

For American Legion, VFW, Marine Corps League and other veterans posts. Fill in the highlighted parts, adjust to your organization's format, and present it at a regular meeting for a vote. Once adopted, send a copy to info@earnedact.org so your post can be listed as a supporter.

RESOLUTION NO. []

Supporting the EARNED Act and recognition of military service in place of degree requirements

Adopted by [Post name and number], [City, State], on [date]

WHEREAS, service members who complete an honorable enlistment have led people, managed equipment and logistics, and carried real responsibility under pressure; and

WHEREAS, many civilian employers, including public employers, still screen applicants out for lacking a bachelor's degree, regardless of their military training and experience; and

WHEREAS, military training is already evaluated for college credit by the American Council on Education and recorded on each veteran's Joint Services Transcript, but that credit helps only veterans who return to school; and

WHEREAS, the Community College of the Air Force has recognized enlisted airmen's training with accredited associate degrees since 1977, while enlisted Marines, soldiers and sailors have no degree-granting college of their own; and

WHEREAS, service academy cadets spend four years in uniform and graduate with a bachelor's degree, and enlisted members who serve four years deserve the same recognition; and

WHEREAS, Congress and federal agencies have moved federal hiring away from degree screens and toward skills, beginning with the Chance to Compete Act of 2024 (Public Law 118-188), and Miami-Dade County lets veterans substitute documented active-duty experience for degree requirements in county jobs; and

WHEREAS, service and college are different paths to higher learning, both should open the same doors, and recognizing one takes nothing away from the other; and

WHEREAS, the proposed EARNED Act would recognize an honorable four-year enlistment with an accredited Bachelor of Arts in Defense of Freedom, with a concentration in the member's military specialty, keep the GI Bill fully intact, and extend to veterans who have already served; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, by [Post name and number], That we support the EARNED Act and urge Congress to enact it as a standalone bill or through the National Defense Authorization Act; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That we urge the City of [City] and the State of [State] to allow honorably discharged veterans to substitute documented military experience for degree requirements in public jobs where the duties match; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That we encourage local employers to count military service as equivalent experience; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be sent to our Mayor and City Council, our state legislators, our members of Congress, and our [Department / state organization] for consideration at its next convention.

Commander

Adjutant

Date adopted

Vote (for / against)