



2017 Winter Convention Grand Mound, WA

RESOLUTION #17 - 19

“IN SUPPORT OF LEGISLATION TO ADDRESS THE IMPROPER STATE TAXATION OF RESERVATION-DOMICILED SERVICE MEMBERS AND VETERANS”

PREAMBLE

We, the members of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians of the United States, invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants rights secured under Indian Treaties, Executive Orders, and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and constitution of the United States and several states, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise to promote the welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI) are representatives of and advocates for national, regional, and specific tribal concerns; and

WHEREAS, ATNI is a regional organization comprised of American Indians/Alaska Natives and tribes in the states of Washington, Idaho, Oregon, Montana, Nevada, Northern California, and Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the health, safety, welfare, education, economic and employment opportunity, and preservation of cultural and natural resources are primary goals and objectives of the ATNI; and

WHEREAS, American Indians have fought in every war for the United States since the American Revolution and currently serve in the United States Armed Forces at a higher rate than any other ethnic group, many having paid the ultimate sacrifice for their effort; and

WHEREAS, federal law prohibits states from taxing the pay of military service members who are not a domiciliary of that state; and

WHEREAS, for up to twenty-four years, the U.S. Department of Treasury improperly withheld military pay for states, from American Indian service members domiciled on reservations in twenty-six states; and

WHEREAS, honoring the dedication of American Indian service members and veterans and upholding the federal trust responsibility are both moral and legal reasons for the United States Congress to restore pay to eligible American Indian veterans and service members who had state income tax improperly withheld from their military pay by the Department of Treasury; and

WHEREAS, Congressional legislation aimed at restoring to American Indian service members and veterans their improperly withheld salaries was already introduced to the United States House of Representative in 2004, though it was not passed; and

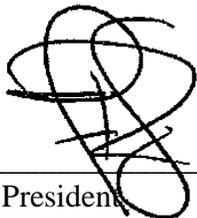
WHEREAS, legislation was passed by Congress in 2009 which authorized payment in arrears to Filipino veterans who served with American forces during World War II, and upwards of \$210 million has been paid out, to both American citizen and non-American citizen veterans in one lump-sum payment; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI does hereby call upon its member Tribes to urge Congress to restore pay to eligible service members and veterans who were improperly taxed by the state in which they were domiciled on their reservation during their time of military service; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI and its member tribes support the restoration of improper taxed dollars of veterans while serving in the military during the twenty-four year period of improper taxation to tribal warriors and urge Congress to support and uphold the decision that was passed in 2009 to also include American Indian veterans domiciled on their reservations during their time of military service, and to include American Indian veterans who relocated to other states during their time of military service.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2017 Winter Convention of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at Great Wolf Lodge, Grand Mound, Washington, January 23 – 26, 2017, with a quorum present.



Fawn Sharp, President



Norma Jean Louie, Secretary