

131st NGAUS GENERAL CONFERENCE

RESOLUTION – J #26

RELATING TO EQUITABLE TREATMENT OF ALL NATIONAL GUARD
MEMBERS, RETIREES AND VETERANS

Recommendation

To ensure more equitable treatment of members and veterans of the National Guard, the National Guard Association of the United States supports:

- A. Eliminate the disparity between Title 10 and Title 32 service by making retiree medical benefits of Title 32 Active Guard and Reserve (AGR) service members the same as Title 10 active component (AC) members
- B. Institute a funding mandate to allow priority use of Qualified Military Buglers in a Retired Status (QMBIRS) at funeral honors when an active duty or reserve bugler is not available
- C. Allow for a seamless transition from the Department of Defense (DOD) to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)
- D. Provide eligibility to retired National Guard members federal retired annual payment for residency in state veterans' homes, and limit their required payment to no more than 50 percent of the allowed VA rates
- E. Provide equal burial rights and veteran status for National Guard and Reserve members who have successfully completed their military service obligation
- F. Increase burial plot allowance to \$1,000
- G. Change the definition of a “veteran” to include traditional National Guard Soldiers and Airmen who have served honorably in the National Guard for qualification to receive veteran benefits
- H. Provide parity of compensation for special skills and qualifications consistent with active component special pay, compensation, and benefits
- I. Establish parity with the active forces in the administration, rates and eligibility standards for Chapter 1606 Montgomery G.I. Bill benefits
- J. Revise the annual point limitation on the number of inactive duty points creditable toward reserve component retirement so that it is subject only to a cap of 365/366 on all annual points earned for reserve retirement
- K. Allow all dual status military technicians to receive enlistment/reenlistment bonuses, student loan repayments
- L. Matching pay increases for active duty pay and retired pay for cost of living adjustments
- M. Amend Section 1491 (b) (2) of Title 10 to set priority standards for the use of Qualified Military Buglers in Retired Status (QMBIRS) whenever available prior to using any recording to sound “Taps”
- N. Require at least two members of the funeral honors detail for a veteran’s funeral to be members of the armed forces (other than members in a retired status), with at least one of them a member of the armed force of which the deceased veteran was a member; the remainder of the detail may consist of members of the armed force (including members in a retired status), or members of veterans organizations or other or organizations approved for purposes of this section under regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Defense; military buglers (including members in a retired status) are preferred for the playing of “Taps”

- O. Clarify the use of QMBIRS and the uniform requirements in Title 10, Section 1491 (b)(2) and (c)
- P. National Guard Bureau solicit those QMBIRS members available for military funeral honors duty to capitalize on this valuable source of military buglers
- Q. Amend Title 38 to allow additional education benefits to all post 9/11 veterans who would have otherwise been qualified for educational benefits had their benefits not previously been exhausted
- R. Amend the language in the new Post 9/11 G.I. BILL to allow for the portability of any unused benefit to immediate family members of an eligible service member, living or deceased
- S. Holding the GI Bill education benefits of a deceased member in trust for any minor dependent of the service member, until the minor dependent reaches the age of 18, when the benefit should enter the 15 year use window, not the age 26 restriction currently in the legislation
- T. Provide that the education benefits be seen as an “account” for the family, and to be used by any and all family members subject to the stressors of the military life style
- U. Pay the education benefit account in its entirety upon the death of the service member when the death occurs as a result of an act of war or terrorism
- V. Cap the education benefit only by a dollar figure, not the number of beneficiaries
- W. Allow minor children of service members the same 15 year period in which to utilize the benefit upon reaching the age of 18
- X. Eliminate the disparity between Title 10 and Title 32 education benefits under the Post 9/11 G.I. BILL by extending full benefits under the law to include Title 32 Active Guard and Reserve (AGR) service members
- Y. Include full-time Title 32 active duty service in the calculation of benefits under the Post 9/11 G.I. Bill
- Z. Provide a full four-year college education to members of the National Guard who have been discharged because of a service-connected disability arising from Title 32 active duty service.
- a. Amend Title 10,16163(a)2 to include retention of Chapter 1607 entitlements for those service members who complete their service contract in both the Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) and Inactive National Guard (ING) (6 years selected reserve, 2 years IRR or ING) under honorable conditions

JOINT PERSONNEL TASK FORCE