

RESOLUTION 481—REPLACE THE PANAMA CANAL

Whereas we understand that an agreement has been made to turn the Panama Canal over to the Republic of Panama in the year 1999, and

Whereas this will cause the United States to lose control of this strategic lifeline essential for both commerce and defense: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, by the Disabled American Veterans in Nation Convention Assembled at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, August 18 to 23, 1968, That we urge the Congress to set in motion machinery to purchase land elsewhere and begin at once to construct a new sea level canal that will not require the costly operation of locks; and be it further

Resolved that the new canal shall be completed by the year 1999.

RESOLUTION 482—EXEMPTION TO STAFFING CEILING IMPOSED BY "REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE CONTROL ACT OF 1968"

Whereas the Disabled American Veterans is concerned that veterans of all wars receive the services they are entitled to by law, and

Whereas the most important of such services are those administered by the Veterans Administration and those agencies which help the veteran find satisfactory employment, such as the services provided by the Bureau of Employment Security, The Veterans Employment Service, and the Office of Veterans Reemployment Service, and the Office of Veterans Reemployment Rights, and

Whereas these activities are particularly vital to those veterans of the Vietnam Era who are now returning to civilian life, and who must be assured of as full a participation in our economic life as they provided to our military effort: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, August 18 to 23, 1968, go on record as strongly petitioning that, in the application of the job ceilings imposed on an agency basis by the "REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE CONTROL ACT OF 1968", the needs and added responsibilities of the agencies directly servicing veterans be fully recognized so that such agencies will be permitted to staff to the level authorized by the 1969 budget which has been fully justified to both houses of the Congress, and fully supported by this organization.

RESOLUTION 491—ALL NATIONAL CEMETERIES EXCEPT THOSE UNDER JURISDICTION OF INTERIOR DEPARTMENT BE ASSIGNED TO VETERANS' ADMINISTRATION

Resolved, by the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, August 18 to 23, 1968, That the entire Federal cemetery function with exception of the Department of Interior Cemeteries, be assigned to the Veterans' Administration, and

That Congress approve burial facilities for all veterans convenient to their homes, and

That the Administration establish uniform criteria for eligibility for burial in Federal Cemetery system,

That Arlington National Cemetery be reopened to all eligible veterans until it is completely filled.

Mr. TEAGUE of Texas. May I introduce some Members who have entered since you started your presentation: Mr. Saylor, of Pennsylvania; Mr. Halpern, of New York; Mrs. Heckler, of Massachusetts; Mr. Scott, of Virginia; Mr. Helstoki, of New Jersey; Mr. Montgomery, of Mississippi; and Mr. Dulski, who is chairman of a very busy committee—the Post Office and Civil Service Committee.

Does any member of the committee have questions or comments?
Mr. Haley?

Mr. HALEY. Mr. Commander, I think you have made an excellent statement. Your organization, as a rule, is a very down-to-earth organization on the needs of the veterans who have served this Nation.