



## **2014 Annual Convention Mission, Oregon**

### **RESOLUTION #14 - 57**

#### **“FIDUCIARY PROTOCOL FOR AMERICAN INDIAN VETERANS AND PROCESS OF THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION AND TRIBAL GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS”**

##### **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**, the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and within the guidelines of M21-4 Titled “Manpower Control and Utilization in Adjudication Divisions” Chapter 2 Titled “Work Flow Management” [[www.benefits.va.gov/warmsM21\\_4.asp](http://www.benefits.va.gov/warmsM21_4.asp)] to:

1. Include in Subchapter I (2.01) (b): Tribal Government Social Program or Office of the Special Trustees for American Indians be added to confirmation process; and
2. Include in Subchapter III (2.07): Veterans Operations Report (VOR) signifies information on American Indian/Alaska Native Veterans(s)

; and

**WHEREAS**, that the VA include to make the ability to contact the Tribal Government [that the veterans(s) is associated with] and to also create a source of networking through the VA Medical Centers (VAMC) eligibility program, in their application for services, next to ethnic origin on the general application for Veterans Health Benefits Form 10-10EZ, requiring VA to add to this section a space for Tribal affiliation; now

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that ATNI does hereby request that this space be added to and made available by adding to the VA Form 10-10EZ known by the MEANS test be changed to accommodate the purpose of identifying American Indian Veterans/Alaskan Native Indian Veterans; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, to provide the purpose of protection of their tribal rights to have a Tribal Program of their preference or any Reservation that they may reside to protect their financial status or the placement of their VA Disability or Pension payments; and

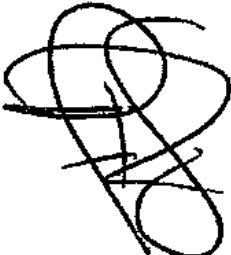
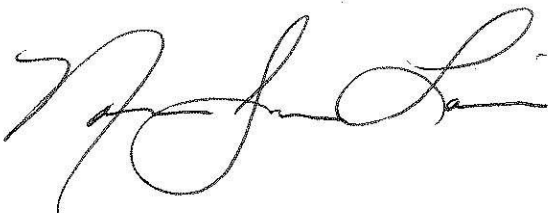
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, to assure that the Tribal Program and/or reservation have jurisdiction in any fiduciary process or be considered as a first priority to contact a Tribal Veterans Representative or Tribal Program as Social Services or Office of the Special Trustees for American Indians; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that ATNI request to move forward to National Congress of American Indians to provide the opportunity to protect our American Indian/Alaska Native Veterans from the VA process defining incompetence and or proceeding with fiduciary process; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that no action be taken on a Veterans Claim of Benefits, that if the veterans is signified as an enrolled tribal member or a member of any tribe as identified through the VA Medical Center Eligibility Program and process for fiduciary purposes until Tribal affiliation is addressed and contacted.

**CERTIFICATION**

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2014 Annual Convention of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at the Wildhorse Resort and Casino, Mission, Oregon, on September 22 – 25, 2014, with a quorum present.

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Fawn Sharp, President

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Norma Jean Louie, Secretary