

Resolution No. 301

OFFER RANKED CHOICE VOTING IN FEDERAL ELECTIONS

WHEREAS, the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) was enacted by Congress in 1986; and

WHEREAS, UOCAVA requires that the states and territories allow members of the United States Uniformed Services and merchant marine, their family members, and United States citizens residing outside the United States to register and vote absentee in elections for Federal offices; and

WHEREAS, one purpose of the Veterans of Foreign Wars as enumerated in our Congressional Charter is to maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom; and

WHEREAS, free and fair elections, where every vote is counted, are a bedrock of American freedom with “one person, one vote” enshrined in the Constitution by application of the Equal Protection clause of the 14th Amendment; and

WHEREAS, the Manual of Procedure of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Sections 217, 417, 517, 520, 617, and 620, all prescribe that “If there be no election on the first ballot, the name of the comrade receiving the lowest number of votes shall be dropped and so on in successive ballots until an election is made.” This process being commonly referred to as “instant runoff voting,” or a ranked-choice voting system that modifies plurality by repeatedly eliminating the last-place winner until only one candidate is left; and

WHEREAS, in the 2020 Presidential election, over 3 million early or mail-in votes were wasted on candidates who dropped out of the race after the ballots were cast, representing over 8% of the total votes cast, due to the “choose one” format of most ballots; and

WHEREAS, using Ranked Choice Voting for overseas service members and their families, who must vote early and by mail due to their overseas status, will ensure the votes of these citizens are counted, thereby, extending this institution of American freedom across the globe; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge Congress to amend the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act to mandate the ballot states and territories must already provide to U.S. citizens to vote absentee in Federal elections be Ranked Choice Voting style ballots.

Resolution No. 302

PROTECT THESE LIVING SYMBOLS OF AMERICAN FREEDOM

WHEREAS, “to foster true patriotism” and “to maintain and extend the institutions of American Freedom” are enumerated purposes of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, per Sec. 23012, paragraph 5 and 6 of the Congressional Charter, respectively; and

WHEREAS, “Congress finds and declares that wild free-roaming horses and burros are living symbols of the historic and pioneer spirit of the West; that they contribute to the diversity of life forms within the Nation and enrich the lives of the American people”; and

WHEREAS, “It is the policy of Congress that wild free-roaming horses and burros shall be protected from capture, branding, harassment, or death; and to accomplish this they are to be considered in the area where presently found, as an integral part of the natural system of the public lands”, as stated in the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971; and

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the primary agency responsible for managing the wild free-roaming horse and burro populations, relies almost exclusively on the capture and removal of these living symbols of American Freedom to do so; and

WHEREAS, the United States of America is a nation of laws, the capture and removal of wild-free roaming horses and burros violates the spirit and stated goals of the 1971 Act meant to protect them from capture and to guarantee they remain where presently found; and

WHEREAS, it is our patriotic duty to demand that Federal agencies and their bureaucracies not undermine the will of Congress by capturing and removing the wild free-roaming horses and burros; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that Congress shall amend the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burro Act of 1971 to require the Secretary of the Interior to prioritize the implement of nonsurgical, medically safe on-range fertility controls to manage populations of wild free-roaming horses and burros where presently found over their capture and removal.

Submitted by Department of Colorado
To Committee on GENERAL RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 303

NATIONAL FLAG TO HONOR AND REMEMBER THOSE WHO DIED WHILE SERVING IN AMERICA'S ARMED FORCES

WHEREAS, Veterans of Foreign Wars honors the service and sacrifice of all military service members especially those who have lost their lives in service to the Republic; and

WHEREAS, there is not an officially recognized symbol that serves as a daily reminder to the public, of those who have made the ultimate sacrifice; and

WHEREAS, an “Honor and Remember” flag has been created as a daily reminder for the American public to acknowledge the sacrifice of freedom; and

WHEREAS, the “Honor and Remember” flag will recognize, not only those killed in action during war, but all service members who died in the line of duty and from their wounds as a result of their service; and

WHEREAS, this flag will serve as a symbol of national gratitude, for each American life given in defense of liberty and give comfort to the Gold Star families who lost a loved one during military service; and

WHEREAS, the flag will serve as a tool to educate the public of those lost in service to the Republic; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, to endorse the Honor and Remember flag as the National flag of remembrance for those who give the ultimate sacrifice to this nation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that by endorsing the flag that the Veterans of Foreign Wars is demonstrating support for the Gold Star families who have given so much to the nation.

Submitted by Department of Virginia
To Committee on GENERAL RESOLUTIONS