

Resolution No. 401

END SEQUESTRATION

WHEREAS, sequestration is the result of a failed budget agreement from the Budget Control Act of 2011, which raised the federal debt ceiling on an agreement to offset the increase with a corresponding decrease in federal discretionary spending over a 10-year period. A bipartisan Congressional committee was created to identify which federal accounts to reduce, and as a penalty, an automatic 10 percent across-the-board sequester would kick in should the committee fail to reach an agreement, which it did; and

WHEREAS, sequestration began in the second half of FY 2013, and its impact on the military — which accounts for half of the government's total discretionary budget — was immediate. In order to meet mandatory spending cuts without impacting combat operations in Afghanistan, the four services had to slash training, as well as furlough its civilian workforce; and

WHEREAS, occurring simultaneously was a planned \$487 billion reduction in Pentagon spending over a 10-year period; and

WHEREAS, three Bipartisan Budget Agreements have since been signed to temporarily suspend the sequester; and

WHEREAS, meanwhile, the world has become far more dangerous and unpredictable in the seven years since sequestration was created; and

WHEREAS, the cuts have not only reduced and degraded quality of life programs for military personnel and their families, but have negatively impacted readiness and modernization programs, to the point of jeopardizing the military's ability to respond when and where needed. Sequestration also impacts other federal agencies, most notably the Department of Homeland Security and its many subsidiary units, plus sequester limits budgets requests and subsequent appropriations for the Department of Veterans Affairs; and

WHEREAS, sequestration cripples the government's ability to operate effectively, to secure our country and her citizens, and it threatens to dismantle every quality of life program the VFW has helped to create for veterans, service members and their families everywhere; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we demand that the United States Congress eliminate sequestration.

Submitted by Commander-in-Chief
To Committee on NATIONAL SECURITY & FOREIGN AFFAIRS