

**NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA
MAY 4 - 5, 2016**

Resolution No. 8: Continued Operation of the Family Support Network

Origin: Committee on Children & Youth

Submitted By: Americanism Commission

WHEREAS, The American Legion, throughout its history, has been dedicated to acting in support of our nation's armed forces and their families, both during their service and after; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 30 titled *Continued Operation Of The Family Support Network* adopted at the 1991 Fall Meeting of the National Executive Committee allowed for continued operation of the Family Support Network program of The American Legion; and

WHEREAS, The Family Support Network, which served our nation's military families through Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, continues today to respond to thousands of requests for assistance each year from the family members of those who have served or are currently serving in the United States Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, The Family Support Network maintains a service of great importance to American service members and families, and its value was recognized by the Department of Defense entering into a community covenant with The American Legion at the National Convention on August 24, 2009; and

WHEREAS, The Family Support Network has been repeatedly called upon to be a component of support to deployed and mobilized servicemember families since the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001; and

WHEREAS, The resulting Global War on Terror has prompted the U.S. Armed Forces to redefine the mission of the National Guard and Reserve so that all forces – Active, Reserve and National Guard – are subject to multiple activations and deployments; and

WHEREAS, America's military continues to be assigned missions across the country and around the world resulting in servicemembers being separated from their families and communities more often and for longer periods of time in service to our nation and its allies; and

WHEREAS, American Legion posts, most especially those near military facilities, are the best means of determining how to assist the military families within their communities; and

WHEREAS, Following the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, the Family Support Network program management migrated from the Magazine Division, now currently the Marketing, Media & Communications Division, to the Americanism Division of The American Legion, to more align with the family-focused emphasis of Children & Youth; and

WHEREAS, The Americanism Commission, believing that the Family Support Network provides valuable services to deployed servicemembers and their families, recommends a renewed dedication and participation by members of The American Legion; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 4-5, 2016, That The American Legion urges departments and posts to reinvigorate Family Support Network programs in their local communities to aid military families of servicemembers in the Active, Reserve or National Guard components of our nation's armed forces; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That American Legion posts be encouraged to maintain an ongoing relationship with local military organizations to help ensure that the Family Support Network program remains a viable asset for future support needs; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the proponenty and administration of the Family Support Network Program be officially ratified under the Americanism Commission.