

**THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN**

**RESOLUTION:**        #22-24

**SUBMITTED BY:**    Legislative Committee

**SUBJECT:**           Request the Michigan Veteran Affairs Agency Conduct a Study For Placement of New Veteran Cemeteries With Priority Given to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan With or Without a Study

**RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS,** The State of Michigan has only five (5) Veteran Cemetery locations; and

**WHEREAS,** Only two (2) of those Cemeteries are open to interments; those being Great Lakes National Cemetery and Fort Custer National Cemetery; and

**WHEREAS,** The process to request for Federal matching funds can take a year or more; and

**WHEREAS,** Drawing a straight line from Port Huron to Grand Haven, Michigan, no Veteran Cemetery is located north of that line that accepts interments ; and

**WHEREAS,** The Upper Peninsula has no access to a Veteran Cemetery within a reasonable driving distance; and

**WHEREAS,** Veterans from the Upper Peninsula of Michigan travel over five (5) hours, one way, to be buried in Michigan; and

**WHEREAS,** Veterans from the Upper Peninsula of Michigan have traveled to the west side of Wisconsin to be buried, which is a long distance from their home and not within the great State of Michigan, the home state they love; and

**WHEREAS,** The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Veteran Cemetery Grants Program was established in 1978 to complement VA's National Cemeteries. The program assists states, territories and tribal governments in providing gravesites for veterans in those areas where National Cemeteries Agency cannot fully satisfy their burial needs. VA can provide up to 100% of the development cost for an approved project. For establishment of new cemeteries, VA can provide for operating equipment as well. VA cannot pay for acquisition of land or the perpetual upkeep of the Cemetery. These funds must come from other sources, including the State of Michigan budget; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED, By The American Legion, Department of Michigan, in annual Department Convention assembled in Kalamazoo, Michigan, June 24-26, 2022, That The American Legion, Department of Michigan does hereby request that all efforts be made to establish more Veteran Cemeteries in the State of Michigan, with priority given to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and then to the lower Peninsula, north of a line drawn from Port Huron at the east to Grand Haven at the west.**