

**ONE HUNDRED AND FIRST NATIONAL CONVENTION  
OF  
THE AMERICAN LEGION  
Indianapolis, Indiana  
August 27, 28, 29, 2019**

**Resolution No. 55: Mandatory Use Of The Veterans First Contracting Program  
Origin: Convention Committee on Veterans Employment & Education  
Submitted by: Convention Committee on Veterans Employment & Education**

WHEREAS, Assistance to veterans who have honorably served our country is a veterans benefit that dates back to the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944; and

WHEREAS, Benefits to veterans have always included assistance in creating and operating veteran-owned small businesses; and

WHEREAS, The Veterans First Contracting Program (Vets First) at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) was created to grow the veteran small business industrial base; and

WHEREAS, VA has been hesitant in fulfilling the statutory intent of the Veterans First Contracting Program; and

WHEREAS, VA might outsource supply chain contract administration tasks to large businesses or other federal agencies in order to work around Veterans First Contracting Program; and

WHEREAS, VA's resistance to utilization of veteran small businesses led to low participation rates among veteran small businesses; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 27, 28, 29, 2019, That The American Legion supports legislation requiring mandatory use of the Veterans First Contracting Program (Vets First) on all Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) contract actions, regardless of the entity (public or private) that fulfills the contractual terms; and, be it further**

**RESOLVED, That if it is VA dollars, Vets First applies; and, be it finally**

**RESOLVED, That The American Legion fully supports legislation requiring Vets First be applied to all contract actions, including micro-purchases.**