

DRAFT RESOLUTION 19-12

SUBJECT: Deported U. S. Military Veterans

SOURCE: HQ

WHEREAS, lawful permanent residents or green card holders have the legal right to reside, work, study, and own property in the United States, and they may also serve in the U.S. military and apply to become U.S. citizens once they meet eligibility requirements; and

WHEREAS, the Immigration and Nationality Act (I.N.A.) allows people born in other countries to gain U.S. citizenship through military service – in some cases without going through the usual preliminary step of getting a U.S. green card since the exact legal requirements depend on whether you served during peace or wartime; and

WHEREAS, foreign nationals can take steps toward citizenship by serving in the U.S. Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, or Coast Guard, or in a National Guard unit while the unit was federally recognized as a reserve component of the U.S. Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, during peacetime, foreign nationals must have at least one year of honorable service in the U.S. military and then must get a green card – after which they can apply for U.S. citizenship one year after receiving their green card; and

WHEREAS, foreign nationals who enlist in the U.S. armed forces during wartime can apply for U.S. citizenship after as early as their first day of service; and

WHEREAS, deported veterans are banned for life and can only return to the U.S. after they are dead. Honorably discharged veterans, even deportees, are entitled to burial in a National Cemetery with an engraved headstone and their casket draped with an American flag. The VA will pay \$300 toward the cost of bringing an eligible deportee’s remains to the United States; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that AMVETS believes that honorably discharged foreign nationals who served in the United States military who commit a crime after returning to civilian life should be treated the same as U.S. citizens—punished for any crimes they commit, but not deported.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

Armed Services & Military Liaison.....ADOPT AMEND REJECT NONE
Floor Action.....ADOPTED ADOPTED (as amended) REJECTED TABLED