honor and Remember Organization was established “to perpetually recognize the sacrifice of America’s military fallen service members and their families” through a tangible, enduring visual recognition symbol, to wit: the Honor and Remember flag, awarded to the survivors of deceased service personnel, whether recipients of the GSLB or the NOKB; and

WHEREAS, twenty-eight states, hundreds of corporations, and at least two dozen veterans’ organizations have already endorsed the Honor and Remember flag; and

WHEREAS, the purpose behind this flag is consistent with the Congressional Charter of the VFW; now, therefore

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.

## Resolution No. 303

### PRESERVING SECOND WORLD WAR HISTORY

WHEREAS, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW) is the nation's oldest Veterans Service Organization, whose history spans more than half of the existence of the United States itself; and

WHEREAS, membership in the Congressionally chartered VFW is open to all U. S. Citizens and U. S. Nationals who served honorably in the United States Armed Forces in wars, conflicts and other periods of hostilities, regardless of race, creed, religion, gender, or national origin; and

WHEREAS, among the Congressionally chartered purposes of the VFW is "to perpetuate the memory and history of our dead"; and

WHEREAS, on January 20, 2025, President Trump signed an (as yet unnumbered) Executive Order (E.O.) entitled "*Ending Radical and Wasteful Government DEI Programs and Preferencing*"; and

WHEREAS, said E.O. contains the direction that the Director of the Office of Management and Budget...shall coordinate the termination of all...diversity, equity, inclusion...programs...and activities in the Federal Government...[including]...training policies and programs to comply with this order"; and

WHEREAS, in reaction to said directive, the Department of Defense (DoD) removed Internet website references and heritage-focused training curricula discussion of contributions to the World War II victory of individuals and units comprised wholly or predominately of minority or female service personnel, celebrated long before the "DEI" moniker was conceived; some of which include:

- The **442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team** (aka: "Go for Broke"), composed of more than 12,000 Nisei volunteers, many of whom had previously been interned; the most decorated unit of its size during World War II (including 21 Medals of Honor and eight Presidential Unit Citations),
- The **332<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Group** (aka: Tuskegee Airmen) whose stellar combat record as bomber escorts earned them three Distinguished Unit Citations and 96 Distinguished Flying Crosses,
- The **Montford Point Marines**, more than 21,600 African-Americans who broke ground as the first of their race to be allowed into the United States Marine Corps and whose valor at such devastating battles as Peleliu and Iwo Jima helped pave the way for further integration of the Armed Forces,
- The **Enola Gay**, the B-29 Superfortress that dropped the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japan; named after pilot Colonel Paul Tibbets' mother; deleted by DoD because her middle name was perceived, in 21<sup>st</sup> century lexicon, to celebrate homosexuality,

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- Marine Private First Class **Ira Hayes**, a celebrated Iwo Jima flag-raiser whose post-traumatic stress and descent into alcoholism was depicted in music and several films
- Primarily Marine Corps **Code Talkers** of numerous Native American tribes, whose use of their native languages to convey intelligence information served as an unbreakable “code” confounding their enemies – and have also been celebrated in film, literature, folklore, and United States coinage
- The **Red Ball Express** – moving more than 12,500 tons of munitions, fuel, and cargo per day to sustain General Patton’s lightning advance across France and recognized with a 1952 post-war movie
- The **6888<sup>th</sup> Central Postal Directory Battalion**, the only multi-ethnic battalion of the **Women’s Army Corps** deployed overseas that resolved and sustained postal service in the European Theater of Operations thereby bolstering morale overseas and at home
- The **Women’s Air Service Pilots (WASPs)**, who while not in the military, per se, ferried all makes and models of fighter, bomber, and transport aircraft from builders’ plants to overseas, losing 38 of their 1,100 cadre during that effort; and

WHEREAS, it is a long-standing VFW core focus to support the precept of focusing resources on fielding, modernizing, and training our military to deter, contest – if necessary, and win armed conflicts in the asymmetric battlespaces; and

WHEREAS, in this 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year of the World War II victory, when the vast majority of the participating veterans have passed on, the VFW believes that, essential to building the warrior spirit, DoD must recall and celebrate the contributions of what a total American society’s commitment to that victory looks like; and

WHEREAS, when said history includes individuals and wholly or predominately segregated units, otherwise marginalized by society, that the record not be erased, so that future generations of Americans may learn and take pride in the contributions of all our predecessors who overcame discrimination and segregation to forge a better America and ensure freedom around the world; now, therefore

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.

Submitted by Department of Virginia  
To Committee on GENERAL RESOLUTIONS

## Resolution No. 304

### LET ALL UNITED STATES VETERANS VOTE

WHEREAS, as enumerated in Sec. 230102 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Congressional Charter, the purposes of this corporation include: to foster true patriotism, and to maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom; and

WHEREAS, while States run elections, elections are regulated by the Federal Election Commission (FEC), an independent regulatory agency charged with administering and enforcing the federal campaign finance law, and election laws passed by Congress. The VFW, its members, and Veterans across the nation are impacted by these laws and regulations; and

WHEREAS, the right of a U.S. citizen to vote in any taxpayer-funded election for public office shall not be denied or abridged on the grounds of political party affiliation or lack thereof. Yet, in over half the States at least one political party conducts closed or semi-closed primaries; and

WHEREAS, according to an analysis by Unite America, closed Congressional primaries in 22 states prohibited 23.5 million independent voters from participating in consequential primaries, resulting in 87% of the US House being elected by just 7% of Americans; and

WHEREAS, as an October 2024 survey of post 9/11 veterans conducted by the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans Association, shows that 55% of Veterans do not affiliate with either of the two major parties. As a result, closed primaries too often deny veterans the basic right to vote in the taxpayer-funded elections the members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars have fought to protect; and

WHEREAS, Rep. Marie Gluesenkamp Perez (WA-03), along with Reps. Brian Fitzpatrick (PA-01), Jared Golden (ME-02), and Andrew Garbarino (NY-02), introduced the **bipartisan** Let America Vote Act on January 3, 2025, the first day of the 119<sup>th</sup> Congress; and

WHEREAS, the Let America Vote Act requires States to permit access to unaffiliated voters to vote in primary elections for Federal Office and also provides additional Federal Funds for States to transition to access to primary elections for unaffiliated voters; and

WHEREAS, the Let America Vote Act prohibits States from permitting non-citizens to vote in elections for Federal office, while withholding Federal funds if a State permits non-citizens to vote in elections for State and local office; now, therefore

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.

Submitted by Department of Montana  
To Committee on GENERAL RESOLUTIONS