

**NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA
OCTOBER 9-10, 2002**

Resolution No. 15: The Blood Platelet Donor Program

Submitted by: National Security

Origin: 2002 NC Resolution No. 53 (IL)

WHEREAS, The use of the Blood of one human being to save the life of another is one of the world's greatest medical achievements. Thousands of people are alive today—happy children, happy mothers, accident victims, the elderly who have survived major operations because “blood and blood components” were available to combat many types of diseases and other medical problems; and

WHEREAS, The population of our world is increasing, the need for blood transfusions to save the world's inhabitants will increase proportionately; and

WHEREAS, Many lifesaving medical treatments require “platelet transfusions”—such as cancer patients, those receiving organ or bone marrow transplants, victims of traumatic injuries and patients undergoing open heart surgery; and

WHEREAS, Six to ten blood donations—“6-10 individual donors”—are required to provide enough specific blood components to result in a single platelet transfusion; and

WHEREAS, A platelet donation—“one donor”—provides the necessary platelets for one complete platelet transfusion; and

WHEREAS, Unlike a “whole blood donation,” where a specific amount of whole blood is withdrawn from your body, a “platelet donation” involves withdrawing whole blood, separating out about 10 percent of the specific platelet and returning the rest of your cells and blood fluids to your system; and

WHEREAS, Your body replaces your “missing” platelets in about a day or two and because there is such a large return of your blood cells to your system, you are eligible to donate up to “24 times per year,” generally every two weeks; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, October 9-10, 2002, That it should be published in its directives, the foregoing outstanding need for “platelet donations” and encourage all Legionnaires, their families and friends who qualify as blood donors to participate in the Blood Platelet Program, and be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion should stand as an “example” encouraging participation in the Blood Platelet Program by all other organizations, their members and for all who are interested in saving the lives of their fellow man.