

Resolution No. 409

ESTABLISH THE ARMED FORCES UNIVERSITY

WHEREAS, approximately 77 percent of the Active Duty force and 76 percent of the Reserve component have not obtained a bachelor's degree or higher; and

WHEREAS, research conducted by the VFW-SVA Legislative Fellowship demonstrated the persistent problems in obtaining comparable compensation for veterans who enter the civilian workforce without easily-transferrable skills; and

WHEREAS, the American Council on Education recommends, but cannot require, equivalent college credit be awarded for military training. And where there is considerable discrepancy amongst institutions on the awarding of these credits to service members and veterans, with some schools awarding as little as 1 credit; and

WHEREAS, the lack of coordination between the existing military educational and training programs results in inconsistent awarding of credits, certificates, and licenses across the services, even among individuals in comparable career fields who complete the same training; and

WHEREAS, since 2009, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has spent more than \$55 billion in Post-9/11 GI Bill funds alone for the educational needs of approximately 1.5 million Veterans and their dependents, and VA has requested an additional \$11 billion for education benefits for FY 19, demonstrating a clear need for education services; and

WHEREAS, since 1972, the Community College of the Air Force (CCAF) has conferred college degrees accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to better prepare Airmen to compete in the civilian workforce; and

WHEREAS, the Air University Associate to Baccalaureate Cooperative program, begun in 2007, partners CCAF with 59 universities, articulating the transferability of credits for persistence purposes; and

WHEREAS, the Congressional Research Service showed that extending the CCAF model across all armed services could be a cost-effective method in improving the preparedness of today's military to enter the workforce; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge Congress to establish the Armed Forces University for the purpose of conferring accredited college degrees on military-trained personnel to improve preparedness for the civilian workforce.

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