

American G.I. Forum - Puerto Rico Chapter

**AMERICA G.I. FORUM
Puerto Rico Chapter**

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**Resolution in Support of the
American Veterans' Committee for Puerto Rico -Self-Determination**

WHEREAS, U.S. citizenship was extended to residents of Puerto Rico in 1917 but they were not provided with voting representation in Congress or the right for President; and

WHEREAS, since 1917 over 200,000 Puerto Rican veterans have proudly defended the democratic ideals represented by the U.S. military under a Commander in Chief for whom they could not vote and fought in wars authorized by a Congress in which they have no voting representation; and

WHEREAS, Puerto Ricans have contributed to our nation's defense in disproportionate numbers and include four Medal of Honor recipients; and

WHEREAS Puerto Ricans have earned the right to decide if they wish to become full partners in our democracy or seek another resolution to their current non-permanent, territorial status; and

WHEREAS all Americans have the right to fair representation and the time has come for Puerto Rico to have the opportunity to express itself regarding its desire to attain full self-government within the context of a congressionally authorized plebiscite; and

WHEREAS, the American Veterans' Committee for Puerto Rico Self-Determination, an independent, non-partisan, national coalition of concerned veterans organizations and individuals, is working to help Puerto Rico obtain a constitutionally and internationally recognized permanent status;

WHEREAS, the primary function of the American Veterans' Committee for Puerto Rico Self-Determination is to mobilize other veterans to educate the American public on the need to resolve Puerto Rico's status dilemma, and

WHEREAS, the American G.I. Forum Puerto Rico Chapter is an organization committed to ensuring; that its Members, including those from Puerto Rico, enjoy the full benefits of their civil rights under our system of American democracy for which we have fought.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVEDLY the American G.I. Forum, Puerto Rico Chapter: That the Puerto Rico Chapter of the American G. I. Forum supports the efforts of the American Veterans' Committee for Puerto Rico Self-Determination towards enactment of federal legislation that would define the political status options available and provide for a plebiscite that would allow the U.S. citizens in Puerto Rico to make an informed decision regarding a permanent status for the island.

Given this 5th day of July of 2000 in San Juan, Puerto Rico.