

**NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA
OCTOBER 11 - 12, 2017**

Resolution No. 11: National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass for Honorably Discharged Veterans

Origin: Internal Affairs Commission

Submitted By: Internal Affairs Commission

WHEREAS, Currently the National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands agencies has a pass system called America the Beautiful that allows holders entrance to more than 2,000 national parks and national wildlife refuges as well as standard amenity fees at national forests and grasslands and at lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management and Bureau of Reclamation; and

WHEREAS, A pass covers entrance and standard amenity fees for a driver and all passengers in a personal vehicle at per vehicle fee areas (or up to four adults at sites that charge per person) and in most cases does not cover or reduce special recreation permit fees or fees charged by private concessioners; and

WHEREAS, The five agencies that participate in the federal properties Interagency Pass Program are: the National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management and Bureau of Reclamation; and

WHEREAS, There are currently four different passes in this system: Annual Pass (\$80 annual pass and available to anyone), Free Annual Pass for U.S. Military, Annual 4th Grade Pass, Senior Pass (\$80 lifetime pass or \$20 annual for age 62 and older), Access Pass (Free for U.S. citizens with permanent disabilities) and a Volunteer Pass; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 17 (October 2014, NEC), Subject: Federal Properties Distinguished Veterans Pass, asked the U.S. Congress to establish a Veterans Pass for \$10.00 and received no action; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 42, Subject: Free Admission to National Parks for Honorably Discharged Veterans, from the Department of Washington, was referred to the Internal Affairs Commission from the 2017 National Convention asked The American Legion to support a free pass to our National Parks for honorably discharged veterans; and

WHEREAS, The current America the Beautiful series does not have a special pass for veterans of the military service but many veterans would qualify for either the Senior Pass or Access Pass; and

WHEREAS, The Internal Affairs Commission feels that The American Legion should pursue the adoption of a Veterans Pass for all honorably discharged military veterans with the same privileges of the current approved Senior Pass: \$20 for an annual rate in lieu of the free pass as requested in Resolution No. 42 because the Senior Pass rate just increased on August 28, 2017 from a \$10 lifetime rate to the current \$80 rate because of increased costs in maintaining our beautiful natural resources; and

WHEREAS, We stand a better chance of getting this Veterans Pass for a \$20 annual rate versus the free pass and this would allow access for those veterans that do not qualify for other passes to get a reasonable access to National Parks; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 11-12, 2017, That The American Legion supports the adoption by the U.S. Congress of a Veterans Pass for all honorably discharged veterans in the amount of \$20 for an annual pass; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the Veterans Pass would be good for free entrance to all National Parks, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, and Bureau of Reclamation recreational areas to include a 50% discount on approved amenity fees charged for facilities and services such as camping, swimming, boat launching and specialized interpretive services.