

RESOLUTION NO. AZ-L-001

Support for Awarding the Congressional Gold Medal to World War II Nurses

WHEREAS, during World War II, thousands of military nurses courageously answered the call to serve their country in hospitals, combat zones, evacuation units, field stations, transport ships, and military installations around the world; and

WHEREAS, these nurses provided lifesaving medical care to wounded service members under extraordinarily difficult and dangerous wartime conditions, often while risking their own health and safety; and

WHEREAS, World War II nurses served with distinction in the U.S. Army Nurse Corps, Navy Nurse Corps, and other military medical units, demonstrating compassion, resilience, professionalism, and unwavering dedication to duty; and

WHEREAS, their service significantly improved survival rates for wounded soldiers and contributed immeasurably to the success of Allied military operations during World War II; and

WHEREAS, many World War II nurses served without seeking recognition and their contributions have not always received the national acknowledgment they deserve; and

WHEREAS, the Congressional Gold Medal is among the highest civilian honors bestowed by the United States Congress and is reserved for individuals whose contributions have had a profound impact on American history and the nation; and

WHEREAS, awarding the Congressional Gold Medal to World War II nurses would appropriately recognize their heroic service, sacrifice, and historic contribution to the United States and to generations of veterans and military medical professionals; NOW,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV Department of Arizona, at its convention assembled in Chandler, Arizona, June 11-13, 2026, vigorously supports the award of the Congressional Gold Medal to the World War II Nurses of the United States in recognition of their extraordinary service, sacrifice, and devotion during World War II.

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RESOLUTION NO. AZ-L-002

Support Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence in VA Claims Processing

WHEREAS, Executive Order 13960 established principles to guide federal agencies in the use of artificial intelligence (AI), promoting trust, transparency, accountability; and

WHEREAS, the VA is expanding its use of AI in claims processing, which may introduce bias or delays if not properly governed; and

WHEREAS, the VA has adopted frameworks such as its AI Use Case Inventory and Trustworthy AI Framework to guide ethical implementation; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV Department of Arizona, at its convention assembled in Chandler, Arizona, June 11-13, 2026, supports the responsible, transparent, and accountable use of artificial intelligence by the Department of Veterans Affairs in claims processing and related functions.

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RESOLUTION NO. AZ-L-003

Support Allowing Veterans to Change Representation at Any Time During an Appeal

WHEREAS, Board of Veterans' Appeals (Board) rules allow an appellant to change representation within a 90-day period following the submission of a Notice of Disagreement (section 20.1304, title 38, Code of Federal Regulations); and

WHEREAS, VA claims files are now fully electronic; and

WHEREAS, most business is conducted electronically using internet applications and/or email; and

WHEREAS, when an appellant opts for new representation, the new representative must sign accepting the change; NOW,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV Department of Arizona, at its convention assembled in Chandler, Arizona, June 11-13, 2026, supports legislation that would allow the veteran/appellant to switch representation at any point in the process prior to the Board rendering a decision, without the need to explicitly cite good cause for such change in representation.

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RESOLUTION NO. AZ-L-004

Support Full and Fair Reimbursement of Veterans' Travel Costs to All VA Medical Care

WHEREAS, the VA provides travel reimbursements to eligible veterans under section 111, title 38, United States Code, to support access to medical care; and

WHEREAS, current VA policy reimburses veterans at a flat rate of 41.5 cents per mile, a rate unchanged since 2008, despite the General Services Administration's (GSA's) current mileage rate being 72.5 cents per mile; and

WHEREAS, the VA withholds a \$3 deductible from each one-way trip, or \$6 round trip, unless waived due to financial hardship, shifting travel-related administrative costs onto veterans; and

WHEREAS, veterans are reimbursed based only on mileage to the nearest VA facility where care could be provided, rather than where care is actually delivered—despite veterans often needing to travel farther due to availability, specialty care or scheduling issues; and

WHEREAS, outdated reimbursement rates, geographic restrictions and automatic withholding policies create avoidable financial burdens that disproportionately impact low-income veterans, rural veterans, aging veterans and those requiring frequent care; and

WHEREAS, these policies discourage timely treatment, undermine continuity of care and conflict with VA's mission to eliminate barriers to health care access for service-connected disabled veterans; NOW,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV Department of Arizona, at its convention assembled in Chandler, Arizona, June 11-13, 2026, supports legislation and VA policy reforms to:

1. Repeal the beneficiary travel deductible for all service-connected disabled veterans;
2. Increase the mileage reimbursement rate to align with the current GSA standard;
3. Reimburse veterans based on the actual distance traveled to and from authorized VA medical appointments, not merely the nearest possible facility; and
4. Eliminate automatic withholding of any portion of veterans' travel reimbursements.
5. Provide for automatic annual review³ and adjustment of the VA beneficiary travel reimbursement rate to maintain parity with applicable federal mileage reimbursement standards.

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RESOLUTION NO. AZ-L-005

Support Reducing Barriers to Employment, Education and Access to Benefits

WHEREAS, pursuing education and seeking gainful employment to support themselves and their families becomes a top priority for many veterans transitioning from military to civilian life; and

WHEREAS, veterans may not be fully aware of the range of benefits they have earned or may face unnecessary challenges in accessing those benefits and the support systems designed to help them succeed; NOW,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV Department of Arizona, at its convention assembled in Chandler, Arizona, June 11-13, 2026, supports programs, policies and legislation that identify and remove barriers to employment, education and full access to benefits for service-disabled veterans.

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RESOLUTION NO. AZ-L-006

Support Recognition of Minor Children Under Legal Guardianship as VA Dependents

WHEREAS, many veterans and their spouses assume the legal responsibility of raising grandchildren and other minor children through court-ordered guardianship due to family hardships, military service-related circumstances, parental incapacity, substance abuse, death, incarceration, or other compelling reasons; and

WHEREAS, these veterans provide daily care, financial support, housing, food, education, medical care, and emotional support to children under their legal guardianship in the same manner as biological, adopted, or stepchildren; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) currently recognizes only biological children, adopted children, and stepchildren as eligible dependents for purposes of additional disability compensation and certain dependent-related benefits; and

WHEREAS, under current federal law governing Department of Veterans Affairs benefits, minor children under court-ordered legal guardianship generally are not recognized as eligible dependents for purposes of additional disability compensation and certain dependent-related benefits; and

WHEREAS, numerous federal programs recognize children under legal guardianship for purposes of benefits, healthcare eligibility, or tax treatment, demonstrating an established federal framework for such recognition; and

WHEREAS, veterans raising children under legal guardianship face significant financial challenges associated with providing for those children and should receive equitable consideration under VA dependent benefit programs; and

WHEREAS, the exclusion of children under legal guardianship creates an inconsistency among federal programs and places an undue burden on veterans who have stepped forward to care for vulnerable children; **NOW**

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the DAV Department of Arizona supports legislation urging the Department of Veterans Affairs and the United States Congress to amend relevant statutes, regulations, and policies to recognize minor children under court-ordered legal guardianship as eligible dependents for purposes of VA disability compensation and other dependent-related benefits.

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