RESOLUTION 13-08

SUBJECT: Polytraumatic Brain Injuries

WHEREAS, Service members are still being deployed to areas where they are at risk for experiencing blast exposure from improvised explosive devices (IEDs), suicide bombers, land mines, mortar rounds, rocket-propelled grenades and similar weapons systems; and

WHEREAS, The most prevalent blast injuries soldiers are sustaining are traumatic brain injuries (TBI); and

WHEREAS, A recent Centers for Disease Control/National Institutes of Health study found about 40 percent of those hospitalized with a TBI had at least one unmet need for services one year after their injury; and

WHEREAS, The overarching problem faced by the Department of Defense (DOD) and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is identifying symptoms resulting from TBI which are often difficult to definitively diagnose and document and which may not be immediately evident: now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, AMVETS is extremely concerned that DoD’s and VA’s failure to identify and treat TBI in a timely manner can have extremely negative effects on the service member’s quality of life and contribute to numerous other hindrances: and be it further

RESOLVED, AMVETS convey to Congress that it is of the utmost importance for VA to have all of the necessary policies, procedures and personnel in place to provide the care for all service members having sustained blast related brain injuries and the co-morbid injuries that will either immediately, or over time, accompany them.