DRAFT RESOLUTION 17 – 18

SUBJECT: VA & DoD Mental Health Funding & Programs

SOURCE: DC, FL, LA, NC, VA, OH, MA, TX, TN, MO, NJ, ND, WA

WHEREAS, AMVETS acknowledges the benefits accrued to veterans through implementation of VA’s National Mental Health Strategic Plan to improve Access to Mental Health Services for Veterans, Service Members, and Military Families; and

WHEREAS, the VA provided specialized mental health services FY2015 to more than 1.6 million veterans and of the nearly 2 million veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan eligible for VA care, 61% have accessed health-care services with over 57% receiving mental health diagnoses; and

WHEREAS, despite progress in hiring additional mental health staff, AMVETS remains concerned about how VA plans to resolve its mental health staffing issues to meet demand and provide timely access for these critical services; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that AMVETS calls on Congress to require VA to develop performance measures and provide an assessment of resource requirements, expenditures and outcomes in its mental health programs, as well as a firm completion date for full implementation of the components of the full Uniformed Mental Health Services package; and be it further

RESOLVED, that AMVETS strongly encourages both the VA and DoD to ensure that veterans and service members receive adequate screening for their mental health needs; and be it further

RESOLVED, that AMVETS strongly encourages VA to ensure that all professional staff are provided specialized training and orientation to the current roles and experiences of the men and women returning from theaters of combat, taking care to acknowledge the unique post-deployment mental health challenges faced by women; and be it further

RESOLVED, AMVETS strongly recommends Congress appropriate more dedicated funding for mental health care and related programs and services during the next five fiscal year budgets and to annually review the effectiveness of said services in order to effectively treat servicemembers suffering from psychological trauma.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:
CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS....................ADOPT □ AMEND □ REJECT □ NONE □
FLOOR ACTION: ADOPTED □ ADOPTED (as amended) □ REJECTED □ TABLED □