

## **LOUISIANA REPUBLICAN STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE**

**A RESOLUTION CALLING ON OUR LOUISIANA DELEGATION** to spearhead a bipartisan effort to secure post-war amnesty for U.S. soldiers who are either currently awaiting court martial or are incarcerated for alleged crimes committed while serving their country in combat in Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan:

**WHEREAS**, the United States is currently withdrawing U.S. troops from Afghanistan, the longest war in American history, costing the lives of approximately 2,300 servicemen and women, resulting in over 20,000 service members who were maimed, crippled, or injured, and costing billions of American tax dollars;

**WHEREAS**, unreasonable and unworkable “rules of engagement”, put in place for political purposes, which in many cases put our troops in a position of having to decide whether to defend themselves, even though it might mean prosecution and unjust prison sentences for simply doing their jobs as soldiers;

**WHEREAS**, in March of 2020, the United States freed approximately 5,000 Taliban prisoners, in spite of their hostile actions against American and coalition personnel;

**WHEREAS**, many convicted terrorists, in spite of their hostile actions against Americans, both military and civilian, have, likewise, been released from their imprisonment at the Guantanamo Bay Detention Facility;

**WHEREAS**, on December 23, 1933, President Franklin Roosevelt tendered a Christmas amnesty to approximately 1,500 people convicted of violating the Espionage Act;

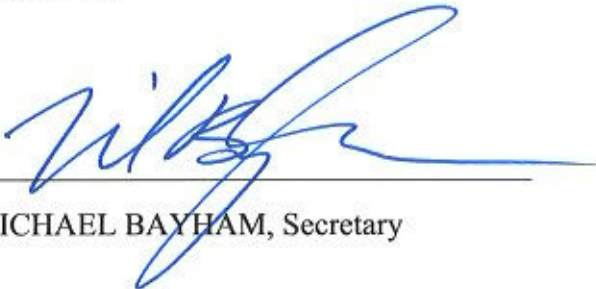
**WHEREAS**, on December 24, 1947, President Harry Truman gave pardon to 1,523 World War II convicted draft evaders who had completed or were serving prison terms;

**WHEREAS**, on January 21, 1977, President Jimmy Carter granted unconditional pardon to hundreds of thousands of draft dodgers who evaded military service in the Vietnam War era;

**WHEREAS**, there exists ample historical precedence for the Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces of the United States to issue full and complete pardon or commutation for all persons who are awaiting court martial for crimes alleged to have been committed in the “fog of war” in either Syria, Iraq, or Afghanistan, or who have been convicted of the same and are currently incarcerated based on such conviction;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Republican Party of Louisiana, in a spirit of national reconciliation and healing, strongly urges our state’s federal Congressional delegation, specifically Senators John Kennedy and William Cassidy, and Representatives Steve Scalise, Mike Johnson, Garret Graves, Clay Higgins, Julia Letlow, and Troy Carter, to immediately “spearhead” a bipartisan coalition to petition and encourage President Joseph R. Biden to grant post-war pardon and commutation to all U.S. military members currently facing court martial for alleged crimes committed during hostile actions while executing their military duty during their service in Syria, Iraq or Afghanistan, or who have been convicted of the same, and are currently incarcerated based on such conviction, and that they request the President to issue said pardon and commutation in conjunction with the commemoration of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 9/11 terror attacks.

**THUS DONE & PASSED** this 14<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2021, in full session of the Louisiana Republican State Central Committee, at Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

  
MICHAEL BAYHAM, Secretary



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