RESOLUTION 13-24

SUBJECT: Civilian Credentials for Military Training and Experience

WHEREAS, The U. S. Armed Forces provide some of the world’s best technical training and work experience; and

WHEREAS, Over forty percent of veterans return to civilian life with military skills and experience for which civilian credentials, such as licenses and certifications, often are required, and

WHEREAS, The ability of veterans to obtain civilian credentials based on their military training and experience can expedite their transition into the civilian workforce and improve their opportunities for career advancement; and

WHEREAS, The Montgomery GI Bill may be used to pay for the cost of credentialing exams, but may not be used to pay for licenses or certifications fees to help veterans prepare for the credentialing exams and the veteran must pay these costs in advance and then request reimbursement; and

WHEREAS, The Post-9/11 GI Bill may not be used for vocation education and training that veterans can use to obtain civilian credentials: now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That AMVETS supports a revision of the Montgomery GI Bill and Post-9/11 GI Bill to pay for all reasonable costs of civilian credentialing, including preparatory education and training courses, examination fees and the specific license and certifications to the service provider; and be it further resolved

RESOLVED, That the Department of Defense Transition Assistance Program sites ensure that active duty service members are informed about civilian credentials requirements in order to expedite their transition into the civilian workforce; and be it further

RESOLVED, That AMVETS urge the US Department of Labor and U.S. Department of Defense to provide transitioning veterans with appropriate documentation and/or civilian credentials related to their military training and experience prior to separation from military service and support efforts to increase acceptance of military training and experience by civilian employers, educational institutions and credentialing organizations.