

THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

RESOLUTION: #23-17

SUBMITTED BY: Department Legislative Committee

SUBJECT: Lifetime Access Into Michigan Parks for Veterans and Gold Star Family Members

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The Alexander Lofgran Veterans in Parks Act, passed in December 2021, authorized free lifetime access to federal lands to veterans and Gold Star Families; and

WHEREAS, Federal recreational land management agencies offer additional lifetime passes, including a Senior Pass for U.S. citizens or permanent residents over age sixty-two (62) and an Access Pass for U.S. citizens or permanent residents with a permanent disability; and

WHEREAS, The Biden-Harris Administration announced that starting on Veterans Day 2022 (November 11), veterans of the U.S. Armed Services and Gold Star Families can obtain a free lifetime pass to more than 2,000 federal recreation sites spread out across more than 400 million acres of public lands, including national parks, wildlife refuges and forests; and

WHEREAS, The State of Michigan already participates in exemptions to state parks, which are: Ex-Prisoner of War, Disabled Veteran Plate, Medal of Honor Plate and Congressional Medal of Honor Plate; and

WHEREAS, Governor Gretchen Whitmer stated in her 2022 Veterans Day speech, "We owe those who serve, their families, and their caregivers our gratitude, and I pledge to work hard to ensure they thrive. From investments in suicide prevention and opening two (2) new Michigan Veteran Homes to scholarships for military families, I am committed to their success, just as they are committed to our country."; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion, Department of Michigan, in annual Department Convention assembled in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, July 7-9, 2023, recommends that the State of Michigan provide all veterans, Gold Star Family Members, and active military free lifetime access to all Michigan State Parks and Recreation Areas.

.....

APPROVED _____ REJECTED _____ REFERRED TO _____ DEC _____ APPROVED w/AMEND _____ X _____