DRAFT RESOLUTION 15-41
SUBJECT: HEADSTONES FOR UNMARKED 19TH & EARLY 20TH CENTURY VETERANS GRAVES
SOURCE: WI

WHEREAS, the prime mission of AMVETS is to enhance and protect the earned benefits of 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 service; and

WHEREAS, there are many 19th and early 20th century veterans buried in unmarked graves throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) furnishes upon request, at no charge to the applicant, a Government headstone or marker for the unmarked grave of any deceased eligible Veteran in any cemetery around the world, regardless of their date of death; and

WHEREAS, Federal regulation defines "applicant" as the decedent's Next-of-Kin (NOK); a person authorized in writing by the NOK; or a personal representative authorized in writing by the decedent; and

WHEREAS, there may be no surviving Next-of-Kin or they may be untraceable this far removed from the interment of the veteran which prevents other validly interested parties, such as local historians, genealogists, veteran service officers, etc. from requesting headstones for unmarked veteran graves; now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that AMVETS advocates for and supports any and all policy changes to this effect within the National Cemetery Administration or that AMVETS supports legislation which widens the definition of “applicant” in requesting headstones for unmarked graves.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:
AMERICANISM & PATRIOTIC ACTIVITIES….ADOPT ☑ AMEND ☐ REJECT ☐ NONE ☐
FLOOR ACTION:……ADMITTED ☑ ADOPTED (as amended) ☑ REJECTED ☐ TABLED ☐