
THIRD READING

Bill No: ACR 5
Author: Mathis (R), et al.
Introduced: 12/14/20
Vote: 21

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: Read and adopted, 6/17/21

SUBJECT: AMVETS 75th Anniversary

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This resolution commends AMVETS Department of California on its 75th year of providing benefits and services to Veterans.

ANALYSIS: This resolution makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) The unprecedented call to military service demanded by World War II led to a record number of returning war Veterans in need of assistance and support.
- 2) The roots of AMVETS National can be traced to a gathering of 18 Veterans in Kansas City, Missouri, on December 10, 1944, who named themselves “The American Veterans” of World War II. This group sought to provide more comprehensive assistance than was currently available from organizations run by Veterans of earlier wars and those operating on college campuses during that time.
- 3) On July 23, 1947, AMVETS National became the first World War II organization chartered by Congress when President Truman signed Public Law 216 (H.R. 1888), giving AMVETS a federal charter under Title 36 of the United States Code and status as a 501(c)(19) nonprofit Veterans service organization.
- 4) In honor and recognition of the sacrifices made by all Veterans, membership in AMVETS is open to anyone who is currently serving or has honorably served in the United States Armed Forces, Coast Guard, and Merchant Marine, as well as the National Guard and reserve components.

- 5) The AMVETS Department of California was established on October 20, 1945, and today has more than 8,000 members and 48 local posts in California communities.
- 6) AMVETS established a partnership between the United States Department of Veterans Affairs and the AMVETS Department of California Service Foundation, chartered June 7, 1949, called the Welcome Home program that offers furnishings and household items to homeless Veterans who receive federal Department of Housing and Urban Development assistance and supports the United States Department of Veterans Affairs' goal to end Veteran homelessness. Welcome Home deliveries set the standard for thanking formerly homeless Veterans for their service by getting them not only off the streets, but into a furnished residence, providing them with purpose, hope, and dignity.
- 7) AMVETS service officers assisted California Veterans in filing 42,052 claims with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, which resulted in new and retroactive claim payments of almost \$56,600,000 for California Veterans.
- 8) AMVETS is active in advocating on behalf of Veterans and their dependents before the Legislature, the state Department of Veterans Affairs, and state and local agencies, as well as supporting California's National Guard. AMVETS sponsors legislation, supports and monitors numerous Veteran-related bills during legislative sessions, and actively monitors aspects of the state budget process, which affect such issues as Veterans Homes, CalVet, National Guard, County Veterans Service Officers, and Veterans outreach programs.
- 9) In 2010 AMVETS noted the unimaginable number of Veterans committing suicide and began a campaign called 22 Every Day to help Veterans and others to recognize the signs of suicide, bring awareness of higher rates of suicide among women Veterans, and explore the causes of suffering and feeling of helplessness, which led to 80 verified successful interventions.

This resolution commends AMVETS Department of California for providing benefits and services to their fellow Veterans, as well as playing an important role in the civic life of their communities for 75 years; and states that AMVETS, since 1945, has exhibited leadership, advocacy, and service for California's Veterans and their families.

Comments

The author states, “This resolution would recognize and commemorate the hard work, dedication and the vital role that AMVETS has in advocating for, and supporting our state’s brave veterans.”

Related/Prior Legislation

SCR 90 (Grove, 2020) would have commended AMVETS Department of California on its 75th year of providing benefits and services to Veterans. The resolution died in the Senate.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 6/29/21)

None received

OPPOSITION: (Verified 6/29/21)

None received

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6/30/21 15:23:17

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