RESOLUTION 13-06

SUBJECT: Claims and Appeals Backlog

WHEREAS, given the fact that the long existing claims and appeals backlog continues to grow each year and the consequent delays in the delivery of crucial disability benefits to veterans and their dependents; and

WHEREAS, the backlog of Department of Veterans Affairs claims and appeals is at an all time high, yet the Department of Veterans Affairs has still not implemented an electronic data exchange system; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Veterans Affairs is continuing to lose experienced claims and appeals processors and the newly hired processors are receiving inadequate training; and

WHEREAS, with our nation still at war on, the demand for Department of Veterans Affairs services and resources will continue to rise and is expected to remain high for the foreseeable future: now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That AMVETS urge Congress to ensure adequate funding and trained staff levels for the Department of Veterans Affairs to improve upon the timeliness and accuracy of all claims and appeals being filed; and be it further

RESOLVED, That AMVETS push for the Veterans Benefit Administration to process timely and accurate claims the first time they are reviewed, as well as the immediate implementation of a uniform data exchange claim processing system and improved claims and appeals processor training to ensure a timely and accurate claims and appeals process for every veteran.