



2017 NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTIONS

National Legislative Resolutions of the Association of the United States Navy, considered and adopted 31 October 2016, for purposes of development of Fiscal Year 2018 (FY18), Calendar Year 2017 (CY17), AUSN Legislative Objectives

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*Resolutions of the
Association of the
United States Navy
(AUSN)*



**RESOLUTIONS OF THE ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES NAVY
62nd Annual Business Meeting, ADOPTED in Alexandria, VA**

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COMPILED AND PRESENTED BY:
Michael J. Little, ABH2 (AW/SW), USN
Director of Legislative Affairs and Government Relations, AUSN
(On behalf of the Resolutions Committee which met 31 October 2016)

62nd AUSN BUSINESS MEETING
RESOLUTION #1
MISSION OF THE ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES NAVY

WHEREAS, the Association of the United States Navy, the organization (which grew from the former Naval Reserve Association founded in 1954), adopts the philosophy that a strong association is vitally needed to cooperate with the Naval Establishment, the Department of the Defense (DOD) and the Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA) in advocating for the solution of the many and complex problems of both current and former Regular Career Active-Duty and Reserve Personnel;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Association of the United States Navy seeks (in its By-Laws):

- a) To promote the interest of the Department of the Navy to the advantage of the country's welfare and security,
- b) To support the military and Naval policies of the United States to the end that the national defense and national security be developed and strengthened through the means of an adequate Naval establishment including a well-trained and readily available Navy,
- c) To provide an educational program designed to be informative and professionally helpful to Navy personnel and to potential members entering the Naval Service as commissioned officers and enlisted,
- d) To encourage and promote the interest and activity of Navy personnel in understanding and attaining the highest professional standards in the Navy,
- e) To collect, evaluate, and disseminate information to our countrymen and members of the bodies politic relating to our nation's welfare and security,
- f) To promote a deep sense of individual obligation of Navy personnel to the Navy and the interest of the Navy in its personnel,
- g) To stimulate and support the Naval sciences and programs and maintain the traditions of the Naval Service,
- h) To promote its Vision and achieve its Mission as defined in the current Strategic Plan.

62nd AUSN BUSINESS MEETING
RESOLUTION #2
RELATING TO STRENGTH AND POSTURE OF THE UNITED STATES NAVY (USN)
AND THE NAVY RESERVE

WHEREAS, the Association of the United States Navy recognizes and endorses the Navy's official mission statement, which is to "maintain, train, and equip combat-ready Naval forces capable of winning wars, deterring aggression and maintaining freedom of the seas," especially in light of the Pentagon's shift in focus to the Asia-Pacific region, which places even greater pressure on our Naval forces; and

WHEREAS, to accomplish this mission, manning of Navy and Navy Reserve forces should be set at 380,900 personnel, to be revised if the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) deems another manning level to be more appropriate; and

WHEREAS, these priorities, and the CNO's tenants of "warfighting first," "Operate Forward" and "Be Ready," are supported by the Association of the United States Navy;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Association of the United States Navy, on message with the CNO and Department of the Navy, seeks:

- a) Adequate Navy and Navy Reserve Personnel, currently requested by the Navy for Fiscal Year 2016 (FY16) at 326,612, for missions set forth by the CNO and command authorities. In accordance with Department of the Defense (DOD), the Association of the United States Navy believes that our people come first, and their needs should be provided for,
- b) Appropriate funding, in the Shipbuilding and Conversion Appropriation Account, for a highly capable, fully ready for-tasking Navy with a fleet of at least 306 ships as recommended by the CNO,
- c) Modernization and Recapitalization of U.S. Navy: A 306 ship inventory, as recommended by the CNO, and strong shipyard capabilities to meet Navy shipbuilding and modernization demands, with a fleet size that includes:
 - i. 2-C-i) 11 Aircraft Carriers: Delivery of CVN-78 on time by 2016, continue procurements for CVN-79, and maintaining Refueling and Complex Overhaul of Nimitz class carriers,
 - ii. 2-C-ii) Littoral Combat Ships (LCS): Ensuring delivery and full capabilities of mission module sets,
 - iii. 2-C-iii) 48 Attack Submarines (SSN): Support continuation of construction and procurement plan of two *Virginia*-class submarines a year,
 - iv. 2-C-iv) 12 SSBN(X's): The *Ohio*-class Replacement program must be recapitalized in a timely manner and funded adequately in appropriations,
 - v. 2-C-v) Continued procurement of Amphibious Assault Ships,
 - vi. 2-C-vi) Destroyer Construction and Modernization (DDG): Continued construction and modernization of our *Arleigh Burke* class destroyer's inventory ensures numerous capabilities of current/future Navy,
- d) A strong Naval Aviation capability that meets challenges of our current and future Navy, with a minimum of 10 carrier air wings and modernized fleet helicopter force. Key to achieving these air capabilities are:
 - i. 2-D-i) Timely introduction of the F-35C 'Lightning II' to carrier decks,
 - ii. 2-D-ii) Multiyear procurement of the F/A-18E/F 'Super Hornet',
 - iii. 2-D-iii) Multiyear procurement of the E/A-18G 'Growler',
 - iv. 2-D-iv) Multiyear procurement of the E-2D 'Advanced Hawkeye',
 - v. 2-D-v) Support procurement of the P-8A 'Poseidon',

- vi. 2-D-vi) Support procurement of the KC-46A
- vii. 2-D-vii) Support mission capabilities of Combat Search and Rescue (CSAR)
- e) A strong and robust intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) capability of the Navy while ensuring the Navy continues to receive resources needed for cyber security and cyber warfare to promote reliable and responsive command and control (C2) is vital to our overall national security,
- f) Continue monitoring any and all Base Re-Alignment and Closure (BRAC) proposals and ensure they are in the best interests of our Navy, based on strategic rather than budgetary decisions,
- g) Navy Reserve Force Mission Validation: Maintenance of current manpower force in the Navy Reserve, currently requested by the Navy at 57,300, to be revised if the CNO deems another manning level to be more appropriate, and to cease manpower losses, hardware unit decommissions, and unit disestablishments until current and future missions/ requirements are defined,
- h) Compliance with Office of the CNO (OPNAV) Instruction 4423.3: Titled *Equipping Reserve Forces*, this instruction states that Navy Reserve units will be equipped to accomplish all assigned missions and will have an equipment and distribution program that is balanced, responsive to mission requirements, and sustainable,
- i) Modernization and Recapitalization of Navy Reserve Equipment: Using OCO and National Guard and Reserve Equipment Account (NGREA) funds to fill expeditionary equipment procurement gaps for Naval Construction Force (NCF), Navy Expeditionary Logistics Support Group (NAVELSG), Maritime Expeditionary Security Force (MESF) and, Navy Reserve Expeditionary Combat Command (NECC) units over the FYDP,
- j) Navy Sea, Air, and Land (SEAL) Teams: Continued support and funding for Special Operations Forces (SOF), particularly Naval Special Warfare Group One (West Coast) and Naval Special Warfare Group Two (East Coast), which come under the command of Naval Special Warfare (NSW) Command,
- k) Retention for the position of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs.

62nd AUSN BUSINESS MEETING
RESOLUTION #3
RELATING TO NAVY RESERVE 2015-2025 VISION: OUR COURSE TO THE FUTURE

WHEREAS, the Association of the United States Navy recognizes and endorses the “Navy Reserve 2015-2025 Vision: Our Course To The Future”, its official mission statement, which is to “deliver strategic depth and operational capability to the Navy, Marine Corps and Joint Force”; and

WHEREAS, this new Vision not only honors a century of Reserve Sailors serving our Nation, but sets a course for the future; and

WHEREAS, the Vision calls for “a ready and agile force, whose military and civilian skills are deliberately leveraged to support mission accomplishment”; and

WHEREAS, the Strategic Imperatives outlined in the Vision by the CNR and endorsed by the CNO are supported by the Association of the United States Navy;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Association of the United States Navy, on message with the CNR and CNO, seeks to:

- a) Include discussion of both Active Duty and Reserve Activates to ensure that there is one total force, as we are looking ahead at the mission of the United States Navy,
- b) Keep pace with Navy’s future capabilities,
- c) Maintain a ready force for tomorrow,
- d) Actively employ each sailor’s unique capabilities,
- e) Deliver technologically advanced solutions,
- f) Develop transformational leaders.

62nd AUSN BUSINESS MEETING
RESOLUTION #4

RELATING TO STRENGTH AND POSTURE OF THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS (USMC)
AND THE SELECTED MARINE CORPS RESERVE

WHEREAS, the Association of the United States Navy views the United States Marine Corps (USMC) and USMC Reserve as a vital fighting force under the Department of the Navy and as such, should be equipped and modernized as required by the Commandant of the United States Marine Corps (CMC) with input from the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of the Navy. Additionally, after growing to a current end-strength of approximately 229,809 active duty and reserve personnel, the Marine Corps is now in a measured drawdown, a drawdown which will be challenged to meet the demand for embassy security, special operations, and cyber specialties;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Association of the United States Navy, to strengthen and support the USMC and USMC Reserve, seeks:

- a) Adequate Marine Corp Personnel funding, with capacity for a single major operation/campaign that includes appropriate manning of active and reserve forces and capability of simultaneous deployment of two Marine Expeditionary Brigade assault echelons,
- b) Modernization and Recapitalization of USMC: Amphibious Combat Vehicles (ACV) and Marine Aviation have been voiced by the CMC as some of his top priorities. This equipment need includes:
 - i. Development and Procurement of Amphibious Combat Vehicles (ACV): The CMC has stated that the development and procurement of new ACV's are critical to 'provide the capabilities required to meet current and future amphibious operations.' Currently, the Marine Corps utilizes Amphibious Assault Vehicles (AAV), which the CMC has stated need to be replaced with more modern vehicles.
 - ii. Procurement of F-35B: Commandant of the Marine Corps has said numerous times that acquisition of the F-35B is his number 1 aviation priority, to replace capabilities found in the AV-8B Harrier, EA-6B and F/A-18 aircraft,
 - iii. Procurement of MV-22 'Osprey': Recommend continued full-rate production to reinforce the capability need for both Marine Corps and U.S. Special Operations Command,
 - iv. Recapitalization of KC-130J: Recommend continued recapitalization of this 'workhorse' platform, equipped with improved aerial refueling system,
 - v. Modernization of Marine Corps Equipment- Reset: Marine Corps equipment is often exposed to harsh environments; thus, the entire force needs extensive rehabilitation, repair and replacement as weapons and equipment are rotated out of combat and later brought home,
- c) ISR capacity structured to rightly integrate tactical, operation and strategic capability for distributed and complex operations,
- d) Sustainment and development of our nation's Expeditionary Force in Readiness with a balanced and cohesive Marine Air Ground Task Force (MAGTF) that is flexible and adaptive across a wide range of military operations, as well as providing response times measured in hours and days rather than weeks,
- e) USMC Reserve Recapitalization: The USMC Reserve, in the 2015 NGRER, has identified significant equipment challenges and needs. These include:
 - i. Transition to the KC-130J Super Hercules from the current KC-130T,

- ii. Procurement of the RQ-21A Blackjack Small Tactical Unmanned Aircraft System (STUAS) to enhance intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance capacities of the Marine Corps Reserve.

62nd AUSN BUSINESS MEETING
RESOLUTION #5
RELATING TO THE STRENGTH AND POSTURE OF THE USN AND USMC,
THE BUDGET CONTROL ACT OF 2011

WHEREAS, the Association of the United States Navy is concerned about the continuing and anticipated future effects of sequestration, which went into effect March of 2013; and

WHEREAS, the Budget Control Act (BCA) of 2011 (P.L. 112-25), and its mandatory indiscriminate across-the-board cuts to Federal agencies, including the Department of Defense (DOD), has left DOD facing cuts of up to \$520 billion over the next eight years; and

WHEREAS, such cuts will hinder the Department of the Navy's (DON) ability to reach shipbuilding goals, affect personnel through freezing of station changes, promotions, longer deployments and training reductions, and causes significant reductions in Operations & Maintenance (O&M) accounts which affects vital maintenance as well as the acquisition of critical vessels; and

WHEREAS, in addition, much-needed modernization efforts will be significantly diminished. The Association of the United States Navy considers sequestration a serious impediment to DOD and DON's ability to prepare for and ultimately provide for our nation's defense and security; and

WHEREAS, sequestration's mandatory, systematic cuts hamstringing DOD and DON's ability to make productive reductions within the departments without severely impacting service members or compromising operational readiness;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Association of the United States Navy seeks the following actions:

- a) Find an immediate bipartisan solution to ending or modifying sequestration to eliminate the devastating mandated reductions,
- b) Provide the ability, should sequestration continue, for Executive Branch Agencies, such as DOD, to make mandatory cuts in a way that does not harm operational readiness, rather than broad reductions made without consideration of department-specific needs and responsibilities,
- c) Inform Congress, should sequestration continue, of the importance of ending or modifying the sequester and to make Congress and the public aware of training and operational risks incurred because of sequestration,
- d) Highlight to the public, should sequestration continue, of the operational and strategic risks that sequestration may cause by a lack of readiness and/or training,
- e) Work with officials and other military and Veteran organizations, should sequestration continue, to develop targeted, efficient cuts to present to Congressional contacts to bolster the case for modifying sequestration.

62nd AUSN BUSINESS MEETING
RESOLUTION #6

RELATING TO STRENGTH AND POSTURE OF THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD (USCG)
AND THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD RESERVES (USCGR)

WHEREAS, the Association of the United States Navy views the United States Coast Guard (USCG) and USCG Reserve as a vital fighting force under the Department of the Homeland Security and as such, should be equipped and modernized as required by the Commandant of the United States Coast Guard with input from the Secretary of Homeland Security; and

WHEREAS, after growing to a current end-strength of approximately 50,089 active duty and reserve personnel, 8,722 civilian employees and 8,722 Auxiliarist, the Coast Guard is now in a measured drawdown, a drawdown which will be challenged to meet the demand for all Coast Guard operations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Association of the United States Navy, in order to strengthen and support the USCG and USCG Reserve, seeks:

- a) Adequate Coast Guard funding.

61st AUSN BUSINESS MEETING
RESOLUTION #7
RELATING TO MILITARY CONSTRUCTION (MILCON)

WHEREAS, the Association of the United States Navy believes MILCON programs regarding the modernization, recapitalization and maintenance of infrastructure is crucial to sustaining force, unit and family readiness; and

WHEREAS, these programs need to receive more funding and require further attention to meet both the current and future challenges and needs;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Association of the United States Navy seeks the following:

- a) Defend military construction projects that modernizes or replaces infrastructure,
- b) Fight for proper maintenance and repair of quality of life facilities and amenities,
- c) Advocate for MWR, MILCON, military housing and family support construction policies and projects for persons of disabilities,
- d) Monitor sequestration, drawdown, and personnel restructuring impacts on MWR, Family support/readiness and quality of life programs.

62nd AUSN BUSINESS MEETING
RESOLUTION # 8
RELATING TO MILITARY HEALTHCARE BENEFITS

WHEREAS, the Association of the United States Navy (AUSN), as the leaders of beneficiary organizations, intends to proactively engage with key stakeholders in any plans to reform the delivery of health care, TRICARE benefit design, or other significant military health system changes, AUSN observes that our nation's health care industry is undergoing rapid change, and it is within this context that the military health care system finds itself at a major crossroads; and

WHEREAS, it must sustain the advances and skills learned from the past 14 years of combat experience and it cannot compromise on its readiness platforms; and

WHEREAS, any reforms must support the goal of sustaining an operationally ready force with a ready medical force; and

WHEREAS, deciding how to effectively accomplish this without negatively impacting retention and readiness, including family readiness, is key; and

WHEREAS, AUSN believes that while resources are a zero-sum game, the military's health care system needs to evolve into a modern, high-performance, integrated system capable of efficiently delivering quality, accessible care safely and effectively to its beneficiaries; and

WHEREAS, there is a significant interdependency between mission readiness and beneficiary care, and any reform should seek a balanced approach to strengthening this relationship with cost effective solutions; and

WHEREAS, the Association of the United States Navy views health care benefit as a commitment by a grateful nation to service members, their families, retirees and survivors for their extraordinary service and sacrifice; and

WHEREAS, the Association of the United States Navy believes the uniformed services health care benefit must pertain equally to all seven federal uniformed services, including the USPHS and NOAA; and

WHEREAS, the Association of the United States Navy believes that the most effective elements of the current system should be preserved and evolved into something better, while ineffective elements should be discarded, i.e. the DHA could oversee a single budgetary authority for MSM areas and use the MEMs to pilot innovation; and

WHEREAS, the Association of the United States Navy believes that any TRICARE reform must be a total force solution and be flexible enough to encompass all, possibly including the establishment of a robust, parallel system to accommodate rural areas while keeping in the spirit of maintaining fair beneficiary contributions and supporting continuity of care; and

WHEREAS, the Association of the United States Navy views the current level of coverage for all beneficiaries contained in the existing TRICARE program should be considered the minimum standards for any reforms made or any new health care programs; and

WHEREAS, the Association of the United States Navy believes that access to quality care, regardless of beneficiary location, should be enhanced through reform incorporating the use of advanced and innovative technologies and practices, including but not limited to the DOD's electronic health records; and

WHEREAS, the Association of the United States Navy recognizes that as systems evolve, beneficiaries will move and transition through the care continuum through multiple venues, governmental and non-governmental, which shall require a priority to maintain security and confidentiality of beneficiary information; and

WHEREAS, the Association of the United States Navy believes that TRICARE reform efforts must consider the unique needs of service members and their families resulting from the extraordinary challenges of military service, including designs to facilitate the transfer of care for a mobile population and allow coverage options for geographically separated families while addressing health problems caused or exacerbated by deployment related stress; and

WHEREAS, the Association of the United States Navy believes that military health care reform must ensure the needs of the military community's most vulnerable populations, including wounded warriors and their families, survivors, and special needs families; and

WHEREAS, the Association of the United States Navy believes beneficiaries are doing their part to drive down the cost of healthcare, and any savings should be transparently reinvested into TRICARE programs that make visible improvements for beneficiaries; and

WHEREAS, the Association of the United States Navy views the healthcare and mental health of our service members to be a high priority and the Department of Defense (DOD) and Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA) should make all accommodations necessary to assist in the treatment and investigation of treatment options for service members suffering from a variety of ailments;

WHEREAS, the Association of the United States Navy supports congressional legislation which expresses the sense of Congress that- the DoD and the nation have a committed health benefits obligation to retired military personnel that exceeds the obligation of corporate employers to civilian employees, explores additional DoD options to constrain growth of health care spending in ways that do not disadvantage beneficiaries, encourages the DoD to first pursue options to reduce inefficiencies over seeking large fee increases or marginalizing benefits of beneficiaries; and does not pass on costs to beneficiaries;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Association of the United States Navy seeks to:

- a) Ensure all current and future retired service members earn world-class health care coverage by virtue of their decades of arduous service and sacrifice,
- b) Provide all TRICARE benefits equally to all seven uniformed services,
- c) Remove means-testing from use in determining health fees or access eligibility since it implies the benefit is a need based gift rather than an earned benefit,
- d) Encourage Congress to direct the DoD to pursue options to constrain the growth of health care costs in a manner that will not negatively impact beneficiaries,

- e) Promulgate the importance of providing quality pediatric beneficiary care commensurate with the sacrifices made by service members and their families,
- f) Encourage DoD and VA collaboration with the aim of achieving a seamless transition for wounded, ill, or injured warriors and service members or veterans transiting the two systems,
- g) Preserve the integrity and access to DoD and VA systems for dually eligible members,
- h) Encourage the pursuit of collaborative partnerships between DoD-VA and other government agencies and non-government entities towards driving down costs, supporting seamless transition efforts, and improving the continuity of medical and non-medical care among all beneficiary populations,
- i) Encourage Congress to support funding, at the very least a 10-slot pilot program, the U.S. Public Health Sciences Track, a scholarship program authorized in 2010 but not funded, which is intended to draw promising medical, nursing, and dental students into service careers in the USPHS,
- j) Remove enrollment fees from any uniformed services health program that does not guarantee access to providers,
- k) Extend the time indefinitely for service members to make medical claims for such injuries such as Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), depression or any other physiological, psychological and/or behavioral diagnosis,
- l) Require the VA, in collaboration with local behavioral health service providers, Veterans and their families, to develop a “needs analysis” to determine the current requirement for mental health resources to adequately support all Active Duty and Reserve Component service members returning from deployment,
- m) Provide adequate community based mental health care for all veterans, including in difficult rural areas of the country which lack access to clinics (i.e. rural mental healthcare providers need to be available in remote areas of the country),
- n) Establish a DOD funded Scholarship programs to recruit health care and mental health care professionals to enter the Active Duty and Reserve Component that would include but not be limited to needed medical specialists, nurses and physician assistants,
- o) Establish a DOD Mental Health Discharge Board of Review to review all discharges of service members who may have been discharged because of a mental injury that could be connected to a war related deployment,
- p) Blue Water Navy Agent Orange Protections: Clarification of presumptions by the VA relating to the exposure of certain Navy veterans who served near the Republic of Vietnam and investigation of what constitutes territorial seas for purposes of the presumption of service connection for diseases associated with exposure by veterans to certain herbicide agents (Agent Orange) while in Vietnam,
- q) Eliminate the requirement that a member or former member of the Armed Forces entitled to retired pay for non-regular (and/or Reserve) service be at least 60 years of age before being eligible for medical and dental care in a military health care facility,
- r) Based on 2013 ruling, request DOD remove the anti-malarial drug mefloquine from the prescription drug formulary to prevent further permanent neurological injury to Sailors and Marines, and further requesting DOD and the VA fund mefloquine research from funding already allocated to PTSD and TBI research, and to publicly alert all service members and veterans who took the drug of possible long term psychological and neurological injury through establishment of a mefloquine registry,
- s) Support continued healthcare by VA for all service-related injuries for veterans and retirees.

- t) Establish a DOD and VA case study that will allow for the review of individuals who deployed for non-traditional deployments during OEF/OIF operation, bringing to light the long-term effects of those who deployed in support of missions such as detainee operations and mortuary services,
- u) Support change of administrative separation policy for separation from two years to open ended screening for mental health,
- v) Support the following for TRICARE Fees and Payment:
 - i. Oppose DoD plans to establish TRICARE Standard enrollment fees and to significantly increase Standard deductibles,
 - ii. Oppose any plan to increase annual TRICARE Prime enrollment fees for military retirees more than the annual COLA,
 - iii. Oppose initiatives that would reduce TFL coverage (e.g. multiple studies have proposed to establish a \$500 deductible and limit coverage to 50% of the next \$5,000); also, oppose any plan to charge annual TFL fees and increased deductibles,
 - iv. Oppose initiatives to base beneficiary fees on a percentage of DoD cost,
 - v. Eliminate network copays for MTF Prime enrollees who are referred outside the Military Treatment Facility (MTF),
 - vi. Require DoD to educate beneficiaries and providers on the referral process and their options,
 - vii. Enhance beneficiaries access to care by supporting value and outcome based payment changes for Medicare and TRICARE provider payments, ensuring that access to primary and specialty care remains robust,
 - viii. Seek to cap further increases in the TRICARE Standard inpatient copay,
 - ix. Expand beneficiary copay waivers and other incentive programs for various preventive services and related medical treatments,
- w) Support the following for TRICARE Benefit Issues:
 - i. Extend coverage for children of military and Veteran families until age 26 under CHAMPVA,
 - ii. Seek ways to reduce TRICARE Young Adult Prime option premium reduction by spreading actual program costs over all TRICARE Prime enrollees- as is being done in most civilian plans,
 - iii. Restore TRICARE reimbursement for tests previously paid for in the TRICARE networks, and that the direct care system continues to administer such as Molecular Pathology testing,
 - iv. Support a benefit equivalent to the Navy and Marine Corps 18-week maternity leave to women in all branches of the uniformed services,
 - v. Seek system wide (DoD and VA) changes related to environmental hazards and toxic wounds, including:
 - 1. Improvements to the pre- and post-deployment health monitoring/assessment programs,
 - 2. Increased research of biohazard and toxic wound pathology,
 - 3. Improved clinical evaluation and treatment,
 - 4. Advocating for appropriate legislation (e.g. registries for toxic exposure, establishing centers for diagnosis, treatment, and research),
 - 5. Congressional oversight of such efforts,
 - 6. Maintaining DoD and VA focus on these issues,
 - vi. Seek legislation to reinstate TRICARE benefits for remarried widows when the second marriage ends,
 - vii. Advocate for increased DoD efforts to ensure consistency between MTFs and purchased care sectors in meeting Prime access standards and focusing on beneficiary and provider needs in administering authorizations and referrals for specialty care,
 - viii. Encourage the inclusion of TFL beneficiaries in DoD preventive programs,

- ix. Advocate for the standardization of case management practices for the seamless transition of care between and within all Services, MTFs, and TRICARE Regions,
- x. Expand training of all providers (with emphasis on those practicing in primary care and mental health), especially those in the purchased care network, in the military cultural sensitivity, and treatment of PTSD and TBI,
- xi. Oppose any effort to deny or limit access to any TRICARE benefit based on a beneficiary's uniformed service,
- xii. Seek legislative or policy action to address problems with pediatric care identified by the NDAA directed Study on Health Care and Related Support for Children of Members of the Armed Forces,
- xiii. Ensure all eligible special needs populations are represented in any legislative or programmatic changes to TRICARE Extended Care Health Option (ECHO) Program,
- x) Support the following for TRICARE Pharmacy Programs:
 - i. Oppose any reduction of current pharmacy benefits,
 - ii. Oppose any effort to charge fees or copayments for use of MTFs,
 - iii. Require DoD to include alternate packaging methods for pharmaceuticals to enable nursing home, assisted living, and hospice care beneficiaries to utilize the pharmacy program,
 - iv. Oppose basing pharmacy copays on the percentage of drug cost to the government,
 - v. Require DoD to track beneficiary satisfaction and prescription drug availability with the TRICARE mail order pharmacy program,
- y) Seek legislation to enable TRICARE eligible Former Spouses to participate in the TRICARE Retiree Dental Plan,
- z) Support the following for National Guard and Reserve Health Care:
 - i. Amend Title 10 United States Code to authorize Secretaries of the Military Departments to provide those medical, behavioral health, and dental services to members of the reserve components periodically needed to meet readiness and fitness standards pre- and post-deployment,
 - ii. Provide dual reservist and Federal Employee Health Benefit Plan (FEHBP) beneficiaries the option of TRICARE Reserve Select (TRS),
 - iii. Permit members of the IRR to enroll in TRS as an incentive for their continued service,
 - iv. Seek improvements to the pre- and post-activation health assessment and corrective programs,
 - v. Secure funds for government treatment of RC members to correct any medical, dental, or behavioral health readiness deficiencies during periodic health assessment screenings,
 - vi. Expand funded dental care to cover 180 days post-activation,
 - vii. Fund and provide care and services for RC members, including mental/behavioral health issues such as substance abuse and suicide,
 - viii. Subsidize premiums paid by private employers to allow continuation of private employer family coverage during periods of activation as an option,
- aa) Support the following for Defense Health Program (DHP) Management, Finances, and Accountability for Access, Quality, and Patient Safety:
 - i. Work with Congress and DoD to seek full funding of the DHP for the direct care and purchased care systems, providing access to the military health care system for all uniformed services beneficiaries,
 - ii. Collaborate with DoD and Congress on efforts to manage overall health care costs, ensure operational efficiencies, are realized, and encourage DoD to focus efforts on improving access to care, overall quality of care, and to foster a culture of patient safety,
 - iii. Ensure and hold DoD accountable in the execution and implementation of SECDEF recommendations as outlined in the October 1st, 2014 Directive to DoD's Leadership in response to the release of the 2014 MHS Review,

- iv. Ensure transparency and partner in efforts to achieve objectives which will contribute to a world class health care system for military beneficiaries.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Association of the United States Navy seeks to:

- A. Limit annual increases to the ECHO catastrophic cap by yearly COLA percentage,
- B. Increase TRICARE's annual maximum cost share for ECHO (currently set at \$36,000) by the percent increase in the yearly COLA,
- C. Eliminate Medicare Physical, Occupational, Speech Therapy, and Residential Inpatient Behavioral annual caps,
- D. Increase capacity to provide mental health care to wounded warriors suffering from traumatic brain injury and post-traumatic stress disorder by expanding the use of USPHS mental health experts and behavioral scientists, additionally providing clinical care, training, outreach, and education to reduce stigma and support families,
- E. Fund an implement a Ready Reserve component within the USPHS Commissioned Corps,
- F. Use innovative technologies to increase access to VA/DoD health, dental, and behavioral health care for those residing in rural areas.

62nd AUSN BUSINESS MEETING
RESOLUTION # 9
RELATING TO RESERVE COMPONENT OPERATIONAL READINESS

WHEREAS, the Association of the United States Navy recognizes the unique circumstances of the Navy Reserve Component and its mission, and expansion thereof, in support of overseas contingency operations and, consequently, deserves the retirement benefits laid out by the Department of Defense (DOD); and

WHEREAS, the Association of the United States Navy believes that military retirees who have served the required 20 years or more of service, and qualify for retirement compensation, but did not serve the 180 days of "Active Duty military service" described for Reserve Component service in Title 10 and defined under Title 38, in the title of "Veteran of the Armed Forces," which means a person who served in the, "active military, naval, or air service, and who was discharged or released therefrom under conditions other than dishonorable, furthermore defined in Title 38, footnote (22) the term "active military, naval, or air service" means, "Active Duty military service," and that the current defining characteristics of the definition of veteran is substantially flawed; and

WHEREAS, the Association of the United States Navy wishes to recognize the status of Guard and Reserve personnel as Operational Warriors; and

WHEREAS, 25% of Selected Reserve members who are eligible are enrolled in TRS; and

WHEREAS, Full-time Title 32 and Title 10 Active Guard and Reserve members are in TRICARE standard; and

WHEREAS, Technicians have only one option: high-cost Federal Employee Health Benefit Program coverage; and

WHEREAS, the remainder of the Selected Reserve either has private employer-based coverage, Affordable Care Act coverage, or no coverage; and

WHEREAS, Individual Ready Reserve members have no government coverage even though they are subject to immediate activation; and

WHEREAS, the Association of the United States Navy, in its mission to maintain the 'total force' concept of the Department of Defense, believes inequity between the Navy and Navy Reserve Component should be solved in regards to travel issues for Navy Reserve Component service members, spouses, their dependents and retirees;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Association of the United States Navy seeks to:

- a) Improve the Reserve Component Operational Readiness:
 - i. Correct the early retirement credit to include all Guard and Reserve members who served on contingency active duty tours of at least 90 days retroactive to September 11, 2001,
 - ii. Eliminate the annual cap on inactive duty training creditable to retirement,
 - iii. Engage the Reserve Forces Policy Board and the Secretary of Defense to ensure any plan to consolidate duty-status authorities is done in support of operational

- readiness and provides full, fair, and transparent accounting of Guard-Reserve call-ups that qualify for an early reserve retirement,
- iv. Match Guard and Reserve force end-strengths to strategic and operational requirements,
 - v. Adequately fund National Guard Reserve Equipment Accounts (NGREA) in the base budget to ensure the operational Reserve can maintain effective training and deployment schedules,
 - vi. Restore and make permanent employer tax credits to help offset costs associated with employees' Guard or Reserve activities and reinforce employer support,
- b) Ensure seamless transitions for activated Guard, Reserve, and their families:
- i. Protect and upgrade transition assistance and reintegration programs and ensure that federal reserve veterans have access to services and support that are available to National Guard and Veterans, as well as their families,
 - ii. During periods of reintegration, fund and provide evidence-based care and services for Reserve Component members and families, including mental/behavioral health issues such as substance abuse support and suicide prevention,
 - iii. Permit activated Guard and Reserve members with Flexible Spending Accounts to roll over an unclaimed elected amount into a subsequent qualifying year after release from active duty,
 - iv. Support reserve "good year" points, as opposed to active days, when calculating military disability ratings,
 - v. Ensure parity for Guard and Reserve members with Active Duty members being evaluated under the Integrated Disability Evaluation System (IDES),
 - vi. Support DoD/Reserve Policy Forces Board recommendation that an SBP annuity for a reservist who dies while performing inactive duty training should be calculated on the same basis as an active duty service member who dies in the line of duty,
- c) Amend Title 38 to include in the definition(s) of "Veteran"- retirees of the Guard and Reserve components who have completed 20 or more years of service, but who, by law, are not currently considered to be Veterans,
- d) Promote G.I. Bill benefits for Selected Guard/Reserve Retirees:
- i. Restore basic reserve Montgomery G.I. Bill (MGIB) benefits (Title 10, Chap. 1606) for initially joining the Selected Reserve to the historic benchmark of 47-50% of active duty benefits,
 - ii. Integrate reserve and active duty MGIB laws in Title 38,
 - iii. Enact academic protections for mobilized Guard and Reserve students, including refund guarantees and exemption from Federal student loan payments and interest during activation,
 - iv. Exempt G.I. Bill from being considered income in any need-based financial aid calculations,
- e) Promote Guard and Reserve health care readiness by evaluating DoD and other proposals to reform TRICARE, including Guard and Reserve coverage, to provide cogent options in line with

the following three principles, up to and including the creation of a parallel and robust system for the Guard and Reserve:

- i. Continuity of Care- Operational Reserve members and their families require continuous access to affordable government care while preparing for missions (inactive duty training) or performing them (active duty orders),
 - ii. Affordability- In any redesign of TRICARE, government contributions to individual and family premiums must be sustained for inducing participation and contributing to readiness,
 - iii. Simplification- Any solution should simplify the hodgepodge of programs for Ready Reserve (Selected Reserve and the Individual Ready Reserve) members and their families,
- f) Preserve Guard and Reserve Legal Rights:
- i. Amend the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) to bar binding arbitration agreements on USERRA issues,
 - ii. Require that states which accept federal funds for any state programs or activities must waive their sovereign (11th Amendment) immunity in cases of USERRA actions,
 - iii. Provide punitive damages in cases of reemployment discrimination,
 - iv. Forbid discrimination based on Reserve Component status,
 - v. Amend the Service Members Civil Relief Act (SCRA) to include protections on leases and contracts impacting activated business owners,
 - vi. Broaden the types of insurance (including equipment, professional, dental, and disability) that the service member is entitled to reinstate after returning from activation,
 - vii. Override arrangements to submit future disputes to binding arbitration,
- g) Promote a Reserve Compensation System:
- i. Provide parity in special incentive pay, including career enlisted/officer special aviation incentive pays, diving special duty pay, and pro-pay for medical professionals,
 - ii. Eliminate Basic Allowance for Housing II and provide full Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) for any active duty service,
 - iii. Restore full tax-deductibility of non-reimbursable military travel expenses and support legislation to eliminate a minimal distance requirement for military travel reimbursement,
 - iv. Ensure the development and implementation of a robust financial education program for G-R members who will be under the blended retirement system beginning in 2018,
 - v. Change the calculation of a uniformed service member retiree's defined benefit retirement entitlement such that any qualifying inactive duty performed for "points only" when converted to active duty days at retirement shall be calculated with a 2.5% multiplier,
- h) Reduction of Retirement Age for Reserve Components: Improve and upgrade the Reserve Retirement provision (90 day for 3-month reduction) passed in the Fiscal Year 2008 (FY08) National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) to include all those Reserve Component members activated since 11 September 2001 with certain filters or CAPS for calculation,

- i) Alter the Reserve Retirement provision to account for a day for day calculation and not in blocks that are calculated in 3 month segments as previously stated, Veteran Status for Affected Reserve Component Members: Reserve Component military retirees who served 20 years, not considered a ‘veteran’ under current definition, should be honored with the title of, “Veteran of the Armed Forces,” and allowed all honors associated with such title,
- j) Rectify a discrepancy in Current Veteran Status Definitions: While currently in Title 38 USC, a veteran is described as someone who has performed active military service, reservists serving 180 days of such service, and who has received other than dishonorable discharge, that within these parameters, veterans are further defined as those eligible for VA benefits by virtue of his or her service. However, military personnel who serve on Title 10 active duty are not the only ones receiving service connected benefits. Many affected Reservist Component members are already eligible and receiving VA and other benefits such as TRICARE, G.I. Bill, Reserve Retirement Pay, etc., and consequently, if reservists are receiving benefits by virtue of their service, they too can be considered veterans of the armed forces under the current definition,
- k) Change the Above-The-Line Deduction For Overnight Travel Expenses of National Guard and Reserve Members: Restoration of full tax-deductibility of non-reimbursable expenses related to military training has been accomplished by the Fiscal Year 2004 (FY04) National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) using a distance of 00 miles. As other government agencies use 50 miles for travel compensation, Title 10 should be reworded so that “the deductions allowed...for any period during which such individual is more than 50 miles away from home in connection with such services,”
- l) Improve Space Available (Space-A) Travel provision for Guard and Reserve Component members, spouses, and retirees: Space-A is governed exclusively by Department of Defense Joint Travel Regulations (JTR), DOD 4515.12-R. Even though JTR does establish priority categories, they must adhere to section 2641b in Title 10 highlighting, “Space-available travel on Department of Defense aircraft: retired members residing in Commonwealths and possessions of the United States...,” which Congress NOW, as of 2013 pursuant to the Fiscal Year 2012 (FY12) NDAA, has the authority to intervene and change. The six priority categories are derived from this policy. However, many of these Space-A transports, like C-130’s, at the many bases within the CONUS and overseas, leave empty due to the lack of use by upper categories, and it is a requirement by DOD to have all planes filled to capacity if possible so as to not waste taxpayer money on unfilled transport planes as stated in DOD Instruction 4500.57 *“Unused passenger space on DOD owned and contracted (or chartered) passenger aircraft, in all types of missions shall be utilized to the maximum extent possible, to include Space –A passengers.”* As it currently stands, Air Mobility Command has laid out the six priority categories as follows (the Association of the United States Navy seeks changing Category six for higher consideration along with ‘Grey-Area’ Retirees):
 - i. Category I: Emergency travel in connection with serious illness, death, or impending death of a member of the immediate family of the following: United States citizen civilian employees of DOD stationed overseas; Full-time, paid personnel of the American Red Cross serving with United States military services overseas; Uniformed service family members whose sponsors are stationed within the Continental United States (CONUS) and the emergency exists overseas; Family members of United States citizen civilian employees of the DOD when both sponsor and dependents are stationed overseas at the same location,
 - ii. Category II: Sponsors on environmental and morale leave (EML) and accompanied family members; DOD Dependent School (DODDS) teachers and their accompanied family members in EML status during school year holiday or vacation periods,

- iii. Category III: Members of the uniformed services in an ordinary or re-enlistment leave status and uniformed services patients on convalescent leave. Members on convalescent leave may not travel overseas unless their leave form is so annotated; Military personnel traveling on permissive temporary duty (TDY) orders for house hunting; Dependents of military members deployed for more than 365 consecutive days; Bona fide family members (up to age 23 with a valid identification card) of a service member of the uniformed services when accompanied by their sponsor who is in an ordinary leave status within overseas areas between overseas stations and air terminals in the CONUS; Foreign exchange service members on permanent duty with the DOD, when in a leave status,
- iv. Category IV: Dependents of military members deployed for more than 120 consecutive days; Un-accompanied family members (18 years or older) traveling on EML orders. Family members under 18 must be accompanied by an adult family member who is traveling EML; DODDS teachers or family members (accompanied or unaccompanied) in an EML status during summer break,
- v. Category V: Unaccompanied Command-sponsored dependents; Students whose sponsor is stationed in Alaska or Hawaii; Students enrolled in a trade school in the CONUS when the sponsor is stationed overseas; Military personnel traveling on permissive TDY orders for other than house hunting,
- vi. Category VI: National Guard/Reserve components/members of the Ready Reserve and members of the Standby Reserve who are on the Active Status List; Retired military members who are issued DD Form 2 and eligible to receive retired or retainer pay; family members (with a valid identification card) of retired members when accompanied by a sponsor.

62nd AUSN BUSINESS MEETING
RESOLUTION #10
RELATING TO SERVICE MEMBER, VETERAN & RETIREE BENEFITS, TRICARE

WHEREAS, the Association of the United States Navy views the agreement by the military and service members signing up to serve their country in regards to the Military Healthcare System (MHS) and its administration as one that our nation should honor as thousands of service members, Veterans and families rely on TRICARE and its supplementary forms for adequate healthcare;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Association of the United States Navy seeks to:

- a) Halt to any proposed Department of Defense (DOD) increases of any and all TRICARE enrollment fees, including Pharmacy Copays, other than increasing to the annual Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) or a proposal that is reasonably negotiated, but not without input of veterans and Veteran Service Organizations (VSO's),
- b) Eliminate the prohibition on eligibility for enrollment into TRICARE Reserve Select (TRS) for those employees eligible to enroll in a health benefits plan under Chapter 89 of Title 5 giving members freedom to choose the plan which best fits their needs,
- c) Review and align TRICARE with changes to behavioral and mental health services coverage for service members and their families,
- d) Correct inequities in the TRICARE system by reducing TRICARE Retired Reserve (TRR) monthly premiums,
- e) Oppose means testing for TRICARE for Life (TFL) beneficiaries.

62nd AUSN BUSINESS MEETING
RESOLUTION #11
RELATING TO SERVICE MEMBER, VETERAN & RETIREE BENEFITS, EDUCATION

WHEREAS, the Association of the United States Navy believes that the long history of assisting our Service Members and families with further education through the GI Bill should be maintained, protected and supported to offer beneficiaries the best education;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Association of the United States Navy seeks:

- a) Improved Montgomery GI Bill Benefits: Continue to improve benefits of the Montgomery GI Bills by setting financial support to keep pace with the rising costs of education, and not just the cost of living (COLA),
- b) Amend Title 38 to allow additional education benefits to all post 9/11 veterans who would have otherwise been qualified for educational benefits had their benefits not previously been exhausted,
- c) Amend the language in the new Post-9/11 GI Bill to allow for the portability of any unused benefit to immediate family members of an eligible service member, living or deceased,
- d) Hold the GI Bill education benefits of a deceased member in trust for any minor dependent of the service member, until the minor dependent reaches the age of 18, when the benefit should enter the 15 year use window, not the age 26 restriction currently in the legislation,
- e) Provide for education benefits to be seen as an "account" for the family, and to be used by any and all family members subject to the stressors of the military life style,
- f) Pay the education benefit account in its entirety upon the death of the service member when the death occurs as a result of an act of war or terrorism,
- g) Cap the education benefit only by a dollar figure, not the number of beneficiaries,
- h) Allow minor children of service members the same 15 year period in which to utilize the benefit upon reaching the age of 18,
- i) Eliminate disparity between Active Duty and Reserve Component education benefits under the Post-9/11 GI Bill by extending full benefits under the law to include Active Guard and Reserve (AGR) service members,
- j) Offer an education contribution option to the members of the Reserve Component similar to Active Duty,
- k) Establish parity with the active forces in the administration, rates and eligibility standards for Chapter 1606 Montgomery GI Bill benefits,
- l) Amend the language in the new Post-9/11GI Bill to allow for the portability of and unused benefit to immediate family members of an eligible service member, living or deceased, who has qualified for retirement and who has transferred to the retired list, or retired-reserve list, prior to 1 August 2009, to transfer those benefits. In addition, for those who retired prior to 1 August 2009 and are still living, and are otherwise qualified for this bill and its transfer criteria, to be able to transfer those benefits without additional Active or Reserve Duty,
- m) Non Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits should be credited on a dollar value, rather than a monthly value against Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits.
- n) Amend Title 38 to allow any member who is eligible for the post 9/11 GI Bill to be able to sign over his education benefits to his dependents, to include service members who are currently honorably discharged.

62nd AUSN BUSINESS MEETING
RESOLUTION #12

RELATING TO SERVICE MEMBER, VETERAN & RETIREE BENEFITS, EMPLOYMENT/WORK
& PAY

WHEREAS, the Association of the United States Navy believes our nation's Veterans and retirees should not have to face cuts, or neglect, in pay nor unemployment upon their separation and, further believes, that the current amount of unemployed veterans in this country is close to 573,000 men and women and unemployment with returning post-9/11 veterans is close to 10% and is unacceptable; and

WHEREAS, employing (and re-employing) military veterans, retirees and Reserve Component members should be a top consideration for employers across the country with incentives to help reduce unemployment numbers and compensation should reflect their skill sets;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Association of the United States Navy seeks:

- a) **Military Pay Protection:** Provide for the continuance of pay and allowances for members of the Armed Forces, including reserve components thereof, during lapses in appropriations,
- b) **Improvement of Workforce Programs to match Veteran Skill Sets with that of Civilian Sector Jobs:** Given the high unemployment rate, investment in training and services necessary to match jobs with skill sets obtained in the military is important to lower the staggering unemployment rates. Services and programs such as these at local, state and federal levels should be encouraged to match military skills, and adapt them into requirements and certifications needed in civilian industry positions,
- c) **Authorization of Tax Credits for Employers of Members of the Guard and Reserve:** Guard and Reserve employers often shoulder the burden of extra costs to support national defense through the participation of their employees in the military. Support by employers of members in the Guard and Reserve enables the Total Force. Today's increased OPTEMPO makes employer support more important than ever. Employer pressure is listed as one of the top reasons members of the Guard and Reserve quit. There needs to be put into place meaningful employer tax credits as a way to help offset costs associated with employees' Guard or Reserve activities and reinforce employer support.

62nd AUSN BUSINESS MEETING
RESOLUTION #13

RELATING TO SERVICE MEMBER, VETERAN & RETIREE BENEFITS, RETIREMENT

WHEREAS, the Association of the United States Navy believes that the retirement benefit is a promise made between our Service Members, veterans and retirees and should be upheld and honored, with no threat to cuts, reductions and unfair adjustments after our military have already served and done due diligence; and

WHEREAS, this includes the belief that retirees receive the full value of their pensions for service to their county; and

WHEREAS, the implementation of a new retirement system is crucial to creating better, more efficient systems for service members and their families; and

WHEREAS, these retirement pensions are crucial for retirees as they transition and reintegrate back into life post-active duty; and

WHEREAS, it is crucial that veterans receive a system of retirement that reflects the current challenges and needs of the modern military era;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Association of the United States Navy seeks;

- a) Halting any action or proposal which seeks to reduce retirement pay for budgetary savings purposes to those who are already retired and depending on the compensation they were promised,
- b) Cost-of-Living Adjustment to Military and Military Retired Pay: Appropriate legislative action so that the pay of active duty and retired military personnel is adjusted annually at a rate equal to one hundred percent of the annual increase in the cost of living adjustment (COLA) as measured by the Economic Performance Index,
- c) Amending Titles 10 and 14, United States Code, to provide for an increase in military retired pay for officers credited with extraordinary heroism on the same basis applied to enlisted members,
- d) Securing the retirement benefit for any person who has begun their service before the day any changes is approved (i.e. "Grandfather"),
- e) Rejection of any BRAC-Like Commission to be established to review retirement, compensation proposals that are closed door and do not include the input of legislators or representatives of the Veteran Service Organization (VSO) community,
- f) Guard against discriminatory treatment of retired members compared to other federal retirement,
- g) Oppose adoption of the proposed chained-Consumer price index (CPI) devaluing benefits,
- h) Work to ensure continued fulfillment of congressional COLA intent,
- i) Ensure equal treatment of all uniformed service personnel in conjunction with retirement/COLA legislation,
- j) Monitor proposed Bureau of Labor and Statistics adjustments to CPI calculation process,
- k) Monitor action on Budget Resolution, Omnibus Budget Reconciliation, Social Security reform initiatives, etc. to guard against discriminatory treatment of retirees,
- l) Expanding concurrent retirement and disability payments to disabled retirees not eligible currently under statute,
- m) Seek temporary legislation to authorize separating service members ability to contribute payments into Thrift Savings Plan,

- n) Seek legislation to exempt involuntary separation pay or the value of a member's involuntary separation pay for those volunteered to leave,
- o) Ensure the principles of the DoD disability retirement/VA disability compensation not compromised,
- p) Ensure no reduction of compensation levels through restructure of disability and compensation systems,
- q) Oppose distinguishing between disabilities incurred in combat vice non-combat when determining benefit eligibility,
- r) Further expand eligibility to include all combat-related injuries, using definition as CRSC,
- s) Expand eligibility to include all service connected disabilities consistent with AUSN view,
- t) Changing the minimum age for paid-up SBP from age 70 to age 67 so those who joined the military 17-19 and served 20 years will only have SBP pay for 30 years,
- u) Base the award amount to the former spouse on the grade and year of service of former spouse,
- v) Prohibit award imputed income or "forced retirement" of active duty members,
- x) Extend 20/20/20 benefits to former spouses,
- y) Eliminate inequities in SBP Coverage,
- z) Eliminate "10 year rule" for direct payment of retired pay allocations,
- aa) Assist the DoD and Services with greater outreach and expanded awareness to members and spouses about rights, responsibilities and benefits,
- bb) Promote legislation changes that lower eligibility for permanent ID cards for spouses and survivors,
- cc) Support legislation to allow survivors a full month pay in month before retiree dies,
- dd) Seek full veteran status for member of the Guard and Reserve components with 20 yrs or more service, but do not otherwise qualify currently.

62nd AUSN BUSINESS MEETING
RESOLUTION #14
RELATING TO SERVICE MEMBER, VETERAN & RETIREE BENEFITS, USERRA AND SCRA
RIGHTS

WHEREAS, the Association of the United States Navy believes our Service Members and their dependents/families should not have to be concerned with deployments infringing upon certain civil obligations back home and such obligations should be suspended or postponed to enable Service Members to devote full attention to duty and relieve stress on the family members of those deployed Service Members; and

WHEREAS, employers should recognize and make accommodations for Service Members called up to duty and those Service Members should not have to be concerned with job conditions and prospects upon their return, with those jobs protected for them after a deployment; and

WHEREAS, the Service Members Civil Relief Act (SCRA) and the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) both seek to solve such problems and must be upheld;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Association of the United States Navy seeks:

- a) Amending the Service Members Civil Relief Act (SCRA) to mandate both the refund of college tuition payments for members who cannot complete a school term due to military service, and the protection of academic standing of service members deployed on active duty,
- b) Requesting Congressional review of the SCRA, and any other applicable law such as the Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA), to expand relief for involuntarily mobilized members of the reserve components; and to provide specifically that no adverse judicial or administrative action may be taken that affects a reservist's credit history from the date of mobilization until 180 days after being discharged from active duty,
- c) Strengthening the enforcement of reemployment rights of members under the Uniform Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA),
- d) Extend protection under USERRA to encompass treatment of service-connected disabilities at the Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA) health care facilities or other private health care facilities,
- e) Updated Uniformed Services Employment Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) to allow persons to be reinstated in their employer-sponsored health plan once released from TRICARE, upon return to employment.

62nd AUSN BUSINESS MEETING
RESOLUTION #15
RELATING TO SERVICE MEMBER, VETERAN & RETIREE BENEFITS, HOUSING AND HOME
LOANS

WHEREAS, the Association of the United States Navy believes our Service Members should receive fair treatment when determining housing conditions and loans during and after deployment;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Association of the United States Navy seeks:

- a) Exclusion from consideration as income under the United States Housing Act of 1937 payments of pension made under section 1521 of title 38, United States Code, to Veterans who are in need of regular aid and attendance,
- b) Amending the Service Members Civil Relief Act (SCRA) to ensure that relocation of a Service Member to serve on active duty away from the Service Members principal residence does not prevent the Service Member from refinancing a mortgage on that principal residence,
- c) Ensuring payment of Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) and Basic Allowance for Subsistence (BAS) for each day the individual would have qualified for a day of administrative absence; with retirement points awarded based on the entitled number of Post Deployment/Mobilization Respite Absence (PDMRA) days,
- d) VA Home Loan for Reserve Component Members: Extending the Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA) Home Loan for the Reserve Component as a permanent program, and adjust the loan fee to align with the VA home loan program,
- e) Amend the Expanded Homeowners Assistance Program to include Active Guard-Reserve (AGR) personnel meeting the criteria for Permanent Change of Station per service regulations and Joint Federal Travel Regulations (JFTR) with extended eligibility for permanently reassigned members from 30 September 2010 to 30 September 2014 as allowed in the Expanded Homeowners Assistance Program Final Rule (32 CFR Part 239).

62nd AUSN BUSINESS MEETING
RESOLUTION #16
RELATING TO SERVICE MEMBER, VETERAN & RETIREE BENEFITS, FAMILY MEMBERS,
SPOUSES, DEPENDENTS

WHEREAS, the Association of the United States Navy recognizes not only the dedication of the Service Member to answer the call of duty, but also the sacrifices made by families and spouses and the importance in supporting those dependents whose Service Members are deployed and the need to be properly taken care of during deployment or when that Service Member becomes deceased during or after deployment/service;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Association of the United States Navy seeks to:

- a) Repeal certain provisions which require the offset of amounts paid in dependency and indemnity compensation from Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) annuities for the surviving spouses of former military personnel who are entitled to military retired pay or who would be entitled to retired pay except for being under 60 years of age,
- b) Prohibit requiring repayment of certain amounts previously paid to SBP recipients in the form of a retired pay refund,
- c) Repeals optional authority of (and instead requires) the Secretary of the respective military department to pay an annuity to a member's dependent children when there is no eligible surviving spouse,
- d) Restore annuity eligibility to a surviving spouse, who earlier agreed to transfer such eligibility to a surviving child or children of a Service Member,
- e) Treatment of small businesses bequeathed to spouses and dependents by members of the Armed Forces killed in line of duty as small business concerns owned and controlled by veterans for purposes of Department of Veterans' Affairs contracting goals and preferences.
- f) Support extending VA childcare availability to all VA hospitals
- g) To amend certain provisions which require unequal treatment of Reserve Component members under the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) based solely on duty status; and resolve the same inequity with respect to payment of an SBP annuity to a dependent child or children when there is no eligible surviving spouse.

62nd AUSN BUSINESS MEETING
RESOLUTION #17
RELATING TO SERVICE MEMBER, VETERAN & RETIREE BENEFITS, CONCURRENT
RECEIPT

WHEREAS, the Association of the United States Navy believes that disability compensation should reflect the sacrifices of our nation's veterans during their service to our country, and preservation and adjustment of such disability compensation and ratings associated with it should be monitored and implemented;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Association of the United States Navy seeks to:

- a) Enact legislation that would authorize the concurrent receipt of longevity military retirement pay and disability compensation, without regard to a specific disability rating threshold by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA),
- b) Increase rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans,
- c) Allow payment of Concurrent Receipt of Disability Pay (CRDP) and Combat Related Special Compensation (CRSC) to career status Reserve Component members who are 100 percent disabled to include the 100 percent Individual Unemployables (IU).

62nd AUSN BUSINESS MEETING
RESOLUTION #18
RELATING SERVICE MEMBERS, VETERANS & RETIREES BENEFITS, TAXES, AND SOCIAL
SECURITY GOALS

WHEREAS, the Association of the United States Navy supports initiatives to expand tax deductions and protect future Social Security benefits to increase financial benefits for Service Members, retirees, and survivors;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Association of the United States Navy seeks to:

- a) Expand the workforce opportunity tax credit for employers who hire Guard and Reserve service members, demobilized service members, and military spouses of both Active and Reserve service personnel,
- b) Authorize tax deductions for premiums paid on health insurance, and secure legislation allowing service members, retirees and survivors to pay health insurance premiums and enrollment fees for TRICARE, TRICARE supplements, and DoD sponsored TRICARE dental plans on a pre-tax basis,
- c) Authorize tax deductions for military spouses who relocate to another state as a result of their military spouse's orders and are forced to obtain new professional certifications or trade licensure as a result of the move,
- d) Authorize tax deductions for Long Term Care (LTC) Premiums,
- e) Improve Above-the-line deductions for overnight travel expenses of Guard and Reserve Members, and restore full tax-deductibility of non-reimbursable expenses related to military training by amending the Internal Revenue Code Section 62(a)(2)(A) should be changed so it states that "the deductions allowed for any period during which such an individual is more than 50 miles away from home in connection such services,"
- f) Amend the Internal Revenue Code to exclude from the gross income of any cosigner of a student loan of a veteran who dies from a service connected disability any amount attributable to the discharge of the indebtedness on such loan,
- g) Exempt children who receive a Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) Annuity from the Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT) by eliminating the punitive burden imposed by the AMT by exempting the SBP amount received by the child; specifically amend 26 USC 59(j)(1). The annuity would be subject to the normal tax rates for a child's income,
- h) Provide combat zone tax exclusion for USPHS and NOAA Officers,
- i) Oppose the adoption of a Chained Consumer Price Index (CCPI) for calculating COLA, which would greatly reduce the benefits of Social Security recipients and military retirees,
- j) Protect and secure future Social Security benefits by taking actions to restore the program's long-term financial viability, while curbing problems of fraud, waste, and abuse.

61st AUSN BUSINESS MEETING
RESOLUTION #19
RELATING TO MORALE, WELFARE, AND RECREATION (MWR) PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, the Association of the United States Navy believes that MWR and Family Support/Readiness Programs are essential to a strong national defense; and

WHEREAS, these programs give greater quality of life for military beneficiaries, and have become of even greater importance in recent years of austerity, sequestration and forced drawdowns; and

WHEREAS, service budgets require adequate funding and greater accessibility for programs and services to eligible Service Members;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Association of the United States Navy seeks to:

- a) Engage with DOD regarding pilot programs to evaluate processes & methods to achieve budget neutral commissary and exchange benefits,
- b) Ensure the Exchange & Commissary systems have sufficient funding to support entire military community,
- c) Fight for sustained programs and full funding of MWR, Family Support/Readiness and other quality of life programs in future's budgets and base operation accounts,
- d) Monitor Public-Private partnerships initiatives used as cost-cutting or off-set measures.

61st AUSN BUSINESS MEETING
RESOLUTION #20
RELATING TO MILITARY READINESS, QUALITY HOUSING AND RELOCATION SUPPORT

WHEREAS, the Association of the United States Navy believes that Congress needs to end sequestration by implementing a more responsible, less arbitrary approach to budget reductions; and

WHEREAS, programs regarding Military Readiness, Quality Housing and Relocation support and education are crucial to the efficient functioning of the military, funding of these critical programs must not be hampered;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Association of the United States Navy seeks to:

- a) Improve military readiness:
 - i. Sustain adequate recruiting and retention resources to maintain optimal personnel,
 - ii. Ensure financial literacy and general benefits training and related-support for both service members and spouses,
 - iii. Monitor extended deployments and recalls of the Reserve Components,
 - iv. Advocate for the funding and implementation of the Public Health Science Track to provide critically needed uniform public health professionals,
- b) Improve Quality Health & Relocation Support:
 - i. Increase oversight of privatized housing to ensure quality, standardized housing,
 - ii. Fight decreases to the BAH and ensure BAH mirrors housing costs,
 - iii. Adjust house hunting reimbursement to be commensurate with personnel programs,
 - iv. Support adjustments to weight allow equipment/furnishings for wounded, ill, injured service members,
 - v. Further modify the PCS weight allowance tables for personnel in pay grades E-7 to E-9 to coincide with grades O-4 to O-6 respectively,
 - vi. Provide reciprocity for professional licensure and certificate requirements for spouses,
 - vii. Ensure that service members are provided accurate and timely information prior to every PCS,
 - viii. Request a report from DoD on financial impacts of PCS on military families,
- c) Improve Education:
 - i. Keep the Tuition Assistance program in place and fully funded,
 - ii. Ensure proper funding of Impact Aid through DoE and DoD for military children schools,
 - iii. Mitigate the effects of Service transformation, overseas rebasing initiatives, housing privatization,
- d) Improve Family Readiness:
 - a. Encourage DoD and Services, to access and fully fund effective programs support mechanisms designed to assist with deployment readiness, reintegration and transition,
 - b. Advocate for child care needs of the Total Force,
 - c. Advocate for continued expansion of family Access to mental health counseling,
 - d. Advocate for greater military spouse educational and career opportunities,

61st AUSN BUSINESS MEETING
RESOLUTION #21
RELATING TO COMPENSATION, WOUNDED WARRIOR, AND COMMISSARY PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, the Association of the United States Navy believes that Congress needs to end sequestration by implementing a more responsible, less arbitrary approach to budget reductions; and

WHEREAS, programs regarding Compensation, Wounded Warrior, and Commissary are crucial to the efficient functioning of the military, and by hampering the funding of these critical programs;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Association of the United States Navy seeks to:

- a) Improve Compensation:
 - i. Ensure annual pay raises remain tied to the Employment Cost Index,
 - ii. Oppose proposals that reduce value of current compensations or undermine retentions,
 - iii. Support enhancements in Reserve Component incentive/special pay due to increased Reserve reliance,
 - iv. Advocate for full “5% plus 1%” TSP government match in retirement,
 - v. Change calculation of a uniformed service member retiree’s defined benefit retirement entitlement,
 - vi. Promote authorization of flexible spending accounts to enable military families to pay health care and dependent care expenses on pre-tax dollars,
 - vii. Provide dislocation allowance for separating and retiring service members,
 - viii. Ensure that any changes to current TRICARE system do not increase out-of-pocket expenditures for eligible members,

- b) Help Wounded Warriors:
 - i. Ensure any restructure of the current disability and compensation systems not reduce compensation levels for disabled service members,
 - ii. Support compensation for loss of member’s QOL and for programs assisting in the DoD to VA transition,
 - iii. Include Enhanced Disability Severance Pay in the Combat-related Special Compensation,
 - iv. Extend housing eligibility up to one year for medically retired and severely wounded,
 - v. Eliminate distinction between combat vice non-combat disabilities when determining retirement benefits in Enhanced Disability Severance Pay,

- c) Improve Commissaries:
 - i. Preserve the Commissary benefits as a part of overall pay and compensation benefits,
 - ii. Advocate for the necessary appropriations to properly fund the Commissary & Exchange,
 - iii. Assist outreach by DeCA/DoD to increase patronage, thereby enhancing access and MWR funds,
 - iv. Oppose consolidations of the Commissary and Exchange systems that degrade benefit.

62nd AUSN BUSINESS MEETING
RESOLUTION #22
RELATING TO VETERAN ISSUES, CLAIMS PROCESSING AT THE DEPARTMENT OF
VETERANS AFFAIRS

WHEREAS, the Association of the United States Navy believes that the large number of backlogged claims in the Department of Veteran's Affairs (VA) must be decreased; and

WHEREAS, the VA considers a claim to be backlogged when it has been pending for more than 125 days; and

WHEREAS, according to the VA, as of 14 August 2013, the backlog stood at 490,000 out of 773,000 total pending claims; and

WHEREAS, the VA has been handling an increasing number of claims; more than 1 million per year for the last 3 years; and

WHEREAS, the VA has set a goal to eliminate the backlog by the end of 2015 by developing a digital record-keeping system, moving away from the slower paperwork processing system;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Association of the United States Navy seeks the following to help the VA achieve its goal to eliminate the claims backlog:

- a) Establish a new priority system for the VA in processing certain claims and appeals for compensation,
- b) Directing the VA to provide notice of average times for processing claims and appeals,
- c) Require the VA to submit to Congress an annual report on the performance of its regional offices,
- d) Require prompt responses from the heads of covered Federal agencies when the VA requests information necessary to adjudicate claims and appeals for benefits under laws administered by the VA,
- e) Direct the VA to include, within a notification to a claimant of the decision to deny a benefit sought, a form that may be used to appeal such decision,
- f) Direct the VA and the Department of Defense (DOD) to jointly ensure that the Vet Centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs have access to the Defense Personnel Record Image Retrieval system and the Veterans Affairs/Department of Defense Identity Repository system,
- g) Direct DOD to collaborate with the VA to provide adequate electronic records for a seamless transition between Service Member and civilian/Veteran life for VA processing,
- h) Require VA to provide to Congress information on the tracking of medical condition-based claims and appeals backlog, analyzing all data, and require the VA to issue a weekly update to the public via its website,
- i) Establish a commission or task force to evaluate the backlog of disability claims and appeals of the VA, which will recommend possible improvements to the claims process.

62nd AUSN BUSINESS MEETING
RESOLUTION #23
RELATING TO VETERAN ISSUES, HOMELESSNESS

WHEREAS, the Association of the United States Navy is concerned that 30% or higher of our nations homeless are veterans themselves. This uneven ratio can be directly related to the types of hardships Service Members endure during their military service, as an overwhelming majority of these veterans suffer from mental illnesses, alcohol and drug addictions and co-occurring disorders; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA) has suggested that while anywhere from 130,000 to 400,000 veterans are homeless every year- there are an additional 1.5 million veterans that are at high risk of becoming homeless in the coming years; and

WHEREAS, this is an unacceptable circumstance for our nation's veterans and efforts must be made to curtail this trend;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Association of the United States Navy seeks to:

- a) Establish programs by the VA to monitor homeless veteran trends and help homeless veterans find shelter,
- b) Expand the definition of homeless veteran: Expanding the definition will help for purposes of eligibility for benefits through the VA. Such expansion would include a veteran or veteran's family fleeing domestic or dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous or life-threatening conditions in the current housing situation, including where the health and safety of children are jeopardized, there is no other residence, and there is a lack of resources or support networks to obtain other permanent housing,
- c) Support the pursuit of legislation that would help to combat veteran Substance Use Disorder (SUD), and allow the Attorney General to award grants to eligible entities for developing and implementing mental health disorder and substance abuse treatment.

62nd AUSN BUSINESS MEETING
RESOLUTION #24
RELATING TO VETERAN ISSUES, HONORS

WHEREAS, the Association of the United States Navy believes that our current and former military should have the highest honors and dignity given upon them for decoration and recognition of their service, as well as for funeral ceremonies and burials; and

WHEREAS, there have been instances in our nation's history which have shown disgraces, or neglect, of such recognitions of valor as well as dignities, honors and decorations upon living and deceased Service Members and veterans;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Association of the United States Navy seeks:

- a) Proper Honors and Dignity at Burials and Funerals: This includes upholding existing laws that restrict protests or demonstrations from a certain distance,
- b) Increasing burial plot and cremation allowance for non-service related death to \$1,000,
- c) Authorize the United States Marine Corps (USMC) to resolve for the display/wearing of the Fleet Marine Force Warfare Device for those Navy veteran personnel who have faithfully served in the Fleet Marine Force prior to the creation of the device.

62nd AUSN BUSINESS MEETING
RESOLUTION #25
RELATING TO VETERAN ISSUES, TRANSITION AND REINTEGRATION

WHEREAS, the Association of the United States Navy believes that transitioning and reintegrating into the civilian sector post deployment is difficult for many of our Service Members and that adequate programs and funding for such assistance efforts is crucial to not only our Service Members, but also to their families; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that transition services be provided to help guide separating Service Members and veterans back into the civilian sector;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Association of the United States Navy seeks:

- a) Seamless Transition for Navy and Navy Reserve Component Members and their Families: Continued implementation and oversight through tailored Transition Assistance Programs (TAP) that meet the needs for child care, family readiness programs, VA outreach programs, funding for a core set of family support programs, and health care through web-based programs and family assistance programs,
- b) Continued support and sustainment of vital Post Deployment/Mobilization Respite Absence (PDMRA) leave program,
- c) Continued support and funding of Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Programs for returning sailors and veterans,
- d) Fund Needed Upgrades to Transition Assistance Services and Review / Revise Laws for the Protections for Mobilized Reserve Component Members and Their Families: With more than a half million members of the Reserve Component being activated so far since 9/11, various Congressional and news reports have documented the fact that at separation, many of these Service Members do not receive the transition services they and their families need to make a successful readjustment to civilian status- needed improvements include but are not limited to ease of access to TAP courses and including veterans, and their families, who have been separated for up to a year to continue to participate in TAP.

62nd AUSN BUSINESS MEETING
RESOLUTION #26
RELATING TO VETERAN ISSUES, SEXUAL ASSAULT CONCERNS

WHEREAS, the Association of the United States Navy recognizes sexual assault, and the trauma associated with it as a growing concern with Service Members across all branches and that upon separation; and

WHEREAS veterans are dealing with the effects of such trauma as they adjust to their lives back home; and

WHEREAS, these are unacceptable acts in our military and the Association of the United States Navy recommends that the Department of Defense (DOD) do all it can to prevent its continuation and the Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA) must establish the means to treat those veterans exposed to these inappropriate acts;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Association of the United States Navy seeks:

- a) The preservation of DOD documentary evidence, all forms, reports, or other documents, whether in paper or electronic forms etc., of DOD on incidents of sexual assault and sexual harassment in the military and sharing such documents with the VA upon Service Member separation,
- b) Appropriate mental health treatment, including PTSD, of sexual assault and trauma victims by mental health care professionals at the VA,
- c) The exclusion of individuals who have been convicted of felonies of committing certain sex offenses from receiving certain funeral/burial-related benefits and other military honors which are otherwise available to certain veterans, members of the Armed Forces, and related individuals,
- d) The creation of a Special Victim's Counsel, a military lawyer, who will assist sexual assault victims through the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) process,
- e) Enhance the responsibility and authority of DOD's Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office, to allow it to improve its efforts of regularly tracking and reporting Military Sexual Assault (MSA) statistics such as assault rate, cases brought to trial, and legislative and regulatory compliance at the individual services,
- f) Refer sexual assault cases to the next chain of command or the next superior competent authority in cases where there is a conflict of interest, thus 'codifying' into Federal law a policy which is already implemented in certain cases within the UCMJ.

62nd AUSN BUSINESS MEETING
RESOLUTION #27

RELATING TO THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

WHEREAS, the Association of the United States Navy recognizes that the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) is important to veterans and service members with disabilities as it embodies the principles of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA); and

WHEREAS, like the ADA, the CRPD supports equal treatment and non-discrimination in access to rehabilitation, employment, and educational opportunities; and

WHEREAS, AUSN supports the principles of the CRPD and ADA because it promotes empowerment of our nation's veterans and Service Members with disabilities by providing the opportunity to achieve independent living and inclusion into all aspects of society;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Association of the United States Navy seeks:

- a) A ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) by the United States Senate;

62nd AUSN BUSINESS MEETING
RESOLUTION #28
RELATING TO VETERANS GOALS AND BENEFITS

WHEREAS, the Association of the United States Navy believes in promoting public and political recognition to ensure Veterans' benefits are earned through service and sacrifice in defense of the nation and are separate from "social welfare" programs; and

WHEREAS, AUSN opposes any deficit-driven political decisions that would lump Veterans' benefits with any civilian entitlement programs and rejects any political gratification which would ask Veterans to do their "fair share" in overcoming national economic woes;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Association of the United States Navy seeks:

- a) Full implementation of the Veterans Access, Accountability and Choice Act by expanding VA internal medical capacity to assure timely access for outside VA referrals: This will ensure any plan under H.R. 3236 integrates multiple VA "community care" programs and implements them in a timely fashion,
- b) Full implementation of all VA Caregivers Law provision, including measures supporting women Veterans and extending the act to caregivers of disabled Veterans of conflicts before Sept. 11, 2001,
- c) Alignment of the DoD- VA definitions for caregiver support and services to include qualifying "illnesses",
- d) Investment, training and cultural awareness in the VA healthcare system of the unique health needs of women veterans and ensuring veterans with reproductive organ injuries have access to the same reproductive services as are available in the DoD health system,
- e) Support of programs and funding to expand and improve care, rehabilitation and application for research for veterans suffering from PTSD/ TBI: This includes outreach to address the rising suicide rate among veterans.
- f) Extension of the combat theatre vet enrollment window from 5 to 10 years and provide enrollment opportunities to certain veterans without private health insurance,
- g) The inclusion of rural veterans' access to VA care in the current work of the VA Commission on Care,
- h) Better collaboration of DoD-VA healthcare systems, as outlined in the 2015 Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission (MCRMC) report: This will improve the integrated disability evaluation systems and Benefits Delivery at Discharge efficiency and preserve the integrity and access to DoD VA health systems for dually eligible members,
- i) Technical amendments to establish CHAMPVA entitlement for children of survivors who are eligible for CHAMPVA as outlined in the National Health Care Reform Act,
- j) Research on the long-term health of children of veterans who have been exposed to toxic substances during their military service,
- k) Extension of the VA advanced appropriations authority to remaining VA accounts not authorized by two-year funding,
- l) Assessment of the DoD/ VA's implementation of the 2016 NDAA requiring the establishment of a joint procedure for pain and psychiatric drugs for transitioning Veterans,
- m) The passage of corrective legislation to authorize Medicare/Medicaid reimbursement to State Veterans' Homes in order to offset cost of care,
- n) The opposition of fee hikes for Veterans currently enrolled in an employment priority group.

62nd AUSN BUSINESS MEETING
RESOLUTION #29
REGARDING UPGRADES IN VETERANS' EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION and TRAINING
PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, the Association of the United States Navy seeks to re-enact employer tax incentives under the Vow to Hire Heroes Act; and

WHEREAS, employing and re-employing veterans should be a top priority for employers across the country in order to help resolve the veteran unemployment numbers;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Association of the United States Navy seeks the following:

- a) Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VRE) benefits,
- b) A cost of living stipend for VRE participants,
- c) Permission for post-9/11 spouses to complete their education / training program under the Gunny Fry Scholarships notwithstanding the 15 year usage period after the death of their spouse,
- d) Authorization to transfer benefits under the P911 GI Bill from severely disabled veterans to their full-time Caregivers in cases in which a transfer action did not occur prior to the veterans' medical discharge or retirement,
- e) Proportional upgrades to the Title 10 Montgomery GI Bill (Chap. 1606, 10 USC) program to contend with the cost of education,
- f) Hearings for a unified architecture for all GI Bill Programs for active duty and Reserve service members under the principle of awarding benefits according to the length and type of duty performed.
- g) Support of the VA's plan to reduce / eliminate veteran homelessness.
- h) Authorization for career Reserve members who are entitled to a reserve pension, TRICARE and earned veterans' benefits, but never served on Title 10 Federal active duty, to be honored as "Veterans of the Armed Forces,"
- i) Mortgage foreclosure protections to surviving spouses for 12 months after the death of the sponsor,
- j) Veterans' preference appeal rights for veterans in the Transportation Security Agency (TSA),
- k) Continuous review and upgrades of the Service Members' Civil Relief Act including elimination of "forced arbitration" clauses in contracts that nullify the Act's protections,
- l) Stronger re-employment rights for Operational Reservists who support military orders in the Title 10 order,
- m) Allowance of military families to break a lease without penalty when on-post housing becomes available,
- n) Permanent mortgage coverage protection.

62nd AUSN BUSINESS MEETING
RESOLUTION #30
RELATING TO OTHER VETERANS' ISSUES OR PROGRAMS OF INTEREST

WHEREAS, the Association of the United States Navy recognizes that there are other issues which relate to Veterans which are not fully encompassed through other resolutions; and

WHEREAS, it is desirable to AUSN that such issues be acknowledged and taken under consideration in order to fully support Veterans;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Association of the United States Navy seeks:

- a) Authorization for career Reserve members who are entitled to a reserve pension, TRICARE and earned veterans' benefits, but never served on Title 10 Federal active duty, to be honored as "Veterans of the Armed Forces,"
- b) Mortgage foreclosure protections to surviving spouses for 12 months after the death of the sponsor,
- c) Veterans' preference appeal rights for veterans in the Transportation Security Agency (TSA),
- d) Continuous review and upgrades of the Service Members' Civil Relief Act including elimination of "forced arbitration" clauses in contracts that nullify the Act's protections,
- e) Stronger re-employment rights for Operational Reservists who support military orders in the Title 10 order,
- f) Allowance of military families to break a lease without penalty when on-post housing becomes available,
- g) Permanent mortgage coverage protection.

62nd AUSN BUSINESS MEETING
RESOLUTION #31
RELATING TO SURVIVOR PROGRAM GOALS

WHEREAS, the Association of the United States Navy believes in improving and protecting the survivor benefits issued by DoD and the Veterans Administration (VA) and seeks to eliminate benefit inquiries;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Association of the United States Navy seeks:

- a) The repeal of the SBP-DIC (Dependency Indemnity Compensation) offset. Survivors of retirees who died of service-connected causes who paid into SBP, and survivors of members who die on active duty should receive both SBP and DIC benefits without the current dollar for dollar offset:
 - i. If repeal of the SBP/DIC offset is not accomplished, extend the Special Survivors Indemnity Allowance (SSIA), which expires October 1, 2017, and increase the allowance amount to offset a greater percentage of the income offset by receipt of DIC,
- b) Decrease the age for paid-up SBP from age 70 to age 67 to allow those who joined the military at age 17, 18, or 19 and served 20 years to only have to pay SBP premiums for 30 years,
- c) Exempt children who receive a Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) to eliminate the punitive burden imposed by the Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT) by exempting the amount received by the child; amending 26 USC §59 (j) (1),
- d) Allow reinstatement of SBP- Reinstatement SBP annuities to survivors who transfer it to their children when the children reach majority, or when a second marriage ends,
- e) Calculate the SBP annuity for a reservist who dies while performing inactive duty training (IDT) using the same criteria as a service member who dies while on active duty,
- f) Match DIC equity with other federal survivor benefits. Survivors of federal civilian workers have their annuity set at 55% of their Disabled Retiree's Compensation whereas DIC is currently equivalent to 43% of a 100% disabled retiree's compensation; DIC payments should be raised to 55% of VA Disability Compensation for a 100% disabled veteran,
- g) Retain DIC upon remarriage at age 55 to align with SBP rules and other federal survivor benefits,
- h) Increase DIC payable to widows of catastrophically disabled veterans to match other Federal survivor benefit plans,
- i) Improve the speed of adjudicating and granting DIC to survivors of active duty deaths and deaths caused by service connected disability,
- j) Authorize survivors of retirees to draw full month's retired pay for month in which retirees die,
- k) Seek legislation to reinstate TRICARE benefits for remarried widows when the second marriage ends,
- l) Lower permanent ID card eligibility to age 65,
- m) Eliminate inequities in SBP coverage in the Uniformed Services Former Spouse Protection Act (USFSPA) by permitting the designation of multiple SBP beneficiaries with the presumption that SBP benefits must be proportionate to the allocation of retired pay, SBP premiums to be withheld from the former spouse's share of retired pay if directed by court order, permit a former spouse to waive SBP coverage, and repeal the 1 year deemed election period requirement for SBP,
- n) Ensure Survivors' inclusion when changes are made to the Service Members Civil Relief Act (SCRA),

- o) Increase VA Survivors' Death Pension to match death pension benefits to the federal poverty level determined each year by the Department of Health & Human Services,
- p) Expand CHAMPVA coverage to eligible surviving children up to the age of 26 to reflection the provisions in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care ACT (ACA) that mandate Young Adult coverage on their parent's healthcare insurance plans
- q) Establish a bereavement leave policy based on the model of paternity leave, which could include 14 days of non-chargeable leave that the service member could opt to use within 45 days of the date of the death of a spouse, child, or parent,
- r) Include bereavement and grief counseling as a TRICARE benefit.

62nd AUSN BUSINESS MEETING
RESOLUTION #32
RELATING TO THE IMPROVEMENT OF SURVIVORS AND SURVIVORS' DEPENDENTS
EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS

WHEREAS, the Association of the United States Navy recognizes the sacrifices Survivors have endured and believes in safeguarding the educational benefits granted to Survivors and their Dependents;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Association of the United States Navy seeks:

- a) Enactment of legislation to increase Dependents' Educational Assistance (DEA) benefits under Chap. 35, Title 38 USC a minimum of 20% to match the increase in MGIB benefits Congress passed in 2008,
- b) The establishment of a housing and annual book stipend for the DEA program,
- c) Requirement for the DEA program be adjusted proportionally whenever Congress raises MGIB (Chap. 30) and the Post 9/11 GI Bill (Chap. 33) benefits,
- d) Support for legislation to provide for the transfer of the Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits to eligible surviving spouses of deceased members of the Uniformed Services,
- e) The guarantee that eligibility for Chapter 35 education benefits is equitably extended to all survivors,
- f) Modification of the Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship program to authorize additional time for surviving spouses to use the scholarship; Currently, the statutory 15-year limit does not allow widows/widowers who lost their active duty spouse early in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars to use the scholarship.

62nd AUSN BUSINESS MEETING
RESOLUTION #33

SUPPORTING EFFORTS TO INCLUDE 74 SAILORS KILLED ON USS FRANK E. EVANS (DD 754)
ON THE VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL "WALL"

WHEREAS, the Association of the United States Navy recognizes that the USS Frank E. Evans (DD 754) was ordered to withdraw from combat operations to participate in an allied Naval Exercise with the HMAS Melbourne (R21) and return to combat operations when the exercise was completed; and

WHEREAS, at 0315 hours on 03 June 1969, while participating in the aforementioned exercise, was in a collision with the Australian aircraft carrier, HMAS Melbourne (R 21), in the South China Sea, near the coast of Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, the collision severed the ship into two sections, with the forward section sinking in less than three minutes, taking the lives of 74 American sailors; and

WHEREAS, Public Law 96-297 (94 Stat, 827), authorized the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund to construct a memorial to honor and recognize armed forces service in the Vietnam War; and

WHEREAS, the memorial fund relied upon the Department of Defense to compile the list of names and criteria for those persons to be memorialized; and

WHEREAS, as of February 1981, the Department of Defense established four distinct criteria for names to be included on the memorial; and

WHEREAS, the Secretary of Defense shall decide (as defined in Section 101 (2), of title 38 United States Code), veterans who died as a direct or indirect result of military operations in Southeast Asia and whose names are eligible for inclusion on the memorial; and

WHEREAS, the date of the collision corresponds to the criteria for the Vietnam Service Medal and the USS Frank E. Evans was awarded the Vietnam Service Medal for the dates 2-6 June 1969 along with the ships that came to her rescue; and

WHEREAS, the ships that came to the Evans aid were USS Everett F. Larson DD 830, USS Kearsarge CVS 33, USS Walke DD 723, USS James E. Keyes DD 787, plus tug Tawasa ATF 92; and

WHEREAS, the ships, the men on the ships and the sailors killed on the Evans because where they were and why, are entitled to Vietnam Service Medal; and

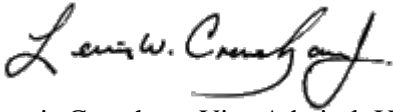
WHEREAS, the criteria for Vietnam Service Medal are identical to the criteria for inclusion on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial "Wall";

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Association of the United States Navy seeks:

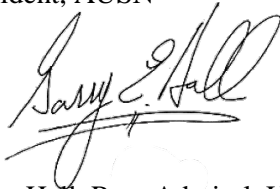
- a) A favorable decision from the Department of Defense to include the 74 Sailors who lost their lives in the collision with the HMAS Melbourne (R 21) to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

**AMENDED, PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES
NAVY THIS DAY,
31 October 2016**

SIGNED:



Lewis Crenshaw, Vice Admiral, U.S. Navy (Ret)
President, AUSN

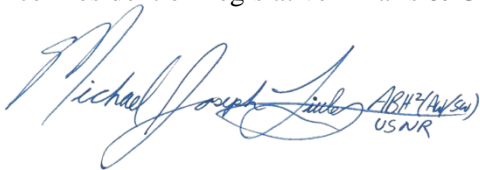


Garry Hall, Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy (Ret)
Executive Director, AUSN

David Bradley, Lieutenant Commander, U.S. Navy (Ret)
President, AUSN



Bill Manofsky, Commander, U.S. Navy (Ret)
Vice President of Legislative Affairs & Government Relations



Michael Joseph Little, PO2 (AW/SW), U.S. Navy
Director of Legislative Affairs & Government Relations