



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.

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

