

THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

RESOLUTION: 02-6-W  
SUBMITTED BY: Walter W. Cole Post 301, Rapid River  
SUBJECT: Cremation Urns

**RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, The National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO), The Veteran's of America Honor Guard and The National Funeral Directors Association (NFDA) report America's veterans are dying at a rate of 1,800 each day; and

WHEREAS, This number is projected to peak in 2007 and may very well reach 3,000 per day; and

WHEREAS, These reports show that cremation, as an option, has increased between 1993 and 2003 from 19.77% to 28.46%; and

WHEREAS, This rate is projected to reach 35.67% by 2010 and 45.72% by 2025; and

WHEREAS, These studies show the increase in the rate of cremations in the United States exceeds the increase in deaths when comparing 2003 actual rates to 2010 projected rates; and

WHEREAS, It has been shown that a significant percentage of veterans or their families are choosing cremation as an option; and

WHEREAS, All deceased veterans should receive equal treatment; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By members of American Legion Post 301, in annual Winter Meeting assembled in Lansing, Michigan, February 16-17, 2007, That the United States Government, through the Veterans Administration, offer an allowance for the purchase of a cremation urn as an option to the current selection of marker, stone or National Cemetery plot.