

Department Resolution No. 01 – CVC

Notice 2015-16: This resolution concerns the Department of Pacific Areas only and was adopted at the 41st Department Convention on June 21, 2007. At the 49th Department Convention on June 17, 2015 the below resolution was approved as amended. The resolution is reviewed each year for possible amendments, continuance or rescinding, and will be voted on at the 50^h Department Convention in June 2016.

SUPPORT CLARK VETERANS CEMETERY AT FORMER CLARK AIR BASE IN THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

WHEREAS, the Clark Air Base Cemetery was founded in 1947 and contains the remains of U.S. Veterans of all U.S. Services, Philippine Scouts, U.S. citizens and their dependents, as well as Philippine citizens. The cemetery provides 12,000 gravesites in an area encompassing about 20 acres. With over 8,600 interned at Clark Veterans Cemetery of which about 2,300 are U.S. Veterans, and Philippine Scouts, and

WHEREAS, the Clark Veterans Cemetery was budgeted for and maintained by the U.S. Air Force from 1947 to 1991, when the Philippines Air Force and Clark Development Corporation (CDC) took over management of the cemetery, and

WHEREAS, in 1994 VFW Post 2485 (Post) signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with CDC that gave the Post permission to maintain Clark Veterans Cemetery and open it to departed U.S. Veterans, including Philippine Scouts. In 2006 the MOA was extended to twenty-five (25) years for the Post to maintain the Clark Veterans Cemetery, and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Government in 2014 signed an agreement with the Philippines to have American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) to takeover major expenses for CVC maintenance, however the ABMC does not allow funding to do burials and ceremonies. That being so VFW Post 2485 will continue to incur costs for Veterans burials and support of ceremonies. Some burial expenses incurred are replacement of equipment to lower caskets and tents used at burial/ceremonies. Also, the Grave Diggers program will continue as a legacy and historic program to recognize those who have and will contribute funds to support the Cemetery.

WHEREAS, the by-laws of the VFW organization dictate that a Post shall not solicit funds or donations or otherwise engage in fund-raising activities or projects outside the immediate geographical area or community of the Post, and

WHEREAS, this limits the Post's ability to solicit funds to properly budget as costs increase over the years, so the Post must realize more funding to provide proper support for burials and ceremonies, thus needs to solicit outside its area; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Department of Pacific Areas fully supports the Post in its endeavors with Clark Veterans Cemetery and hereby authorizes solicitation of funds for the Grave Diggers program for burials and ceremonies within the geographical areas of the Department; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a Clark Veterans Cemetery Chairman may be appointed by the Department as recommended by the Post. As an officer of the Department the chairman shall provide a report to the Department Convention and at other times as deemed necessary.

Intent of this resolution is; 1) to officially recognize support for Clark Veterans Cemetery, 2) that solicitation may be conducted within the Department area and 3) provide officially a Clark Veterans Cemetery Chairman to be listed as an officer of the Department.

Comment: It has been indicated by the Department CVC Chairman that he foresees no major fundraising efforts as in the past, however, the authority to raise funds will help to insure that Post 2485 can meet the projected expense currently and in the future for burials and ceremonies .