WHEREAS, traditionally, veteran service organization members have rendered a hand-salute during the presentation of the colors, the playing of the national anthem and the recitation of the ‘Pledge of Allegiance’ at various events while wearing their organization’s official head-gear; and

WHEREAS, the National Defense Authorization Act of 2008 contained an amendment which allows un-uniformed service members, military retirees and veterans to render a hand-salute during the raising, lowering or passing of the U.S. flag; and

WHEREAS, the National Defense Authorization Act of 2009 contained an additional amendment which expanded the rendering of a hand-salute to include during the playing of the national anthem and recitation of the ‘Pledge of Allegiance’. Specifically, Section 301, (b) (1) of Title 36 United States Code, stipulates that:

A. individuals in uniform should give the military salute at the first note of the anthem and maintain that position until the last note;
B. members of the Armed Forces and veterans who are present, but not in uniform, may render the military salute in the manner provided for individuals in uniform; and
C. all other persons present should face the flag and stand at attention with their right hand over the heart and men not in uniform, if applicable, should remove their headdress with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that as an organization, AMVETS, including all of its subordinate organizations, adheres to the statutory requires of Section 301, (b) (1) A – C of Title 36 of the U.S. Code regarding the appropriate rendering of a hand-salute.