

Resolution # 9

Veterans Deserve Our Thanks and Support

WHEREAS, as Veterans transition back to civilian life America's heroes face a host of difficult challenges, such as depression, suicidal tendencies, physical injuries, and disabilities. They often have difficulties accessing the health care they need and deserve. In addition, some veterans struggle with PTSD that often leads to homelessness and substance abuse; and

WHEREAS, there are many support groups available for veterans, including the Veterans Crisis Line, the Spartan Sword Project, and a host of veterans' service organizations. But there is no substitution for a peer group of veterans who share proximity in work and the brotherhood and sisterhood of their union; and

WHEREAS, the TWU Veterans Committee helps to fulfill that role. The Committee continues to grow in popularity and participation. Currently, more than 2,500 TWU veterans have registered as part of the TWU Veterans' Committee database, and that number is growing all the time. Since our last Convention, the Committee has continued to support TWU veterans through advocacy, service, education, and recognition. It has trained TWU veterans in support roles to help fellow veterans file VA disability claims. More than 200 veterans have been assisted in filing for VA benefits. The committee assists TWU members and their families in transitioning back to civilian life after service and deployment; and

WHEREAS, Committee members participated in a Wreath Laying Ceremony at Arlington Cemetery at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, visited the gravesite of President John F. Kennedy, and honored the dead from the Iraq and Afghanistan wars; and

WHEREAS, Committee members participated in TWU Legislative Conferences in Washington, D.C., where they met with lawmakers on veterans' issues; and

WHEREAS, they have participated in numerous advocacy and voluntary projects, and they have worked to secure uniform patches honoring member-veterans at American Airlines, Envoy Air, and Suffolk County Transportation; and

WHEREAS, their advocacy earned them an honorary tour of the Pentagon; and

WHEREAS, the Veterans Committee held a joint meeting with the Working Women's Committee earlier this year, in order to share information as it seeks to

increase the number of female members, as women are the fastest-growing group of U.S. veterans.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: All the delegates here at the TWU's 27th Constitutional Convention express the most heartfelt thanks to our veterans for their service and sacrifice; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: The TWU pledges to support the Veterans Committee as it assists our veterans and will promote the committee's activities to encourage more members who served in the military to join; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED: The TWU will support our veterans in all Divisions, including advocating in Washington, D.C., and state capitals across the country.