

## **Resolution No. 404**

### **PRESERVE THE ALL-VOLUNTEER FORCE**

WHEREAS, America's All-Volunteer Force engaged in a 15-year, two-front war, that nobody prior to 9/11 would have thought possible without reinstating the draft. It has done so despite multiple combat tours and significant military recruiting and retention challenges, and it continues to operate in an extremely dangerous and unpredictable world; and

WHEREAS, the troops are concerned. They are concerned that elected and appointed officials don't understand what it's like to serve in an All-Volunteer Force that has been tasked to do so much for so long. The troops are concerned whether there will be a place for them should they want to make the military a career. They are concerned about quality of life programs, their families, and the future of the GI Bill and its transferability provision. And their leaders are very concerned about potential burnout in a military that is continually tasked to do more with less human and fiscal resources; and

WHEREAS, worldwide commitments and challenges have increased, to include keeping approximately 15,000 American troops in Afghanistan, conducting thousands of airstrikes against radical forces aligned with the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, increasing rotations to Eastern Europe, heightened engagement in Africa, and redeploying almost 9,000 service members back into Iraq; and

WHEREAS, substandard training levels, pilot and maintenance shortages, outdated equipment, the inability to fund new programs, the use of authorities to activate Reserve component members without providing traditional benefits, and cuts to morale and welfare programs are the direct result of a military struggling to survive a budget crisis that will only continue to grow the longer Congress is unable to end the sequester and provide a stable, consistent defense budget. The cumulative impact of lower pay and a higher operations tempo has a direct influence on morale, which in combination with a better civilian economy, has impacted both recruiting and retention, and threatens the continued existence and viability of the All-Volunteer Force; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we will redouble our efforts to work with Congress and the Administration to preserve the All-Volunteer Force, to end the sequester, and to help bring some permanent financial stability to a military that will continue to operate in a very dangerous and unpredictable world.

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