



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT  
Tex G. Hall  
*Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nation*

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT  
Joe A. Garcia  
*Ohkay Owingeh  
(Pueblo of San Juan)*

RECORDING SECRETARY  
Juana Majel  
*Pauma-Yuima*

TREASURER  
Alma Ransom  
*St. Regis Mohawk Tribe*

REGIONAL VICE-PRESIDENTS

ABERDEEN  
Harold Frazier  
*Cheyenne River Sioux*

ALBUQUERQUE  
John F. Gonzales  
*San Ildefonso Pueblo*

ANADARKO  
James M. Potter  
*Prairie Band Potawatomi*

BILLINGS  
Geri Small  
*Northern Cheyenne Tribe*

JUNEAU  
Mike Williams  
*Yup'iaq*

MINNEAPOLIS  
Bob Chicks  
*Stockbridge-Munsee Band of  
Mohican Indians*

MUSKOGEE  
Jefferson Keel  
*Chickasaw Nation*

NORTHEAST  
Kevin Seneca  
*Seneca Nation*

PHOENIX  
Evelyn B. Juan-Manuel  
*Tohono O'odham Nation*

PORTLAND  
Ernie Stensgar  
*Coeur d'Alene Tribe*

SACRAMENTO  
Richard Milanovich  
*Agua Caliente Band of  
Cahuilla Indians*

SOUTHEAST  
Eddie Tullis  
*Poarch Band of Creek Indians*

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
Jacqueline Johnson  
*Tlingit*

NCAI HEADQUARTERS  
1301 Connecticut Avenue, NW  
Suite 200  
Washington, DC 20036  
202.466.7767  
202.466.7797 fax  
www.ncai.org

THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

RESOLUTION #SD-02-082

**Title: To Request Veterans Administration to Work with NCAI Veterans Committee to Provide Training, Technical Support and Financial Assistance**

**WHEREAS**, we, the members of the National Congress of American 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 the inherent sovereign rights of our Indian nations, rights secured under Indian treaties and agreements with the United States, and all other rights and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and Constitution of the United States, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people and their way of life, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise promote the health, safety and welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) was established in 1944 and is the oldest and largest national organization of American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States has a unique legal relationship with Indian tribal governments as set forth in the Constitution of the United States, treaties, statutes, executive orders, and court decisions; and

**WHEREAS**, Executive Order No. 13175 on Consultation and Coordination With Indian Tribal Governments requires Federal agencies to consult with Indian Tribes in their development of regulations and policies that have Federalism or tribal implications; and

**WHEREAS**, the Veterans Administration mission is “[t]o serve America’s veterans and their families with dignity and compassion and be their principal advocate in ensuring that they receive medical care, benefits, social support, and lasting memorials...”; and

**WHEREAS**, American Indians served in the Armed Forces in greater proportions than any other racial entity; and

**WHEREAS**, American Indian veterans are significantly underrepresented when it comes to applying for and receiving federal compensation and benefits; and

**WHEREAS**, programs are needed to assist veteran service officers and the Veterans Administration in contacting American Indian veterans, educating them on federal compensation and benefits that are available, and assisting those veterans in applying for compensation and benefits; and

**WHEREAS**, it is estimated that less than five percent of federally recognized Indian tribes have employed Tribal Veteran Representatives resulting in a loss of entitled benefits for veterans, spouses, dependents, and survivors; and

**WHEREAS**, training, technical support, and financial assistance is needed to sustain veterans departments by all Tribal Nations.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the NCAI does hereby support this resolution and request the Veterans Administration to work with NCAI's Veterans Committee to provide training, technical support, and financial assistance so that American Indians may have greater access to compensation and benefits and other services; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that this resolution shall be the policy of the NCAI until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

#### CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2002 Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Town and Country Convention Center, in San Diego, California on November 10-15, 2002 with a quorum present.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Tex Hall, President

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Juana Majel, Recording Secretary

Adopted by the General Assembly during the 2002 Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Town and Country Convention Center, in San Diego, California on November 10-15, 2002.