



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.
2013 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 13-38

- TITLE:** AMERICAN INDIAN VETERANS MEMORIAL INITIATIVE
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 118 federally-recognized tribes, 133 village corporations, 13 regional corporations, and 11 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska. Its membership includes 178 villages (both federally-recognized tribes and village corporations), 13 regional Native corporations and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and run federal and state programs. The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska Native/ American Indian and Native Hawaiians serve at the highest per capita rate in the Armed Forces compared to any group of Americans, and have served with valor in all the Nation's wars from the Revolutionary War through the present; and
- WHEREAS:** young Alaska Native men and women made their commitment to serve in the Armed Forces of the United States of America; and
- WHEREAS:** an overwhelming majority of Alaska Native men served in the Vietnam War; and
- WHEREAS:** there is a National Monument commonly referred to as the "Vietnam Veterans Memorial" recognizing those Veterans who served both living and dead;
- WHEREAS:** a part of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial are the figures called "The Three Servicemen"; and
- WHEREAS:** "The Three Servicemen" are wearing uniforms and carry equipment of war, one serviceman has the appearance of a Caucasian, the other African-American and the third resembles a Hispanic soldier; and

WHEREAS: it is NOT practicable to add another soldier to an existing Iconic Memorial as "The Three Servicemen"; and

WHEREAS: a founder of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Jan Scruggs, Vietnam Veteran, wanted the memorial to acknowledge and recognize the service and sacrifice of ALL who served in Vietnam; and

WHEREAS: an opportunity exists for the Alaska Federation of Natives to be at the forefront of an "INITIATIVE" to encourage Indian Tribes, Indian Veteran Organizations, and Non-Indian Veteran Organizations; and

WHEREAS: this Initiative shall be charged with the responsibility to go into Indian Country to communicate with Local, Regional, and National Indian and Non-Indian groups necessary to gather support in an effort to obtain Congressional authorization to erect/build a Statue at the entrance of the Education Center of the Vietnam Wall; and

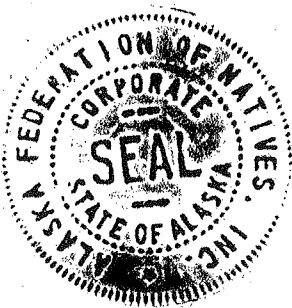
WHEREAS: the Statue will recognize the contributions and sacrifices of All American Indian/Alaskan Native and Native Hawaiian Soldiers in All Wars; and

WHEREAS: the Alaska Federation of Natives has been otherwise fully advised.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Federation of Natives hereby recognizes, approves, and supports the "American Indian Veterans Memorial Initiative".

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall be the policy of AFN until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

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| SUBMITTED BY: | BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE ALASKA FEDERATION OF DIRECTORS |
| COMMITTEE ACTION: | DO PASS |
| CONVENTION ACTION: | AMENDED AND PASS |



2013 CONVENTION RESOLUTIONS MINORITY AFFAIRS



Adopted At The
16TH NATIONAL CONVENTION
JACKSONVILLE, FL
AUGUST 11-18, 2013

MA-12 AMERICAN INDIAN VETERANS MEMORIAL INITIATIVE

History: First adopted in 2013 as MA-12

Issue: 42,000 American Indians/Alaskan Native and Native Hawaiian volunteered to serve in Vietnam. More per capita than any other ethnic group in the country. American Indians/Alaskan Native and Native Hawaiians have fought in all wars/conflicts since the Revolutionary War and have earned and should receive the full recognition of their service. There is no Monument/Statue recognizing their Contribution and Sacrifice on the National Mall of our Nation's Capital.

Background: American Indians/Alaskan Natives and Native Hawaiians have always been the stewards of American homelands before it was America. American Indians/Alaskan Native/Native Hawaiians have served in all Conflicts and Wars since the birth of America. Approximately 12,000 American Indian/Alaskan Native and Native Hawaiian served in World War I before they became Citizens of the United States, They served in World War I in an attempt to gain Citizenship of the United States, despite the fact they were original inhabitants. The native language of the Choctaw, Comanche, and Hopi Indian Tribes were first used in World War I to transmit field telephone messages. Approximately 25,000 volunteered to serve in World War II. The Comanche,

Creek, Chippewa, and Hopi Code Talkers used their own languages quite extensively in World War II. These Tribes were using their own language not a code. The Navajo Code Talkers developed a Code using their language. Their Code helped win the war in the Pacific. In record numbers, 42,000 servicemen in the American Indian/Alaskan Native and Native Hawaiian population exemplified strength, patriotism, honor, and dedication in all Branches of the Military during the Vietnam Conflict. American Indians/Alaskan Native/Native Hawaiian distinguished themselves with honor and bravery with three American Indians being awarded the Medal of Honor.

There should be a Monument/Statue of American Indian/Alaskan Native/Native Hawaiian servicemen to recognize their Contribution and Sacrifice during ALL WARS, the United States has participated in.

This is a very important objective to the American Indian/Alaskan Native and Native Hawaiian in gaining full recognition of their service to the United States of America

Resolved, That: Vietnam Veterans of America strongly encourages Congress to enact legislation to allow placement of an American Indian/Alaskan Native and Native Hawaiian Statue at the Education Center of the Vietnam Memorial on the National Mall. This will give the proper recognition to the American Indian/Alaskan Native/Native Hawaiian who proudly served in the Armed Forces of the United States, and recognize their sacrifice and service to their country.



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

The National Congress of American Indians Resolution #LNK-12-040C

TITLE: Support for the American Indian Veterans Memorial

WHEREAS, we, the members of the National Congress of American Indians of the United States, invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants the inherent sovereign rights of our Indian nations, rights secured under Indian treaties and agreements with the United States, and all other rights and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and Constitution of the United States, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise promote the health, safety and welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution; and

WHEREAS, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) was established in 1944 and is the oldest and largest national organization of American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments; and

WHEREAS, American Indians/Alaska Natives/ Native Hawaiians serve at the highest per capita in the Armed Forces compared to any group of Americans, and have served with valor in all the Nation's wars from the Revolutionary War through the present; and

WHEREAS, an overwhelming number of American Indians/Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians volunteered to serve in the Vietnam War; and

WHEREAS, there is a bronze statue commonly referred to as the "The Three Servicemen" which recognizes the contribution and sacrifice of the American Soldier, but does not acknowledge American Indian/Alaska Native and Native Hawaiians; and

WHEREAS, no statue exists on the National Mall in Washington DC that represents an American Indian/Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian soldier; and

WHEREAS, American Indian/Alaska Native and Native Hawaiians have called for an effort to obtain Congressional authorization to build a statue on the Vietnam Memorial Walk on the National Mall in Washington DC that represents an American Indian; and

WHEREAS, the addition of the monument will recognize the contributions and sacrifices of the American Indian/Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian during the Vietnam War.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NCAI supports the placement of a statue on the National Mall by the Vietnam Wall in Washington D.C. that honors American Indian/Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian Vietnam veterans; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be the policy of NCAI until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the General Assembly at the 2012 Mid-Year Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at The Cornhusker Hotel from June 17-20, 2012 in Lincoln, Nebraska, with a quorum present.



President

ATTEST:



Recording Secretary