RESOLUTION 13-13

SUBJECT: Increase Veterans Burial Benefits

WHEREAS, there has been serious erosion in the value of the burial allowance over the years; and

WHEREAS, while these benefits were never intended to cover the full costs of burial, they now pay for only a small fraction of what they covered in 1973 when the federal government first started paying burial benefits; and

WHEREAS, Congress has increased the plot allowance for certain veterans: now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that AMVETS believes there is still a serious deficit between the original value of the plot allowance benefit and its current value. Congress should increase the plot allowance for all eligible veterans and expand the eligibility for the plot allowance for all veterans who might be eligible for burial in a national cemetery, not just those who served during wartime; and be it further

RESOLVED, that AMVETS urges Congress to increase the service-connected and nonservice-connected burial benefits for veterans both inside and outside the radius threshold; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Congress should divide the burial benefits into two categories: veterans within the accessibility model and veterans outside the accessibility model; and be it further

RESOLVED, that AMVETS urges Congress and the Administration to provide the resources required to meet the critical and sensitive nature of the National Cemetery Administration’s (NCAs) mission thereby fulfilling the nation’s commitment to all veterans who have served their country so honorably and faithfully.