**Resolution to create Patrol Insignia Awards for the SS, SSG, SSN, and SSGN Submarine Crews**

Whereas the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW) is “a national association of veterans who as soldiers, sailors, marines, and airmen served this Nation in wars, campaigns, and expeditions on foreign soil or in hostile waters,” and is committed to “Ensure that veterans are respected for their service, always receive their earned entitlements, and are recognized for the sacrifices they and their loved ones have made on behalf of this great country.” and

Whereas the mission of the VFW is “To foster camaraderie among United States veterans of overseas conflicts. To serve our veterans, the military and our communities.” And especially “To advocate on behalf of all veterans.”

Whereas the SSBN Deterrent Patrol Insignia was approved and authorized to be issued to members of SSBN, Boomer, submarine crews in 1969 and retroactive to the first deterrent patrol of the USS George Washington SSBN 598 in 1961, and has been issued to all crews of these submarines to the present after completion of an SSBN deterrent patrol, and

Whereas the SSBN Deterrent Patrol Insignia has been referred to by the US Navy as the successor to the World War II era Submarine Combat Patrol Insignia (SCPI) and as an insignia that is a combat insignia or badge, and

Whereas the Navy failed to issue an equivalent, appropriate, and consistent combat patrol insignia or award to SS, SSG, SSN, and SSGN crews and opted for the awarding of the Navy Expeditionary Medal (NEM) as a combat award for these crews albeit inconsistently, and

Whereas the SSBN Deterrent Patrol Insignia has been a divisive award within the Submarine Force, diminished Force cohesiveness, and a negative influence on Force morale, and

Whereas the above has extended to the Submarine Force veterans and the VFW and resulted in SSBN crewmembers and veterans receiving recognition for eligibility for membership while many SS, SSG, SSN, and SSGN crewmembers and veterans being excluded from membership even though they have participated in many deep water, extended, sensitive, and extremely hazardous patrols, without being awarded an Expeditionary Medal.

Now, therefore, be it Resolved, the members of VFW Post 257 request that the VFW National Headquarters and leadership commence efforts to petition US Navy Submarine Force commands, commanders, and US Navy officials at the Pentagon to design, approve, and authorize patrol insignias for the SS, SSG, SSN, and SSGN crews retroactive to 1947 and holding the same award rank as the SCPI and SSBN Deterrent Patrol Insignias.

Post approved on March 6, 2023, In Favor \_\_\_\_\_ -- Opposed \_\_\_\_\_

David Bozarth

Adjutant, Spicer-Grimsley VFW Post 257