WHEREAS, the AMVETS mission is to enhance and safeguard the entitlements for all American Veterans who have served honorably and to improve the quality of life for them, their families, and the communities where they live through leadership, advocacy and services; and

WHEREAS, given its mission and stated values, AMVETS needs to adopt a code of ethics to guide and protect its staff, officers, board members as well as members at all levels of the organization in their conduct when acting on behalf of or representing AMVETS; and

WHEREAS, the non-profit world is increasingly under scrutiny and the AMVETS Brand is not exempt from such evaluation from individual donors and/or media sensationalists; and

WHEREAS, the public is entrusting AMVETS staff, officers, board members and general members to run this organization in an efficient, productive, sensible and ethical manner on behalf of our nation’s veterans; and

WHEREAS, AMVETS, by adopting the following Code of Ethics, will proactively express, to both our members and the general public, our full commitment to upholding the highest organizational standards; and

WHEREAS, the Code contains broad principles reflecting the types of behavior that AMVETS expects of and/or between its members, donors, and the general public; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the following Code of Ethics be adopted by AMVETS and that upon said adoption, it will become Article XX in the AMVETS National Bylaws –

In all matters where staff, officers, board members or general members are representing AMVETS they shall:

1. Provide credible and effective oversight to the organization’s work without personal bias;
2. Keep well informed of developments relevant to issues that may come before all committees and boards;
3. Participate in all appropriate committee and board meetings;
4. Bring to the attention of the leadership any issues that he/she believes will have an adverse effect on AMVETS;
5. Consider him/herself a “trustee” of AMVETS and do his/her best to ensure that it is financially secure, growing and always operating in the best interest of those we serve;
6. Listen to our stakeholders and make all reasonable efforts to satisfy their needs and concerns within the scope of our mission, and to strive for excellence and innovation and demonstrate professional respect and responsiveness in all contacts, internally and externally;
7. Ensure that the organization conducts all transactions and dealings with integrity and honesty;
8. Comply with applicable federal, state and local laws, regulations and fiduciary responsibilities in an effort to create transparency in all of our operations;
9. Not accept commissions, gifts, payments, loans, and promises of future benefits or other items of value from anyone who has or may seek some benefit from the AMVETS organization;
10. Abide by the governing documents and policies contained in the AMVETS Constitution & Bylaws;
11. Not be deceptive in our fundraising activities or in prospecting for new members to join the AMVETS organization;
12. Be informed of the way the resources will be used and AMVETS capacity to use donations effectively for their intended purposes;
13. Be accountable for adhering to this Code of Ethics.