RESOLUTION 12-14

SUBJECT: Protecting Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business and Veteran Owned Small Businesses in Federal Procurement

WHEREAS, The Department of Defense estimates an average of 160,000 service members transition out of their respective branch and return to civilian life annually; and

WHEREAS, America’s war-fighters transition back into civilian life, many are choosing to pursue lives as entrepreneurs, due to the lack of employment in today’s economy; and

WHEREAS, Given the almost 30 percent influx of newly established Veteran Owned Small Businesses and Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Businesses; and

WHEREAS, The federal government has long utilized billions of dollars of buying power through contracting to maximize the procurement opportunities for small businesses; and

WHEREAS, The Veterans Benefit Act of 2003 established the program, permitting contracting officers to award set-aside and sole-source contracts to any small business concern owned and controlled by one or more service-disabled veterans; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order 13360 assists SDVOSBs by requiring procurement officials and prime contractors incorporate opportunities for employment to SDVOSB as smaller or subcontractors working with the larger prime contractors: and now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, AMVETS calls upon Congress and the Department of Veterans Affairs to ensure SDVOSB and VOSB’s success in the federal procurement system becomes a top priority, be it through oversight or elimination of unsuccessful practices and programs; and be it further

RESOLVED, AMVETS calls for the implementation of regular, unannounced contract compliance audits.