



Jewish War Veterans
of the United States of America

Resolutions

2022

2022 RESOLUTIONS

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SUPPORT THE AUTO FOR VETERANS ACT

WHEREAS, This Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), under Section 3903(a) of title 38, United States Code, provides eligible disabled veterans with a one-time Automobile Grant to help with the purchase of a new or used automobile to accommodate a veteran with certain disabilities that resulted from a condition incurred or aggravated during active military service; and

WHEREAS, Section 3903(a) of title 38, United States Code, does not provide for a replacement vehicle; and

WHEREAS, The current replacement cost, aggravated by inflation, presents a tremendous financial hardship for many veterans with disabilities when their vehicle reaches the end of its useful life; and

WHEREAS, The AUTO for Veterans Act, S.444 and H.R.1361, would lessen the veteran's financial burden when replacing their vehicle by allowing them to receive an Automobile Grant every ten years.

THEREFORE, The Jewish War Veterans of the USA urges the United States Senate and the United States House of Representatives to respectively pass S.444 and H.R.1361 allowing the VA to reduce the financial hardship on disabled veterans.



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FACILITATE THE NATURALIZATION OF VETERANS WHO SERVED HONORABLY

WHEREAS, members of the military and veterans have been eligible for United States Citizenship either during or after their service; and

WHEREAS, some or many former members of the military are being deported frequently for criminal offenses often arising out of psychological injuries incurred during their service; and

WHEREAS, many of these veterans and members of the military are using substances that are now legal in numerous states; and

WHEREAS, military recruiters induced young individual that enlistment in the military was a path to citizenship; and

WHEREAS, current and former servicemembers are denied citizenship as a far higher percent than civilians; and

WHEREAS, Immigration Judges should be allowed to consider as a positive equity an individual's honorable military service into their decision whether or not to deport said veteran; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 1182, Veteran Deportation Prevention and Reform Act, first introduced on February 18, 2021, was referred to the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs which held hearings without result on March 19, 2022; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 1183, Honoring the Oath Act of 2021, also first introduced on February 18, 2021, and also referred to the House Veterans; Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs, and which also held hearings without result on March 19, 2022; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 4382, Repatriate our Patriots Act, first introduced on July 9, 2021, was referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary, and is still with that committee without action.

THEREFORE, The Jewish War Veterans of the USA calls upon the United States Government to immediately halt the deportation of current and former service members and veterans; and

FURTHERMORE, To pardon and provide a path to citizenship for deported veterans whose criminal activities are a consequence of Post Traumatic Syndrome or other issues traceable to their military service; and

FURTHERMORE, For the United States House of Representatives to quickly pass H.R.1182, H.R.1183, and H.R.4382.



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PROGRAM OF COMPREHENSIVE ASSISTANCE FOR FAMILY CAREGIVERS (PCAFC)

WHEREAS, This Veterans Administration (VA) program provides assistance to home bound disabled veterans in the form of assistance to caregivers; and

WHEREAS, After months of controversy, the annual reassessment program was found to be flawed and the VA agreed to halt all assessments until such time as the rules and policies associated with the benefit can be revised; and

WHEREAS, The VA agreed not to reduce or discharge stipends for any families based on earlier reassessments; and

WHEREAS, The program provides monthly financial support to about 33,000 veterans in need of full time at home care; and

WHEREAS, This program is currently only open to veterans who have incurred or aggravated a serious injury in the line of duty on or before May 7, 1975, or on or after September 11, 2001; and

WHEREAS, The program was scheduled to expand to all veterans on October 1, 2022; and

WHEREAS, Those currently eligible need to be properly cared for before the VA opens and expands the program; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 6823, also known as the “Elizabeth Dole Home and Community Based Services for Veterans and Caregivers Act of 2022” expands VA Home-Based Community Services nationwide, provides greater access to resources, and helps to determine which services provide optimal support for the caregiver and their family; and

WHEREAS, H.R.6823 allows caregivers who are ineligible for or were discharged from the PCAFC to automatically enroll in the Program of General Caregiver Support Services (PGCSS); and

WHEREAS, Passage of H.R.6823 would provide for a smooth transition between PCAFC and PGCSS.

THEREFORE, The Jewish War Veterans of the USA urges the VA to continue to revise the rules and policies associated with the benefits while continuing the moratorium on reassessments; and

FURTHERMORE, JWV urges the Congress to pass H.R.6823, as the first step as well as reissue new rules in the Federal Register for public comments to address the concerns expressed by VSOs during several working group sessions with Veterans Health Administration officials.



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SUPPORT FOR COMBAT INJURED VETERANS THROUGH THE RICHARD STAR ACT

WHEREAS, Combat injured veterans forced into early retirement by their injury are not receiving their vested longevity pay; and

WHEREAS, The disabled veterans, often seriously disabled, are subject to an offset where their retirement pay is reduced for every dollar of VA disability received, in some case completely losing their retirement pay; and

WHEREAS, Reducing retirement pay due to a combat incurred injury is clearly an injustice for combat injured veterans, many of whom require full time care; and

WHEREAS, This causes increased stress and financial concerns often requiring family members to give up their employment to help the disabled veteran; and

WHEREAS, Congress acknowledged this as an injustice and partially fixed it through the FY 2004 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) but this fix excluded those who were injured in combat and forced to retire before completing 20 years of service; and

WHEREAS, The Major Richard Star Act (H.R.1282) (S.344) will correct this injustice; and

WHEREAS, This Act would support more than 50,300 combat disabled veterans by allowing concurrent receipt of vested longevity pay and VA disability pay.

THEREFORE, The Jewish War Veterans of the USA urges the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate to work together to quickly pass the Major Richard Star Act in order to fairly compensate these disabled retirees for their service and their sacrifice.



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SUPPORT THE CARS FOR VETERANS ACT

WHEREAS, The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) offers two types of grants, The VA Automobile Adaptive Equipment Grant and the Automobile Grant, which are often used together to help veterans with disabilities buy a specially adapted vehicle or to modify an existing vehicle; and

WHEREAS, The Automobile Adaptive Equipment (AAE) program, which can be used more than once, provides funding to make modifications to a vehicle that will assist a veteran with disabilities in entering, exiting, and/or operating that vehicle; and

WHEREAS, This grant also provides reimbursement for equipment deemed necessary by the VA for veterans with service-connected disabilities, such as wheelchair lifts and digital driving systems, and power steering which reduces steering effort; and

WHEREAS, The Automobile Grant is a one-time grant to assist a disabled veteran to purchase an automobile; and

WHEREAS, H.R.3304, the CARS for Vets Act, would lessen the financial burden for veterans with service-connected disabilities when replacing their vehicle by allowing them to receive an Automobile Grant every ten years; and

WHEREAS, H.R.3304 would also update the VA Adaptive Equipment Grant to include expanded categories of adaptive equipment such as van lifts, raised roofs, air conditioning, and wheelchair vehicle securements.

THEREFORE, The Jewish War Veterans of the USA urges the United States House of Representatives to pass H.R.3304, allowing the VA to reduce the financial hardship on disabled veterans.



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VA ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD MODERNIZATION

WHEREAS, The Electronic Health Record Modernization (EHRM) program is to provide a seamless and paperless transition for Veterans as they transition from receiving care at Department of Defense (DOD) facilities while on active duty to receiving care at Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) facilities; and

WHEREAS, A recently released Office of Inspector General draft report in 2022 outlines very troubling problems leading to patients being harmed; and

WHEREAS, Several rollouts of the program have been delayed including the one in Boise, ID until issues are resolved and VA is confident that patients are not at risk; and

WHEREAS, Patient safety is paramount and VA clinicians must be both properly trained on the system and comfortable with the Cerner EEHR system.

THEREFORE, The Jewish War Veterans of the USA urges the VA to halt further deployment of the Electronic Health Records System until all patient safety issues are resolved and clinicians are comfortable in using the EHR; and

FURTHERMORE, JWV strongly supports continued Congressional action ordering VA to report performance of the troubled EHR system to Congress as well as continue to share updates with JWV and other VSOs.



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SUPPORT FOR THE EXPANDING AMERICA'S NATIONAL CEMETERY ACT OF 2022

WHEREAS, The FY 2019 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) required a plan to ensure Arlington National Cemetery (ANC) operations would continue “well into the future,” and the Department of Defense (DoD) interpreted this as a directive to reduce eligibility. and

WHEREAS, The draft rule change is pending as part of the federal rulemaking process; if enacted, the hardest hit will be Vietnam and Cold War-era veterans who have planned on this benefit for decades; and

WHEREAS, Such a rule change would be discriminatory as women who were barred by law from service in combat occupations and units until recently will be denied interment at ANC despite their dedication, gallant and often dangerous service to their country; and

WHEREAS, It was not the original intent of the 2019 NDAA to end this benefit for women, 20-year retirees, and elderly veterans; and

WHEREAS, Changing the rules is a cost cutting measure that comes on the backs of military retirees and others whose final plans included burial at a national cemetery; and

WHEREAS, The Expanding America's National Cemetery Act of 2022 has yet to be introduced in either chamber, and a draft version of the law doesn't specifically address the planned reduction of eligibility at ANC, but it takes significant steps toward a long-term solution; and

WHEREAS, The Act would authorize the transformation of a VA run national cemetery “to continue provision of full military honors” prior to ANC reaching capacity; and

WHEREAS, The Act would ensure all eligibility criteria used for full military honors at the proposed cemetery are the same as those in effect for ANC as of March 31, 2022; and

WHEREAS, This action would make Congress' intent clear regarding eligibility changes beyond that date, increasing the likelihood of the current process staying in place; and

WHEREAS, This would require a joint DoD/VA report covering both cemetery expansion and any new eligibility criteria, paying special attention to women veterans and to those whose military careers did not include service in combat, thus further clarifying Congress' intent to better account for these groups in the eligibility process.

THEREFORE, The Jewish War Veterans of the USA urges the United States Senate and the United States House of Representatives to jointly introduce and pass legislation supporting The Expanding America's National Cemetery Act of 2022.

