

**RESOLUTION NO 2017-05  
SUMMER MEETING**

**Nursing Home Care for Elderly Wartime Veterans**

WHEREAS, our elderly Alabama wartime veterans and their families are enduring serious hardships for lack of sufficient state veterans' nursing homes, with many dying on waiting lists up to one-and-a-half to two years long before they can gain access to a state veterans nursing home.

WHEREAS, this situation will be greatly compounded in the future when the bow wave of the largest group of wartime veterans, our Vietnam veterans, reach the age when they will need nursing home care. The average age of a Vietnam veteran now exceeds age 70. There are as many as 30,000 Alabama Vietnam veterans still alive. It is reasonable to believe that at least half of this number will need nursing home care at some point, and even ten percent will overwhelm the State Department of Veterans Affairs cycle for building an individual nursing home. There has been no effort in several years to plan, program and budget for even one more home. With the documented average life span of American men overall being 76 years, most of our Vietnam veterans will not live to see the next state veterans' nursing home built following the current process. There needs to be urgent action by our legislature to address this serious need and expedite constructing at least one more new nursing homes and in the interim also acquiring one or more existing facilities to serve as veterans' nursing homes, with priority to whichever is the most cost-effective and available the soonest.

WHEREAS, existing data strongly supports acquiring at least two more homes, one in North Alabama where the population density supports it and where 75% of the current waiting list resides, and in the Wiregrass area where no veterans' home has ever been built. No such existing facility for conversion is known to be available in the Wiregrass area, necessitating an expedited effort to build a new home which has been estimated by the Commissioner to cost \$57 million and take the better part of ten years, but a strong candidate facility already exists for the north Alabama requirement in Hartselle which can be renovated and converted into a nursing home to meet the needs of 120 of our combat veterans for a total cost of less than \$12 million and made available in less than 3 years, a cost which if funded by the state legislature would be considerably less than the \$20 million in state matching funds for the construction of a new home.

WHEREAS, Dr. David Shulken, President Trump's new Secretary for the Veterans Administration approved our informal request on April 27th to amend the current construction guidelines for new state home grant applications to only have to meet local state guidelines, for Alabama these guidelines are the ADPH licensing guidelines for private nursing homes.

WHEREAS, Our Congressional District 5 Committee has strongly endorsed with a 93% vote an approach to meet the North Alabama need, calling on our District 5 legislators to introduce and support legislation in the 2018 session, without raising taxes to earmark sufficient funding to renovate and convert the Hartselle Hospital facility to meet ADPH standards for private nursing

homes, or build a new nursing home, or expand the capacity of the existing Huntsville Home whichever is most cost effective and available soonest.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alabama Republican Party calls on our State of Alabama legislators to expedite the enactment of policies and legislation in the next legislative session to appropriate and earmark funding for construction of a new home in the Wiregrass area and also for renovation of the Hartselle Hospital facility to meet the growing need for our elderly wartime Veterans.

THEREFORE be it further resolved that the ALGOP is proud to thank all our veterans for their service and say, Thank you! God Bless you! Welcome Home!

Adopted, this the 26th day of August, in the Year of Our Lord 2017, by the Alabama State Republican Executive Committee.

Submitted By:  
Reverend James Henderson  
Dennis H. Beavers

**RESOLUTION NO 2017-06  
SUMMER MEETING**

**Call for Defense of the Sanctity of Life in the 2018 Legislative Session**

WHEREAS, the Alabama Republican party has a strong record standing for the sanctity of life, it is imperative that with the prospect of new appointments by President Trump of pro-life federal judges who potentially will overturn Roe vs Wade it is more important than ever to continue passing strong pro-life bills in the 2018 legislative session.

WHEREAS, the Alabama Republican Party accepts our obligation to protect unborn children and their mothers, as well as other family members from abortions, we hereby call on all our elected officials to strongly support current and future legislation that strengthens our defense of the sanctity of life.

WHEREAS, the state of Alabama has one of the lowest ages for sexual consent in the country, age 16 for unmarried young women, part of an immature age group with a high number of abortions, which is not consistent with accepted standards of maturity expected for other personal responsibilities, to include voting rights, purchase of alcohol and tobacco, as well as entering into business contracts.

WHEREAS, nearly 6,000 unborn babies are killed in the womb each year by the abortion industry in Alabama, which has a history of medical malpractice as documented by the inspections conducted by the Alabama Department of Public Health.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY the Alabama Republican Party that the Alabama state legislative and executive branches are urged to enact and implement strong laws in the 2018 legislative session that strengthen our defense of the sanctity of life, including raising the age for legal sexual consent to age 18, the standard in place in several other states, including the adjacent states of Tennessee and Florida, and requiring the highest possible standards for regulation of the abortion industry, including strengthening Alabama Department of Public Health Regulation 420-5-1, "Abortion or Reproductive Health Centers," and its enforcement, including the reporting of underage abortions to local law enforcement for prosecution of child predators and that all abortion doctors be fully board certified in obstetrics and gynecology and have no formal disciplinary actions on their record.

Adopted, this day of August, in the Year of Our Lord 2017, by the State Executive Committee of the Alabama Republican Party.

Submitted By:  
Reverend James Henderson Don Wallace, CPA