

## AMERICAN MILITARY RETIREES ASSOCIATION (AMRA)

### 2011-2012 LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTIONS

#### BENEFITS

##### RESOLUTION #1

**Whereas**, The American Military Retirees Association (AMRA) believes that career service members who retire from the U.S. Armed Forces have earned, through the service and sacrifice of both themselves and their families, and in many cases their very blood, certain retirement benefits, including the best medical care available; and

**Whereas**, Some of those retirees are also entitled to disability benefits through the Department of Veterans Affairs; and

**Whereas**, Those service members who are disabled as a result of their military service should be fully compensated for sacrifices that affect their future earning potential and ability to care for their dependents; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That AMRA shall support all efforts to fully provide all earned retirement benefits, medical care, and disability compensation to all military retirees, regardless of their assigned individual disability percentage.

##### RESOLUTION #2

**Whereas**, Retired members of the U.S. Armed Forces have spent their lives and careers protecting the nation and its citizens, foregoing lucrative careers in the civilian sector and imposing great sacrifice on their families; and

**Whereas**, A grateful nation accepts responsibility for the extended care of its warriors; and

**Whereas**, Retired service members have pre-paid premiums through their service and sacrifice; and

**Whereas**, The majority of American citizens, including Federal civil service employees but excluding military retirees, enjoy the benefit of paying health care premiums with pre-tax dollars; and

**Whereas**, Increasing fees for TRICARE services and/or imposing new fees for services does not reflect a grateful nation's recognition of those pre-paid premiums; and

**Whereas**, Reducing reimbursement rates to healthcare personnel for retirees on Medicare will undoubtedly reduce the number of providers for beneficiaries of TRICARE FOR LIFE(TFL); therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That The American Military Retirees Association (AMRA) vigorously OPPOSE all increases in TRICARE fees, the imposition of new fees, reductions in Medicare reimbursement rates, and equally vigorously SUPPORT the ability to pay TRICARE premiums and associated supplemental insurance with pre-tax dollars.

##### RESOLUTION #3

**Whereas**, Military Retirees, upon reaching age 65, move to TRICARE FOR LIFE (TFL) and are required to pay Medicare Part B premiums to access TFL; and

**Whereas**, Retirees are grateful for TFL, payment of Medicare Part B premiums does not exactly fulfill the "free healthcare for life" promised to them at the end of a 20-year career; and

**Whereas**, A lifetime of service in defense of the nation is a substantial contribution to the freedom Americans enjoy; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the American Military Retirees Association (AMRA) go on record as SUPPORTING legislation to eliminate the onerous financial burden of military retirees paying for coverage under Medicare Part B.

##### RESOLUTION #4

**Whereas**, Retirees are currently paying deductibles and co-pays for their TRICARE benefits; and

**Whereas**; The imposition of medical or pharmacy user fees for retirees and their dependents would impose an additional financial burden on retirees; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the American Military Retirees Association (AMRA) OPPOSE the imposition of prescription medical or pharmacy user fees on military retirees and their dependents who access such services on military bases.

##### RESOLUTION #5

**Whereas**, The Secretary of Defense currently has the authority to raise active military and retiree healthcare costs without the consent of Congress; and

**Whereas**, The Congress has traditionally been assigned role of the Body processing the authority and responsibility for the fiscal expenditures of the Federal government, and direct accountability to the

American People for the nature of those expenditures; therefore, be it  
**RESOLVED**, That the American Military Retirees Association (AMRA) vigorously calls upon the Congress to revoke the authority of the Secretary of Defense to increase TRICARE costs and to retain that authority in its rightful place in the Congress.

#### **RESOLUTION #6**

**Whereas**, The American Military Retirees Association (AMRA) is created for the purpose of informing its members and protecting the rights and benefits of ALL military retirees; and  
**Whereas**; The military retiree community includes the families and spouses of those military retirees; and  
**Whereas**, A military retiree has the ability to prepare beforehand for his family after his death by the means of setting aside the benefit known as the Survivor's Benefit Plan, an annuity provided to the military retiree's spouse; and  
**Whereas**, Certain states include this pre-paid benefit as taxable income or otherwise subject it to inheritance tax; and  
**Whereas**, The surviving spouse of a military retiree must otherwise waive this benefit by written declaration; and  
**Whereas**, The practice of taxing or otherwise infringing upon the annuity through taxation of any design presents a hardship upon the surviving spouse; therefore be it  
**RESOLVED**, That AMRA will action towards proper address of the taxing or otherwise infringing upon the Survivor's Benefit Plan annuity, by and through its Legislative Committee efforts, to encourage or otherwise bring an end to the practice of including this valuable but limited financial resource as taxable in any manner

#### **RESOLUTION #7**

**Whereas**, Issues facing America's military retirees cover the spectrum of medical care, pay and benefits and include issues in common with all veterans as well; and  
**Whereas**; Many of these issues are related to policy and implementation dictated by the Secretary of Defense; and  
**Whereas**; The resolution of military retiree issues is often stymied by the inability of Veterans Service Organizations to divine where within the Department of Defense (DoD) reside the persons and offices with the knowledge, authority and responsibility to resolve military retiree issues; therefore, be it  
**RESOLVED**, That the American Military Retirees Association (AMRA) emphatically call upon the Secretary of Defense to create and identify, through consolidation of existing resources, or by other means currently at the Secretary's disposal, a position at the level of Assistant Secretary or Deputy Under Secretary, reporting directly to the Secretary, to be responsible and accountable for all matters of policy and implementation within the DoD that affect military retirees.

### **MILITARY CITIZENS**

#### **RESOLUTION #8**

**Whereas**, The American Military Retirees Association (AMRA) is dedicated to the military retiree population; and  
**Whereas**, The sacrifices made by and through a lifetime of service to this country are no small achievement; and  
**Whereas**, There are calendar days and months set aside to commemorate and provide deference to a wide host of special interests; therefore be it  
**RESOLVED**, That AMRA will SUPPORT, through proper petition to the President of the United States to set aside one day not already dedicated to another to acknowledge through PROCLAMATION the service and sacrifice made by ALL military retirees, to be known as U.S. Military Retiree Appreciation Day.

#### **RESOLUTION 9**

**Whereas**, The United States of America remains the only nation which actively seeks to ensure the repatriation of its fallen service members in combat; and  
**Whereas**, There remain tens of thousands of service members from wars and conflicts beginning with WWII yet to be located, identified, and repatriated for proper burial; and  
**Whereas**, There remains one active military unit dedicated to this important mission; and  
**Whereas**, The proper and fullest accounting of missing and unaccounted for service members from the Vietnam Conflict was prerequisite for normalization of relations with Vietnam; and  
**Whereas**, The normalization of relations with this former enemy was declared in January, 1995; therefore be it  
**RESOLVED**, That the American Military Retirees Association (AMRA) will use its ability to partner with like-minded VSOs to continue to push for efforts account for all missing and unaccounted for service members and those known to have been captured as Prisoners of War (POW) during the Vietnam and other conflicts,

and to return, identify, and provide proper burial honors for all remaining service members who died as a direct result of combat action, yet remain unaccounted for, or whose remains have not been properly repatriated.

#### **RESOLUTION #10**

***Whereas***, Members of the U.S. Armed Forces who have paid the price of freedom with their service deserve the utmost respect, upon their death, that a grateful nation may provide; and

***Whereas***, Public Law 106-65 requires that, upon the family's request, "every eligible veteran receive a military funeral honors ceremony, to include folding and presenting the United States burial flag and the playing of Taps"; therefore, be it

***RESOLVED***, That the American Military Retirees Association (AMRA) call upon the responsible agency to fully fund and execute military funeral honors for every fallen warrior as a final act of respect and gratitude from the American People.

#### **RESOLUTION #11**

***Whereas***, This nation was founded upon certain principles; and

***Whereas***, Each citizen has the right and obligation to exercise their voice through the vote; and

***Whereas***, No service member lays aside their citizenship upon entry into active military service; and

***Whereas***, A great number of active service members, through no fault of their own, are not always afforded an opportunity to cast a vote and have that vote counted; therefore be it

***RESOLVED***, That the American Military Retirees Association (AMRA) will work in partnership with other concerns to bring about a system that ensures that every citizen serving in the active Armed Forces of the United States of America and military retirees living abroad be given an equal opportunity to cast their vote, thereby allowing their voice to be heard.

### **PATRIOTISM**

#### **RESOLUTION #12**

***Whereas***, Members of the U.S. Armed Forces have shed blood and many have made the supreme sacrifice in defense of the nation's standard; and

***Whereas***, The American People love and respect the U.S. Flag as a symbol of the nation's democratic ideals; and

***Whereas***, The American People wish to protect and preserve the U.S. Flag for all time as a symbol of their freedom; therefore, be it

***RESOLVED***, That the American Military Retirees Association (AMRA) shall SUPPORT a Joint Congressional Resolution that states: "The Congress shall have power to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States."

#### **RESOLUTION #13**

***Whereas***, The first Congress in 1774 was opened by prayer and the reading of four chapters of the Holy Bible; and

***Whereas***, The Declaration of Independence acknowledges "All men are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights", noting that the forefathers were "relying on the protection of divine providence"; and

***Whereas***, John Quincy Adams said "The Declaration of Independence laid the cornerstone of human government upon the first precepts of Christianity"; therefore, be it

***RESOLVED***, That the American Military Retirees Association (AMRA) stand forever to protect and preserve the requirement that all currency and seals of the United States bear the words "In God We Trust"; and be it further

***RESOLVED***, That the language "one nation under God" contained in the Pledge of Allegiance be protected.