

**NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
OF  
THE AMERICAN LEGION  
Indianapolis, Indiana  
May 19–20, 1923**

**Resolution No. 1: Trustees Graves Decorations**

**Origin: Finance Committee**

**Submitted by: Finance Committee**

WHEREAS, The American Legion is, by public contribution, creating a fund to be known as the Graves Decoration Fund, the income of which is to be used for the appropriate decoration of graves of ex-service men in foreign countries; and

WHEREAS, It is deemed advisable to have certain control of such funds now vested in The American Legion in a suitable way; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 19– 20, 1923, That there shall be created under the custody of the National Treasurer of The American Legion a separate fund, designated as The American Legion Graves Decoration Fund; that the control of said fund shall be vested in a body of trustees to be composed of the Past National Commanders of The American Legion, the Chairman of the National Finance Committee of The American Legion, the National Treasurer of The American Legion, and the National Adjutant of The American Legion; the National Treasurer to be the treasurer of said fund and the National Adjutant to be the secretary of said body; that the trustees thus designated shall be authorized, and are hereby empowered, to elect one of their members as president, and one of their members as vice president; that they shall have full and complete control of The American Legion Graves Decoration Fund, and that they shall be authorized to expend the income from said fund in a manner hereinafter set forth for the perpetual decoration of the graves of American ex-service persons in foreign countries; that no part of the principal of said fund shall at any time be used; that the expenses of administering this trust shall be paid from the income as a first charge; that the National Treasurer shall have included in the required bond, as National Treasurer of The American Legion, a sum sufficient to cover the funds in his capacity belonging to The American Legion Graves Decoration service; that the trustees hereby created shall be, and are hereby authorized, to designate a depository of said fund, and upon the completion of said fund, or at such time as shall be deemed advisable by said trustees, they shall be, and are hereby authorized to invest the principal sum in such manner as shall be deemed advisable; and, be it further**

**RESOLVED, That there shall be recognized by the trustees hereby created, as a cooperating agency, a committee to be established in France consisting for the first year of Mr. Herman Harjes, Francis E. Drake, the American Ambassador to France, American Consul General in Paris, and the President of the American Chamber of Commerce in France; that said committee shall be fully empowered to direct the expenditure of funds transmitted to them by the trustees hereby created for the decoration of graves upon Memorial Day in France; and, be it further**

**RESOLVED, That these trustees shall, prior to the October meeting of the National Executive Committee of The American Legion, formulate a plan for permanent establishment with a view to perpetuating this trust, and that at that time they report to the National Executive Committee a plan for such permanent establishment; and, be it finally**

**RESOLVED, That report shall be made of the activities, including a complete financial statement of the trust thus created, to the National Convention as a part of the report of the National Treasurer.**