

**NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
Indianapolis, Indiana
May 9-10, 2018**

Resolution No. 17: Call on the Department of Defense to Provide Equal Benefits to All Deceased Veterans Being Buried at Arlington National Cemetery
Origin: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission
Submitted By: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

WHEREAS, Arlington National Cemetery is our nation's most sacred shrine representing an embodiment of the sacrifices that were made to uphold our country's ideals and freedoms; and

WHEREAS, More than 400,000 veterans and their dependents are buried in Arlington National Cemetery on 612 acres of land; and

WHEREAS, Arlington National Cemetery is one of more than 100 national cemeteries but, unlike the others, Arlington National Cemetery is administered by the Department of Defense (Department of the Army); and

WHEREAS, Arlington determines the type of honors rendered based on the individual's rank and branch of service; and

WHEREAS, All officers are entitled to receive full military honors during funeral services at Arlington National Cemetery; and

WHEREAS, Under the current criteria the only enlisted personnel (*Not including members Killed In Action) eligible for full military honors are members who attain the military pay grade of E-9; and

WHEREAS, There is no rank among us, for each serves as the equal of his comrade; now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 9-10, 2018, That the Department of Defense provide the same level of honors to all veterans eligible for burial, regardless of rank or branch of service, at Arlington National Cemetery.