RESOLUTION 17 – 22

DEPORTED U.S. MILITARY VETERANS

WHEREAS, lawful permanent residents or green-card holders have the legal right to reside, work, study and own property in the U.S.; they may also serve in the U.S. military and apply to become U.S. citizens once they meet eligibility requirements; and

WHEREAS, the Immigration and Nationality Act (I.N.A.) allows people born in other countries to gain U.S. citizenship through military service -- in some cases without going through the usual preliminary step of getting a U.S. green card. The exact legal requirements depend on whether you served during peace or war time; and

WHEREAS, foreign nationals can take steps toward citizenship by serving in the U.S. Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, or Coast Guard, or in a National Guard unit while the unit was federally recognized as a reserve component of the U.S. Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, during peacetime, foreign nationals must have at least one year of honorable service in the U.S. military and they must get a green card – after which they can apply for U.S. citizenship one year after receiving their green card; and

WHEREAS, foreign nationals who enlist in the U.S. armed forces during wartime, can apply for U.S. citizenship after as early as their first day of service; and

WHEREAS, deported veterans are banned for life, they can return to the U.S. after they are dead. Honorably discharged veterans, even deportees, are entitled to burial in a National Cemetery with an engraved headstone and their casket draped with an American flag. The VA will pay $300 toward the cost of bringing an eligible deportee’s remains to the U.S.; not therefore be it

RESOLVED, that AMVETS believes that honorably discharged foreign nationals who commit a crime after returning to civilian life should be treated the same as U.S. citizens—punished for any crimes they commit, but not deported.

SOURCE: FL, LA, NC, VA, OH, MA, TX, MO, NJ, ND, WA, CA, GA