RESOLUTION 13-19

SUBJECT: VA and DoD Mental Health Funding and Programs

WHEREAS, 30 percent of returning soldiers will have experienced and eventually be diagnosed with a psychological trauma in one form or another that, left untreated may never heal and will to additional problems; and

WHEREAS, VA, DoD and the federal government have an obligation to these servicemembers, veterans and to the readiness of the entire fighting force; and

WHEREAS, Mental and emotional wounds can have disastrous effects not only on the veteran, but the family as well; and

WHEREAS, The suicide rate among active duty, Guard and Reserve has surpassed that of the civilian population and is steadily continuing to rise: now, therefore, be it

WHEREAS, The psychological effects of war vary from person to person and sometimes don’t show up for years: now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That AMVETS calls on Congress to substantially increase VA’s mental health care budget to adequately treat veterans suffering from psychological trauma;

RESOLVED, AMVETS urges DoD and VA to immediately develop easily accessible second person screenings for both pre and post deployment, in place of the current first person or self-assessment; and be it further

RESOLVED, AMVETS recommends that DoD and VA immediately develop and implement stronger patient confidentiality practices, so that those in true need of assistance shall not be deterred by fear of peer and/or superior’s criticisms, judgments’ or fear of being passed over for promotion; and be it further

RESOLVED, That AMVETS calls on Congress to substantially increase VA and DoD’s mental health care budgets to adequately treat veterans and servicemembers suffering from psychological trauma.

RESOLVED, AMVETS strongly recommends Congress appropriate more dedicated funding for mental health care and related programs and services during the next five fiscal year budgets and to annually review the effectiveness of said services in order to effectively treat servicemembers suffering from psychological trauma.