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JWV 2019 Resolutions

BURN PITS

WHEREAS, there is significant evidence that exposure to the smoke and fumes arising out of open burn pits that existed and still exist; and

WHEREAS, burn pits were and are used to dispose of everything from medical waste, spent ammunition, food waste, batteries, dead animals and human body parts; and

WHEREAS, while recognizing some illnesses caused by the burn pit have yet to be fully acknowledged, the extent of the illnesses caused by exposure to the smoke and fumes of the burn pits is truly understated.

WHEREAS, these illnesses include but are not limited to: asthma and other pulmonary illnesses, autoimmune diseases, various and numerous cancers.

THEREFORE, the Jewish War Veterans of the USA calls upon the Department of Veterans Affairs to take cognizance of the scope of illnesses caused by exposure to the noxious fumes and smoke arising out of burn pits and provide all necessary treatment and appropriate compensation.

Furthermore, the Jewish War Veterans of the USA supports identical bills H.R. 663 and S.191, the Burn Pit Registry Act, pending before Congress.
CREMAINS

WHEREAS, there are cremated remains (cremains) in storage in funeral homes, hospitals and morgues throughout the country; and

WHEREAS, these cremains may have been left where they remain due to misunderstandings on the part of family members or due to the failure of someone to make payments to funeral directors; and

WHEREAS, these remains may be veterans, their spouses or dependent children; and

WHEREAS, these remains deserve placement in a final resting place with appropriate dignity and honor; and

WHEREAS, it is the sacred duty of every veterans’ service organization to locate and place in final repose the cremains of all veterans, their spouses and dependent children; and

WHEREAS, it is the moral obligation of every site where cremains are located to assist the veterans’ service organizations render final honors to veterans, their spouses and dependent children without costs and with the respect due our veterans and their families.

THEREFORE, the Jewish War Veterans of the USA calls upon the states to enact legislation that would facilitate the purposes of this Resolution.

Furthermore, the Jewish War Veterans of the USA calls upon Congress to enact such legislation that assist the states fund any costs that the states may incur in carrying out the purposes of this Resolution.
DENTAL CARE FOR VETERANS

WHEREAS, there are veterans who are in need of dental services but cannot afford them; and

WHEREAS, many of these veterans are disabled in some respect as a result of their military service; and

WHEREAS, we are keenly aware that good oral health is important to the health of the whole body; and

WHEREAS, without good oral health the condition of other parts of the body will deteriorate.

THEREFORE, the Jewish War Veterans of the USA calls upon Congress to support H.R.96 that would amend Title 38 of the United States Code to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish dental care in the same manner as any other medical service to all eligible servicemembers.
EXPEDITED TSA SCREENING FOR DISABLED VETERANS

WHEREAS, there is now before Congress the Veterans Expedited TSA Screening Safe Travel Act (S.1881 and H.R.3356); and

WHEREAS, the Act, if passed, would permit certain severely injured or disabled veterans to be pre-screened at no cost to the veteran if the veteran meets the background check and other security requirements for participation in the program; and

WHEREAS, the term “severely injured or disabled” is defined as having had a loss, or having lost the use of one limb, or having become paralyzed or partially paralyzed or having incurred permanent blindness and as a result of this loss, paralysis, or blindness, must use a wheelchair, prosthetic limb or other assistive devise to aid with mobility.

THEREFORE, the Jewish War Veterans of the USA asks Congress to promptly enact the Veterans Expedited TSA Screening Safe Travel Act (S.1881 and H.R.3356.).
HOUSING GRANTS FOR DISABLED VETERANS

WHEREAS, current law permits only a one-time use of a federal grant for adaptive housing; and

WHEREAS, this grant is available only to service-connected double amputees, blind and those with serious and profound burns; and

WHEREAS, in today's world, many citizens move from their “starter house” to a second and third house, each move maybe requiring a widening of door opening and hallways, adding walk-in showers with bench seats, lowing countertops and adding wheelchair ramps to access the house, and

WHEREAS, there is now before Congress the “Ryan Kules Specially Adaptive Housing Improvement Act” named after a double amputee who had to pay out of his own pocket for his needed adaptive renovations to a larger home after he and his wife had three children; and

WHEREAS, the proposed legislation would permit grants up to $100,000 once every ten years, and

WHEREAS, the proposed legislation is a recognition of the American mobile society and the wounded warriors having unique requirements that must be met in order for them to have relatively comfortable residences.

THEREFORE, the Jewish War Veterans of the USA goes on record supporting H.R.3504, the Ryan Kules Specially Adaptive Housing Improvement Act of 2019.
MATURENITY LEAVE FOR MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVES

WHEREAS, in 2016 the Department of Defense authorized 12 weeks of maternity leave for female members of the active-duty components; and

WHEREAS, this authorization was not extended to members of the reserve and National Guard components of the Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, by taking unpaid maternity women in the National Guard and reserve lose salary, leave time, retirement credits and time in grade for opportunities for promotions; and

WHEREAS, according Senator Jerry Moran (KS) there are some 150,000 women in the National Guard or reserve; and

WHEREAS, Senator Moran (KS) has sponsored the Mothers of Military Leave Act (MOMS Leave Act) that would extend to women in the National Guard and reserve the same benefits received by women in the active components.

THEREFORE, the Jewish War Veterans of the USA supports the MOMS Leave Act so as to encourage women to join and remain in the National Guard and reserve and to extend to them the same benefits extended to members of the active components.
MEMBERSHIP DEFINED

WHEREAS, since the end of World War II, the Federal Government has designated specific periods of war, the dates of which are important for qualification for certain benefits or membership in veterans organizations established by Congress; and

WHEREAS, in between those recognized periods of war, during the so-called peacetime eras, the United States military has been involved in no fewer than 12 known eras, which are unrecognized by the United States Government as periods of war, resulting in numerous United States personnel combat casualties; and

WHEREAS, those 12 unrecognized war eras occurred at the direction of the then President of the United States, with the full knowledge and consent of the then Congress; and

WHEREAS, since January 1, 1947 through all of the unrecognized war eras involving military United States personnel, not fewer than 778 combat and non-combat members of the Armed Forces have sacrificed their lives in service to the United States and not fewer than 797 have been wounded; and

WHEREAS, since January 1, 1947, the unrecognized war eras involving active United States personnel who were wounded and killed serving their country were administered under orders from the commander-in-chief and with the consent of Congress, proving that the United States has been conducting deadly wartime service to protect the country consistently since December 7, 1941; and

WHEREAS, eligibility for membership in the Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America is determined by Congress through the establishment of specific dates of declared and officially recognized hostilities in which United States military personnel are on active service; and

WHEREAS, the Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America provides invaluable services to its members and supports the community of veterans who sacrificed in service of the United States; and

WHEREAS, membership in the Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America allows veterans to engage in public service activities, such as escorting veterans to sporting events, holding bingo parties at veterans’ facilities, sponsoring show at veterans’ facilities, and conducting barbeques at veterans’ homes; and

WHEREAS, the Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America has gone on record as supporting the warriors of the 12 unrecognized war eras involving active United States military personnel since the beginning of World War II; and

WHEREAS, the Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America has aided, assisted, and comforted the families of the men and women who were called to serve or volunteered to serve during all of the unrecognized war eras and continues to provide support to veterans of those eras; and

WHEREAS, the Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America has commended the
heroic actions of all military personnel who risked their lives in defense of freedom during each of the unrecognized war eras involving active United States personnel.

**THEREFORE,** the Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America petitions Congress that, in accordance with the history, tradition, and purposes of the Jewish War Veterans of America, it is fair, proper, and reasonable that the privilege of membership in the Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America should be extended to all military personnel who served on active duty during all of the unrecognized war eras involving active United States military personnel.
THE MILITARY HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

WHEREAS, a well-trained, deployable, and mission capable corps of medical professionals, covering a wide range of specialties, is essential to sustain military readiness; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Defense (DoD) submitted a fiscal year (FY) 2020 budget which eliminates nearly 18,000 military medical positions; roughly a 20% reduction in staffing; and

WHEREAS, deep cuts in medical staffing will impact the quality and availability of battlefield care, thereby degrading warfighting capability; and

WHEREAS, planners anticipate the Graduate Medical Education (GME) pipeline will be disrupted, jeopardizing future readiness; and

WHEREAS, cuts to pediatric, obstetrical, and gynecological care will negatively impact families, the recruitment and retention of women in service, and the appeal of a military career; and

WHEREAS, robust civilian healthcare networks are frequently lacking in the rural areas where many installations are located, and often overextended in urban areas, especially those with large retiree populations; and

WHEREAS, increased reliance on civilian health care for active duty servicemembers and their families, coupled with an expected upsurge in VA referrals under the new Mission Act, will strain the already limited pool of practitioners willing to accept Medicare and Tricare’s below-market reimbursement rates; and

WHEREAS, disruptions to military healthcare will be further exacerbated by DoD’s decision to accelerate the consolidation of management and administration of all Service’s military treatment facilitates (MTFs) under the Defense Health Agency (DHA), where what was to have been a measured three-year transition is now slated to take effect on October 1st of this year.

THEREFORE, the Jewish War Veterans of the USA urges Congress and the Department of Defense to delay the execution of these draconian measures until a comprehensive impact study can be conducted and evaluated.
MONITORING OF FOR-PROFIT COLLEGES

WHEREAS, the Government Accountability Office reported that 50 colleges received 30% of the student Post-9/11 benefits; and

WHEREAS, about one-half of this money went to for-profit colleges; and

WHEREAS, 25% went of private non-profit colleges and another 22% went to public colleges; and

WHEREAS, the sudden, unannounced closing of colleges owned by Education Corporation of America, Vatterott Educational Centers and Dream Center Education left tens of thousands of former students with serious doubts of their educational futures; and

WHEREAS, according to The Chronicle of Higher Education more than 1,000 for-profit colleges campuses closed between 2014-2018; and

WHEREAS, when students transfer between public institutions there is a 37% loss of credits, but when students transfer from a for-profit institution to a public institution, there is a 94% loss of credit; and

WHEREAS, the GAO report, also, found that student veterans were less likely to graduate in six years than at public and non-profit colleges; and

WHEREAS, a separate GAO audit found that GI benefits were going to programs that had issues with approvals, changes or reviews or “potentially erroneous, deceptive, or misleading advertisements,” and

WHEREAS, the closing of the institutions and the impact such closings have on the student veteran may cause the venerable veterans suffering from psychological issues arising out of their service serious, exasperation of their psychological problems.

THEREFORE, the Jewish War Veterans of the USA calls upon Congress and the Departments of Education and Veterans Affairs to strictly monitor these for-profit colleges and institutions so as to prevent the veterans from being scammed and to protect the public from con artists who create a college, advertise it widely and are out solely to make fast and easy money without any concern for the veterans and others who suffer at their hands.
PROSTHESES FOR WOMEN VETERANS

WHEREAS, women veterans are 10 percent of the veterans’ population, 17 percent of the current military population and 30 percent of the military academy population; and

WHEREAS, women are now playing an ever-increasing role in military operations that exposes them to the possibility of injury and amputation; and

WHEREAS, while the Department of Veterans Affairs and other research facilities have made tremendous strides toward improved prostheses, such development conforms to the male anatomy rather that of the female; and

WHEREAS, there appears to be a vast disparity between gender-specific development of prostheses conforming to the male and female body and frame.

THEREFORE, the Jewish War Veterans of the USA calls upon the Department of Veterans Affairs and other research centers to design and redesign prostheses to accommodate the female body and frame.
WHEREAS, Rosie the Riveter was a fictional character created by the United States government during World War II to highlight and symbolize the contributions of women toward the total war effort; and

WHEREAS, Rosie has never been given the recognition she so rightly deserves; and

WHEREAS, there is now before both houses of Congress the Rosie the Riveter Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2019; and

WHEREAS, there has been little progress in moving these bills to a vote in either House; and

WHEREAS, Congressional approval of these non-controversial bills should be posted on the boards of both Houses for a vote and should be passed by both houses without dissent and signed by the President with proper fanfare.

THEREFORE, the Jewish War Veterans of the USA calls upon the Senator Majority Leader and the Speaker of the House to immediately post identical bills and both Houses of Congress pass the bills by acclimation and signed by the President.
SALARIES IN THE MILITARY

WHEREAS, there are members of the American military living below the poverty level; and

WHEREAS, there are additional members of the American military who qualify for food stamps (SNAP), and other assistance programs; and

WHEREAS, the members of the military who place themselves in harms’ way to defend our freedoms and the American way of life deserve better; and

WHEREAS, the position seemingly enunciated by the Department of Defense is that today’s military is well paid.

THEREFORE, the Jewish War Veterans of the USA calls upon Congress, in consultation with the Department of Defense to re-examine the salary structure to the military with an in-depth look at the salaries of the junior (E-5 and below) enlisted ranks.
SEATING AMERICAN NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS AGAINST TERRORISM ACT OF 2019

WHEREAS, the House of Representatives has passed The Securing American Non-Profit Organizations Against Terrorism Act of 2019; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Act has been laid before the Senate for its’ action; and

WHEREAS, the proposal provides for grants through the States from the Department of Homeland Security for such actions as the hardening of qualified facilities and the training of staff to prevent or respond to terrorist attacks; and

WHEREAS, we must recognize that not all individuals come to this country to engage in terroristic activities but many are in the Nation legally, i.e., by birth or qualifying for citizenship; and

WHEREAS, it is their objective to kill as many individuals as they can whose sole qualification for their hatred is they differ from the terrorists.

THEREFORE, the Jewish War Veterans of the USA calls upon the Senate to quickly pass the Securing American Non-Profit Organizations Against Terrorism Act of 2019 (S.1539.)
SECURING MISSING MILITARY RECORDS

WHEREAS, it is frequently necessary to secure records from the Department of Defense in order to receive veterans’ benefits; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Defense records were and are stored in several central repositories; and

WHEREAS, there was fire at the St. Louis repository in July 1973 in which many records were completely destroyed; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the destruction of these records numerous veterans cannot prove their service and are, thus, denied the veterans’ benefits to which they are entitled; and

WHEREAS, the quagmire exists through no fault of the veteran.

THEREFORE, the Jewish War Veterans of the USA calls upon the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs to accept affidavits from veterans or heirs whose records were destroyed in the fire at the St. Louis repository, or under other conditions beyond the control of the veteran, as proof of service and, thereby, extend to the veteran the full extent of benefits available.
SEXUAL ASSAULT IN THE MILITARY

WHEREAS, an anonymous bi-annual survey performed by the Department of Defense found that more than 20,000 service members suffered some form of sexual assault but that only one-third had filed a formal report; and

WHEREAS, reports of sexual assault in the military jumped by 13 percent in the last year; and

WHEREAS, the survey number is about 37 percent higher than two years ago when the survey was last performed; and

WHEREAS, the Army reported an 18 percent increase, the Marines a 23 percent increase, the Navy a seven percent increase and the Air Force a four percent increase; and

WHEREAS, any sexual assault anywhere is wholly unacceptable but sexual assault in the military signifies that the guilty party is not being loyal to another member to the military and, as Gen. Robert Neller, Commandant of the Marine Corps recently said, his troops “cannot truly be loyal to our nation without first being loyal to each other.”

THEREFORE, the Jewish War Veterans of the USA calls upon the military to vigorously prosecute those accused of sexual assault while protecting their victims from further insult and injury.
SUICIDE PREVENTION

WHEREAS, there has NOT been a significant (if any) decrease in the number of suicides among veterans; and

WHEREAS, there continues to be need for more mental health professionals directly involved in the identification of at-risk veterans and active duty personnel; and

WHEREAS, there has been a significant increase in federal funding, i.e., almost a doubling in the past ten years; and

WHEREAS, there has been and continues to be a growing awareness as to the number of suicides among the veterans’ population; and

WHEREAS, several states have taken the approach that with the increase in federal funding they can save state resources by cutting funding for state suicide-prevention programs.

THEREFORE, the Jewish War Veterans of the USA calls upon the states to continue to fully fund suicide-prevention projects and research into the causation of self-destructive behaviors.
SURVIVORS’ BENEFIT PLAN

WHEREAS, there now exists a mandate to reduce surviving spouses of the military their survivor annuities under the Survivors’ Benefit Plan; and

WHEREAS, this offset is taken from their receipt of veterans’ dependency and indemnity compensation; and

WHEREAS, Dependency and Indemnity Compensation is paid for service-connected death; and

WHEREAS, current policy allows for an off-set of approximately $1,258.00 per month or approximately $15,095 per year; and

WHEREAS, this sum can place a great hardship on many surviving military families.

THEREFORE, the Jewish War Veterans of the USA calls upon Congress to pass the Military Surviving Spouses Equity Act as now before it.
TAXING OF COMBAT PAY

WHEREAS, several states impose state income tax upon the income of men and women in combat areas; and

WHEREAS, the very definition of the term “combat area” is that the individual is in an area where there is the distinct possible of being wounded or killed as a result of hostile fire; and

WHEREAS, these individuals are in harm’s way doing service where their government says they need to be in order to protect the unique American democracy; and

WHEREAS, those states that place an income tax on pay earned in a hostile fire area show a callous disregard for the fact that these men and women are suffering separation from their families and, in most instances are, also, suffering a decrease in total family income.

THEREFORE, the Jewish War Veterans of the USA calls upon those states that tax income earned in a hostile fire area to forego that practice and declare all pay earned while the servicemember is receiving combat pay to be tax-exempt income for all purposes.
USE OF VA FACILITIES BY VETERAN SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

WHEREAS, Veterans Service Organizations have been meeting in Department of Veterans Affairs facilities across the country for many years; and

WHEREAS, these same Veterans Service Organizations perform many hours of volunteer hours to the facilities and donate considerable funds to maintain the facilities and make them more hospitable to the veterans who may utilize or reside at the facilities; and

WHEREAS, there is a healthy symbiosis between the Department of Veterans Affairs facilities and the Veterans Service Organizations that meet in these facilities.

THEREFORE, the Jewish War Veterans of USA calls upon the Department of Veterans Affairs to foster positive relationships between the Department and the Veterans Service Organizations by allowing the Veterans Service Organizations to use VA facilities for meetings.
VETERANS’ COURTS

WHEREAS, veterans’ courts have proven to decrease significantly recidivism rates among veterans who come before such courts wherever they have been established; and

WHEREAS, the costs incurred to properly fund these courts can be a considerable drain on the resources of the local visage; and

WHEREAS, there needs to be adequate funding for these courts from sources other than the local visage.

THEREFORE, the Jewish War Veterans of the USA calls upon the states where veterans’ courts do not exist to establish such courts; and

FURTHERMORE, the Jewish War Veterans of the USA asks those states where veterans’ court do exist to provide adequate funding so as to ensure that the veterans’ courts can provide the programs necessary to be successful in the missions.