RESOLUTION 16 – 18

REPEAL SURVIVOR BENEFITS PLAN/DEPENDENCY & INDEMNITY OFFSET

WHEREAS, the surviving spouses of retired military members who die from service-connected wounds, illnesses or injuries are entitled to Dependency & Indemnity Compensation (DIC) benefits from the VA. However, if the military retiree was also enrolled in the DOD’s Survivor Benefits Plan (SBP), the surviving spouse’s SBP benefit would be offset, dollar-for-dollar, by the amount of DIC benefits; and

WHEREAS, it should be understood that SBP and DIC benefits are paid for two different reasons, in that SBP is funded by premiums paid by veterans and provides a surviving spouse 55% of the veteran’s retirement pay. DIC, on the other hand, provides a modest guarantee of $1,215/month which is paid to the surviving spouses of veterans who die of a service-connected condition; and

WHEREAS, with a few exceptions, the surviving spouses of non-military federal retirees are not similarly penalized with any offset, allowing them to collect the full monetary benefit of both SPB and DIC; and

WHEREAS, the offset of SBP against DIC is inequitable because it punishes more than 65,000 survivors of military retired veterans whose deaths are under circumstances warranting indemnification from the federal government separate from the SBP annuity; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that AMVETS pursue enactment of legislation to repeal the offset between SBP and DIC.

SOURCE: Departments of AZ, ND, NJ, FL, VA, MO, IL, KY, AK, NM, CA, MA, WA, IA, OH, TN,