

# AMRA LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTIONS 2010-2011

## RESOLUTION #1

**Whereas**, The American Military Retirees Association (AMRA) believes that career service members who retire from the U.S. Armed Forces have earned the best medical care available; and

**Whereas**, Those service members who are disabled as a result of their military service should be 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 provide both earned medical care and disability compensation to all military retirees and veterans.

## 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**, 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, and reductions in Medicare reimbursement rates.

## 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 go on record as supporting H.R. 237 which would amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a refundable credit to military retirees for premiums paid 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 opposes the imposition of prescription medical or pharmacy user fees on military retirees and their dependents who use pharmacies on military bases.

## RESOLUTION #5

**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 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.

## 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.

# AMRA LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTIONS 2010-2011

## RESOLUTION #7

**WHEREAS**, The American Military Retirees Association (AMRA) is dedicated to the protection of earned benefits of ALL military retirees; and

**WHEREAS**, A service member earns certain retirement benefits; and

**WHEREAS**, Some of those retirees are also entitled to disability benefits by and through the Veteran's Administration; and,

**WHEREAS**, The disability benefit reduces the amount of otherwise earned retirement benefits; and,

**WHEREAS**, Those who do not retire are also entitled to VA disability benefits; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That AMRA will work legislatively to encourage members of Congress to enact laws that remove the off-set approach for retirees who also receive the disability benefits, allowing honorably retired service members to receive both earned benefits in full.

## 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 prepare a request 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.

## 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 will use its ability to partner with like-minded VSOs to continue to push for efforts 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 call upon the responsible agency to fully fund and execute military funeral honors for every fallen warrior - a final gift from the American People as a symbol of the nation's enduring respect.

## RESOLUTION #11

**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 shall support Joint Congressional Resolution 15 which reads: "The Congress shall have power to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States."

## RESOLUTION #12

**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 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.

# DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK RESOLUTION 1

**Whereas**, there are over two million military retirees from the various branches of the Armed Forces; and

**Whereas**, military retirees as a group add value to every community through their high education levels and lower unemployment rates; and

**Whereas**, military retirees bring taxable income into the areas in which they reside; and

**Whereas**, military retirees as a group represent high home ownership rates in communities in which they dwell, thus contributing to a low crime rate; and

**Whereas**, military retirees possess commendable job skills which combine with their maturity, patriotism and practiced self-discipline to bring balance and stability into communities which welcome them; and

**Whereas**, the American Military Retirees Association welcomes military retirees from all branches and all ranks of the Active Duty, Guard and Reserve forces, as well as their surviving spouses and those who would have completed a career had they been able, the 100% totally and permanently service-connected disabled; therefore be it

**Resolved**, that the AMRA National Committee should petition the Federal Government to make the anniversary of the founding of the American Military Retirees Association, the 27th of September (1973) "Military Retiree Appreciation Day" in the United States of America;

And be it further

**Resolved**, that the National Organization shall also pass a resolution confirming their support for our request.

Submitted by: The Officers of the Department of New York

  
Kathy L. Baumgarten, Department President

Adopted at the Department of New York Annual Convention held on  
May 15th, 2010 in Utica, New York

Certified by:

  
Geoffrey Ciereck, Department Secretary

## DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK RESOLUTION 2

**Whereas**, military retirees and other veterans alike rely upon the advice and services of county veterans services offices or agencies, and their officers for help with VA related claims; and

**Whereas**, there are over 26.5 million veterans nationally and over one million in the state of New York alone, who potentially may need advice about VA home loans, GI Bill or other VA services or may one day make claims for a service-connected disability through these local veterans service offices; and

**Whereas**, in many communities, the veterans service office or agency is staffed by appointees who may or may not have any military experience which might make them compassionate toward the concerns and needs of those they serve, as well as understand military systems; and

**Whereas**, in these cases not only the veterans and their families, but the taxpayers are not well served when this department functions poorly; and

**Whereas**, the Department of Veterans Affairs in some cases may be handicapped on their end in processing claims on the behalf of veterans which are poorly organized; and

**Whereas**, the Headquarters of the American Military Retirees Association routinely hears complaints from its members nationwide as to the inefficiency or inattentiveness of their local county or area veterans service agent or officer; and

**Whereas**, in these cases not only the veterans but the taxpayers are not well served; and

**Whereas**, in all too many communities, the local veterans organizations have been forced to train their own service officers to do the job which these county or area agents or officers should rightly be doing; and

**Whereas**, since 1998, the Clinton County, New York Legislature has authorized a group of representatives from local veterans organizations (known as the Clinton County Veterans Advisory Council), to review the performance of the Director of Veterans Service Agency and the operations of that department, and then make a recommendation to the Legislature as to the appointment, reappointment or non-appointment of said officer, evaluating the operation of the Agency and reporting any Veterans issues, and if they feel cause and the Director is not appointed/re-appointed, the committee is empowered to conduct a search for qualified new applicants, ranking them by order of preference to the Legislature for appointment; and

**Whereas**, as a result of this oversight Council, Clinton County New York has a high level of efficiency as well as local veterans having the most accepted claims; and

**Whereas**, this Council is reportedly the only such group operating in the Nation; therefore be it

**Resolved**, that the AMRA National Board should encourage and direct its members, Chapters and Departments to promote the formation of such Councils whenever possible;  
And be it further

**Resolved**, that the National Organization shall also pass a resolution confirming their support for our request.

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## DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK RESOLUTION 4

**Whereas**, the number of active military installations has decreased; and

**Whereas**, there are as many categories of military retiree annuitants as there are “veterans.”; and

**Whereas**, while one portion of military annuitants is aging and cannot travel the distances necessary to renew ID cards and keep enrolled in DEERS; and

**Whereas**, surviving spouses who are not collecting SBP or DIC may not only be “off the DoD radar” but also may be unsure of the benefits they are entitled to; and

**Whereas**, subsequent to the events of September 11th, 2001, the VA has received more funding from Congress and is expanding its system of health care facilities and has thus received more publicity; and

**Whereas**, since, in many cases, the two populations of annuitants and veterans cross over (with many retirees being entitled by income or disability to VA programs) and due to the VA’s commitment to electronic health records which transfer over from their active service, as well as the other veterans programs to which both veterans and retirees are entitled to (such as VA home loans and burials); therefore be it

**Resolved**, that the Department of New York should propose that the National Organization to petition the VA and DoD on behalf of our membership to explore the possibility of co-locating TRICARE Service Centers (TSC) and DEERS Enrollment/Military ID Card functions within existing VA facilities in order to increase accessibility to the benefits and entitlements of military retirees, 100% service-connected, disabled, their dependents and/or surviving spouses in the United States;  
And be it further

**Resolved**, That the National Organization shall also pass a resolution confirming their support for our request.

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