

AMERICAN MILITARY RETIREES ASSOCIATION (AMRA)

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTIONS 2016-2017

BENEFITS

RESOLUTION #1

WHEREAS, The American Military Retirees Association (AMRA) believes that the common good of the United States is served by having a strong national defense; and **WHEREAS**, AMRA is committed to ensuring that no law is passed or amended which would degrade our nation's military strength and/or capabilities; and **WHEREAS**, Laws and policies, passed or enacted, that erode or otherwise negatively impact our nation's military retirees have a direct impact on our current and future national security in that active duty uniformed members and potential enlistees will be much less likely to volunteer or continue service to retirement in the profession of arms if they perceive that military retirees will be or have been taken advantage of upon faithful completion of service; therefore, be it **RESOLVED**, That the American Military Retirees Association stands ready to defend against any attempt by lawmakers to further erode earned military retiree benefits for current and future retirees in areas such as health care, retirement pay and quality of life benefits.

RESOLUTION #2

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 health, limbs and blood, certain retirement benefits, including the best medical care available; and **WHEREAS**, Many of those retirees are also entitled to disability benefits and/or medical care through the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA); 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; and **WHEREAS**, Those service members who are disabled as a result of their military service should be granted the best medical care our nation can provide, by the agency designated to serve them, the Veterans Administration; and **WHEREAS**, The performance of the Veterans Administration has often fallen short of the standards expected; therefore, be it **RESOLVED**, That AMRA shall continue to demand lawmaker oversight of the VA while supporting 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 #3

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, No other government agency is subject to “means testing” to determine healthcare fees; 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; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the American Military Retirees Association (AMRA) vigorously OPPOSES increases in TRICARE fees, the imposition of new fees, including the use of means testing, and equally vigorously SUPPORTS the ability to pay TRICARE premiums and associated supplemental insurance with pre-tax dollars.

RESOLUTION #4

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 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 unwarranted financial burden of military retirees paying for coverage under Medicare Part B. Further, AMRA strenuously OPPOSES TFL enrollment fees and similar added costs.

RESOLUTION #5

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 #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, SBP is a DOD program that provides income protection to survivors of retired military personnel. Upon retirement, uniformed service members may elect to make monthly contributions of 6.5% of their retirement pay. This serves as a monthly premium and on the occasion of the retired service member's death his or her dependents receive 55% of the deceased service member's retirement pay; and

WHEREAS, A military retiree's death may be the result of a service-connected condition; and

WHEREAS, As a result of the service-connected death, the surviving spouse is eligible for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC); and

WHEREAS, Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) is a Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) program that provides a modest monthly annuity to survivors of a service member, active duty or veteran, who dies from a service-connected condition; and

WHEREAS, Current law makes military widows forfeit a dollar of their SBP for each dollar of DIC that is received; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That AMRA will work with lawmakers and other Veteran Service Organizations to advance legislation that will repeal the current dollar-for-dollar offset in order to allow surviving spouses to receive the full amount of both of these earned benefits.

MILITARY CITIZENS

RESOLUTION #7

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, setting 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 #8

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 unaccounted-for service members from wars and conflicts 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 to account for all missing and unaccounted-for service members and those known to have been captured as Prisoners of War (POW) during all 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; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the American Military Retirees Association SUPPORT the Secretary of Defense's establishment of a centralized database and case management system containing all missing service members' information in order to improve the search, identification and recovery process.

RESOLUTION #9

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 #10

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 #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 (AMRA) shall SUPPORT House Joint Resolution #9: "*Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United*

States giving Congress 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 (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.