



2019 Convention Resolutions

Resolution 2019-1: VFP Global Warming Response Resolution (*Passed*)

Resolution 2019-2: Dissolve the Fake “UN Command” in Korea

Resolution 2019-3: Expand VA Healthcare To All Veterans & Family Members

Resolution 2019-4: Congress Repair/Repeal Parts of MISSION Act

Resolution 2019-5: Impeach President Trump for Illegal Wars & Torture

Resolution 2019-6: Modification of the Name of Our Organization

Resolution 2019-7: Stop Military Encroachment on the Environment

Resolution 2019-8: Cease and Desist from Overthrowing the Elected Government of Venezuela

Resolution 2019-9: Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons
(*Approved by VFP Membership*)

Resolution 2019-10: Protect Mauna Kea and Her Protectors in Hawai`i
(*Approved by VFP Membership*)

Resolution 2019-11: Stop Military Sexual Assault
(*Approved by VFP Membership*)

Rejected Resolutions

Resolution 2019-1: VFP Global Warming Response Resolution

Approved unanimously by the Board and at convention business meeting

Whereas, our planet is heating up, causing the extinction of thousands of life-forms, threatening the ability of humankind to survive, and

Whereas, the warming is largely the result of human activity, i.e. the consumption of fossil fuels, destruction of forests for hardwood and cattle-raising, and

Whereas, to control the world's oil and gas, the U.S. empire maintains over 450 military bases in the U.S., 800 more around the world and wages war at will in multiple nations, resulting in a U.S. military carbon footprint of one million barrels of oil per day or 5 percent of current global warming emissions, and

Whereas, every peace and justice issue impinges some aspect of climate change; wars fought over oil and gas, the re-direction of national resources away from education, healthcare and employment to support a global military presence, and

Whereas, there is a fast-growing global movement to address climate change, led by the world's youth who lose the most if global warming goes unchallenged. We need to combat the politics of wealth preservation and promote politics that preserve the planet.

Therefore Be It Resolved that Veterans For Peace urges its Chapters to set up work groups to:

1. Make contact with legitimate organizations devoted to reversing climate change.
2. Find out from them how our particular approach, as an anti-war organization, would fit into their educational outreach programs.
3. Develop curricula and hand-out materials to assist students from grammar school to college age in their own efforts to affect policies.
4. Train teams willing to participate to approach their community schools on the matter of climate change.
5. Actively lobby legislators and participate in direct actions to emphasize the importance of this issue.

Submitted by Wilson (Woody) Powell

Cosponsored by Michael Ferner and Gerald Steele

Resolution 2019-2: Dissolve the Fake “UN Command” in Korea

Approved unanimously by the Board, and with no opposition at convention business meeting

Whereas, on July 7, 1950, the United Nations (UN) Security Council recommended in its Resolution 84 (S/1588) the creation of a U.S.-led “Unified Command,” but the U.S. soon started to call the entity unilaterally as the “United Nations Command” (“UNC”), and

Whereas, two UN officials--Secretary General Boutros-Ghali in 1994 and Under-Secretary-General Rosemary DiCarlo in 2018—have confirmed that the “UNC” in Korea is neither a subsidiary organ of the UN nor under the control of the UN, and

Whereas, recognizing the abuse of the UN name, the UN General Assembly (GA) passed a Resolution in 1975 (A/RES/3390B), declaring that it is necessary to dissolve the so-called “UNC,” and

Whereas, in spite of the GA Resolution and clarifications, the U.S. still maintains the fake “UNC” in South Korea and Japan today, as a useful instrument of war in the future or hegemonic control over the two countries, and

Whereas, contrary to a rising call for an official end to the long Korean War, the U.S. has been shamelessly revitalizing the “UNC” in recent years--even using the fake entity in 2018 to block the inter-Korean joint projects, such as connecting the transportation network across the DMZ,

and Whereas, it is the overwhelming desire of the people of Korea, U.S., Japan, China, and Russia to work together for a new era of peace and cooperation in Northeast Asia.

Therefore Be It Resolved that Veterans for Peace

- 1) Calls upon the U.S. administration to stop abusing the name of the “United Nations” and terminate the “UNC” in Korea promptly,
- 2) Calls upon the Congress to cut off all funds for further use of the fake “UNC” in Korea; and
- 3) Urges VFP members and local Chapters to send a copy of this resolution to their respective members of Congress.

Submitted by John Kim, Korea Peace

Cosponsored by VFP-Korea Peace Campaign and VFP Chapter 1003 (Ryukyu-Okinawa)

Resolution 2019-3: Expand VA Healthcare To All Veterans & Family Members

Approved unanimously by the Board and at convention business meeting

Whereas, the Veterans Administration (VA) with over 420,000 workers and 1243 healthcare facilities is an admirable example of single-payer, single-provider health care serving over 7 million veterans in return for their service to our nation. In general, the VA provides high quality care at approximately 30% lower cost with better outcomes than non-profit or for-profit healthcare with appointment wait times less than or equal to that of private care primary and specialty doctors, and

Whereas, studies of American private care estimate that more than 225,000 patients a year die of medical mistakes which is a death rate that VA healthcare does not share, and

Whereas, America's aging Baby Boomer veterans become sicker with age, many younger post 911 veterans are suffering debilitating life-long injuries, American incomes have stagnated while healthcare costs outpace inflation especially for those ill, all resulting in veterans less likely to have the income to pay for private care, Medicaid or Medicare supplementary costs.

Therefore Be It Resolved VFP calls upon Congress to expand VA healthcare eligibility to all America's 20 million veterans regardless of income, country of residence or discharge rating, providing all veterans with free healthcare including free prescription drugs, assisted living, skilled nursing and end of life care, and

Be It Further Resolved VFP urges Congress expand the above healthcare program to all immediate family members of veterans, and

Be It Further Resolved VFP calls for expansion of VA budgets, staffing and facilities to provide such additional healthcare, and

Be It Further Resolved VFP urges Chapters, Stop VA Privatization Work Group, and members, submit this resolution to all members of Congress, presidential candidates, and the news media,

And Be It Finally Resolved that VFP members urge their Congressional members in writing or in person to act upon this resolution.

Submitted by Buzz Davis, Chapter 13

Co-sponsored by vote of Chapters 13, 80, 102, 109, 122 and 30+ individual co-sponsors

"If and When the resolution passes, the Stop VA Privatization Work Group will offer a package to the chapters and members to take lobbying action with. We will also work with Colleen Kelly, VFP Communications Coordinator, for her advice. She may suggest an email blast to members asking each to click an electronic link to send both resolutions to the Congress member with a short letter.."

Resolution 2019-4: Congress Repair/Repeal Parts of MISSION Act

Approved unanimously by the Board and at convention business meeting

Whereas, the Koch brothers, Concerned Veterans for America and some Congressional members have advocated privatizing the Veterans Administration (VA) since 2010, and

Whereas for decades VA provided rural community care (CC) for 2.8 of 9.3 million enrolled veterans -- on a case by case basis, managed by primary care doctors, and

Whereas, CC outpatient visits accounted for 20% of VA outpatient visits annually, and

Whereas, the 2014 Choice program escalated CC appointments to 40% by October 2017, and

Whereas, today possibly 50% of all VA outpatient appointments are private care, and

Whereas, CC may be lower quality, have longer wait times, cost more than VA care, and

Whereas, experts allege MISSION Act (MA) regulations go beyond Congressional delegated authority resulting in CC costs eating up VA dollars/staff time allocated for VA facilities which combined with VA refusal to fill over 50,000 vacancies creates evermore staffing shortages/stress.

Therefore Be It Resolved VFP urges the following: Congress pass MISSION Act "repair" bill (such as Sen. Tester's bill (S.154) because privatizers are using non-congressionally and non-veterans service organization supported VA regulations to disassemble VA healthcare, and

Be It Further Resolved Congress pass legislation requiring CC providers submit to VA timely patient records enabling assurance of quality care provided veterans and to prevent contractor fraud, and

Be It Further Resolved Congress pass legislation providing segregated and adequate funding for CC and for care provided at VA facilities, and

Be It Further Resolved Congress repeal the MISSION Asset and Infrastructure Review (AIR) Commission (Sen. Manchin and Rounds bill (S. 853) proposes repeal) which threatens to close rural and urban VA healthcare facilities instead of investing in modernization to provide veterans high quality, cost effective care, and

Be It Finally Resolved VFP members urge their Congressional members in writing or in person to act upon this resolution.

Submitted by Buzz Davis, VFP Chapter 13

Co-sponsored by VFP Chapters 13, 102, 109, 122

Resolution 2019-5: Impeach President Trump for Illegal Wars & Torture

Disapproved 11-1 by Board; passed at convention business meeting 53-24-7

Whereas, the U.S. invasions, bombings and occupations of Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, Syria and other nations and torture, initiated by previous administrations continuing under President Trump, are illegal under U.S. Constitution, United Nations (UN) Charter, Hague and Geneva Conventions, UN Convention Against Torture and Nuremberg Tribunal Charter, and

Whereas, President Trump has committed criminal acts by continuing such illegal wars and torture without consent of Congress, and

Whereas, the U.S. military or surrogates continue to use depleted uranium munitions, cluster bombs and white phosphorous in densely populated areas violating U.S., international laws and treaties prohibiting the indiscriminate killing of civilians with Geneva Conventions specifically prohibiting weapons/materials causing harm by remaining active after battle, and

Whereas, babies born in Iraq and Afghanistan are suffering abnormal medical issues caused by toxic/radioactive materials, and

Whereas, since 2001, millions of Iraqi, Afghani, Pakistani, Yemeni, Somali, Libyan, Syrian and other civilians have been killed, injured, maimed, poisoned, made homeless, economies ruined costing taxpayers trillions, and

Whereas, illegal torture of detainees and US citizens by our military, CIA and surrogates continues at Guantanamo and other facilities, and

Whereas, Americans and VFP supported impeachment of Bush/Cheney for similar war crimes now being committed by Trump and VFP is committed to abolish war as an instrument of national policy.

Therefore Be It Resolved VFP urges the U.S. House of Representatives commence impeachment proceedings against Pres. Trump for illegal wars and torture in violation of our Constitution, laws, UN Charter, international laws and treaties and for other impeachable high crimes and misdemeanors, and

Finally Be It Resolved VFP members are urged to provide this resolution to their U.S. House member and encourage them to vote for commencing impeachment proceedings against President Donald Trump.

Submitted by Buzz Davis, VFP Chapter 13 with many Co-Sponsors

Pro argument – This resolution is timely now as support by the American public for impeachment has significantly increased due to Trump's many crimes, including the situation in the Ukraine. Could be seen as a symbolic gesture of opposition of the president's conduct.

Con argument – This is a distraction from our main tasks, and could potentially backfire in the 2020 election season. Every president in US history, and likely all future presidents can be considered war criminals and organizational resources should be concentrated to challenge policies.

Resolution 2019-6: Modification of the Name of Our Organization

Not passed: Should be By-Laws Change

Whereas, since its inception in 1985, Veterans For Peace has emerged as the leading veterans organization advocating the end of war and militarization, and

Whereas, war and militarization are the root causes of racism, economic inequality, social injustice, and environmental exploitation in our nation and throughout the world, and

Whereas, VFP has recognized and acknowledged through previously adopted Resolutions, with on-going Projects and Working Groups, and by Peace at Home, Peace Abroad initiatives that peace by itself is not enough, and

Whereas, peace without justice still allows injustices, persecutions, and exploitations to continue, such as the case in many of our own seemingly tranquil communities and in several parts of the world not at war, and

Whereas, “No Justice, No Peace” is more than a protest chant. It proclaims the fundamental fact that justice is essential in order to achieve a real, meaningful, and lasting peace, and

Whereas, our organization should clearly and unequivocally confirm and embrace the linkage of peace and justice,

Therefore Be It Resolved, that our organization’s name should be modified to be Veterans For Peace and Justice.

Submitted by Christopher Jamison, Chapter 51

Resolution 2019-7: Stop Military Encroachment on the Environment

Approved unanimously by the Board, 3 opposed and 3 abstentions at convention business meeting.

Whereas, The Department of Defense is engaged in dramatic expansion of bases and warfare trainings around the county by expanding military training on public lands, avoiding the impacts of military expansion by segmenting projects, and by using the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process to instruct the military in how to get what it wants, including initiating land-use legislation in state legislatures, and

Whereas, to further its national expansion plans, the US Army War College created a guide for enabling more military operations on public lands, and the "Military Training on Public Lands: Guidelines for Success" is still the Bible of military land grabs for the public lands and contains a whole section on NEPA, and

Whereas, base and training expansion proposals are taking place across the country at bases like Eglin in Florida and Lemoore in California, and in communities like Burlington, Vermont, Whidbey Island, Washington, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, etc. and

Whereas, it is essential for the public to engage in a public policy discussion about the massive military expansion underway in the United States, Veterans for Peace can provide leadership and support for strengthening NEPA policies and for state efforts like Washington's Attorney General in making the military follow the law;

Therefore Be It Resolved that Veterans For Peace will support state efforts, like Washington's Attorney General Robert Ferguson, to take action to protect citizens, our environment, and make the military follow the law, which includes strengthening the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to stop military encroachment on public lands, air, and seas, and its adverse impacts on our communities.

*Submitted by Maryon Attwood, VFP Associate Member
Sound Defense Alliance - Legislative Chair*

Resolution 2019-8: Cease and Desist from Overthrowing the Elected Government of Venezuela

Approved unanimously by the Board and at convention business meeting

Whereas, it is illegal under U.S. and international law, the United Nations (UN) Charter, and the Organization of American States (OAS) Charter, to launch a military attack against another nation - unless attacked; similarly it is illegal to threaten an attack or use of force against another nation, and

Whereas, the Bush, Obama and Trump administrations and Members of Congress have been conniving to overthrow the Venezuelan governments of Presidents Hugo Chavez and Nicolas Maduro, to roll back the Bolivarian Revolution which radically reduced poverty, increased literacy, improved housing, re-distributed land (acclaimed by the UN) and nationalized oil production, thus producing governmental revenues. Yet the U.S. has redoubled its efforts to overturn their revolution and the Trump administration is threatening to intervene militarily to effect regime change, and

Whereas, illegal sanctions have killed at least 40,000 Venezuelans* since 2017.

Therefore Be It Resolved that Veterans For Peace urges its members to work both nationally and internationally to prevent a bloody civil war from killing/injuring the Venezuelan people and other Latin American peoples and to restrain our government from intervening, overtly and covertly, in the internal affairs of Venezuela and other nations;

Be It Further Resolved that VFP calls for an end to the “coercive measures” of U.S. economic sanctions and other forms of economic warfare, such as pressuring third countries not to trade with Venezuela, and pressuring banks and international lending institutions to deny loans to Venezuela;

Be It Further Resolved that Veterans For Peace urges U.S. military leaders to inform President Trump that they will order their units to stand down from preparations to illegally invade Venezuela and that VFP urges soldiers to only obey legal/Constitutional orders;

Be It Further Resolved that VFP members are urged to contact political representatives, write letters to the editors and protest in the streets resisting more destruction of self-determination, democracy and human rights in this hemisphere and the world; and

Be It Finally Resolved that Veterans For Peace urges all branches of the U.S. government to obey the “rule of law,” to cease and desist attempting to overthrow the elected government of Venezuela, and further urges Congress to direct the executive branch.

Submitted by Buzz Davis, VFP Chapter 13

Cosponsored by Daniel Kovalik, VFP Associate Member

Resolution Note To The Board: The above contains ideas and wording from “The Plot to Overthrow Venezuela: How the US Is Orchestrating a Coup for Oil” By Dan Kovalik and the VFP Position Statements on Veterans Call on U.S. Troops to Resist Illegal Orders to Invade Venezuela and Veterans Call to Resist U.S. Coup in Venezuela

Resolution 2019-9: Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

Approved unanimously by the Board and at convention business meeting

Whereas, 122 countries voted in support of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on July 7th, 2017, and

Whereas, nuclear abolition is one of the five pillars in the mission of Veterans For Peace, and

Whereas, the Veterans For Peace Golden Rule Project is a member of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN);

Therefore Be It Resolved that Veterans For Peace urge Chapters to encourage their local municipal governments to take the ICAN Cities Appeal Pledge - <http://nuclearban.org/cities>.

Submitted by Shelby Surdyk, Assoc. Member

Resolution 2019-10: Protect Mauna Kea and Her Protectors in Hawai`i

Approved unanimously by the Board and at convention business meeting

Whereas, the aboriginal people of the islands of Hawaii, the Kānaka Maoli (indigenous Hawaiians), have the inherent right to collective self-governance and determination, as formerly recognized internationally via treaties with nations including the USA and European powers, and

Whereas, the illegal overthrow of the nation of Hawai`i through the collusion of White supremacist profiteers and US military continues to undermine the inherent sovereignty of Native Hawaiian in the present, and

Whereas, Mauna Kea, a mountain historically sacred to Kānaka Maoli with a record of destructive mismanagement by the University of Hawaii, is the contested site of yet another telescope, a colossal thirty-meter telescope (TMT) atop fragile conservation land that threatens the island aquifer, endangered species and ancient Hawaiian shrines and culture, and

Whereas, the movement to protect Mauna a Wakea (Mauna Kea) having been motivated by historical kuleana (responsibility) to mālama `aina (ecological preservation), practices Kapu Aloha (nonviolence) demonstrated through ongoing legal challenges and peaceful civil disobedience;

Therefore Be It Resolved that Veterans For Peace supports the Kānaka Maoli kia`i (Native Hawaiian protectors) inherent right to collective self-governance and determination, including opposition to the construction on their culturally, ecologically and spiritually revered mountain of Mauna Kea. VFP honors their Aloha `Āina (love for land/people) and condemns any acts of violence against the protectors by authorities, be them local, federal or military.

Submitted by Pete Shimazaki Doktor, Hawai`i Chapter 113

Resolution 2019-11: Stop Military Sexual Assault

Approved unanimously by the Board and at convention business meeting

Whereas, countless women and men are victims of military sexual assault, and

Whereas the Department Of Defense (DOD) study, Factors Associated with Women's Risk of Rape in the Military Environment, American Journal of Industrial Medicine (2003) found for women who served in Vietnam, post-Vietnam and Persian Gulf War eras that 30% experienced an attempted or completed rape during service, 37% who stated they were raped stated they were raped more than once, 14% who reported they were raped reported being gang raped and 75% of raped women decided not to report the attacks to authorities, and

Whereas the www.protectourdefenders.com 2018 report states sexual violence remains pervasive, 81% of victims (2016) did not report the crime, retaliation is the norm, prosecution (FY2017) and conviction rates fell dramatically from prior years, there's a high demand for Veterans Administration (VA) care (1,307,781 VA outpatient visits (2015)) for military sexual trauma (MST) care with 38% of female and 4% of male experiencing MST, and

Whereas it's a moral crime to permit military recruitment in high schools with DOD's dangerous record in preventing/prosecuting sexual assault.

Therefore Be It Resolved Veterans For Peace urges Congress to transfer reporting, investigation and prosecution for sexual assault from the military to civilian police and overseas to special military justice units with full prosecution authority, staffing and shielding from retaliation;

Be It Further Resolved that VFP urge Congress pass a moratorium on military recruitment/visits/programs in high schools until DOD provides verification that having a child in the military provides minimal risk of sexual assault;

Submitted by Buzz Davis, Chapter 13

Rejected Resolutions

- **Rejected Resolution A:** Sacred Land, Sacred Lives: End The Ongoing Bloodshed In Syria
 - Not Recommended By Resolutions Committee - Duplicates Resolution Stop All Foreign Intervention In Syria approved by the membership in 2015
- **Rejected Proposed Resolution B:** Amend Presidential Eligibility Conduct and Good Moral Character Vetting
 - Not Recommended By Resolutions Committee – In short, a poorly written resolution that was received in the last minutes of the resolution deadline date.
- **Rejected Proposed Resolution C:** Resolution Demanding the Okinawan People's Will be Respected and the US and Japanese Governments' Plan to Build a New US Military Base at Henoko, Okinawa Be Abandoned
 - Not Recommended By Resolutions Committee – Re-introduced as Resolution 2019-12 at convention business meeting and approved unanimously.