

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

Resolution No. 57: Coin Commemoration Of The 75th Anniversary Of The End Of World War II

Origin: Convention Committee on Internal Affairs

Submitted by: Convention Committee on Internal Affairs

WHEREAS, The National World War II Museum was designated as "America's National World War II Museum" by the United States Congress in 2004; and

WHEREAS, The mission of The National World War II Museum is to tell the story of the American experience in the war that changed the world - why it was fought, how it was won, and what it means today - so that all generations will understand the price of freedom and be inspired by what they learn; and

WHEREAS, The United States entered World War II as a result of the surprise Japanese attack against our fleet at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, on December 7, 1941, which killed 2,403 people of the United States; and

WHEREAS, The United States joined the wartime Allied cause against the militarist, fascist, and racist dictatorships of Germany, Japan, and Italy (the Axis), fighting for President Franklin D. Roosevelt's "Four Freedoms" (freedom of speech, of worship, from want, and from fear); and

WHEREAS, The United States placed 16,000,000 of its citizens into uniform in the course of the struggle, enduring a string of early defeats, recovering to conduct a total war on land, sea, and 'air, and eventually establishing total dominance over its enemies; and

WHEREAS, The war took the lives of 405,399 United States military personnel, fellow citizens who made the supreme sacrifice in a perilous moment in the history of the United States, giving their lives for the cause of democracy and peace; and

WHEREAS, The conflict led to a comprehensive transformation of the home front from a civilian economy dedicated to peacetime production into the mightiest engine of military might in human history (labeled the "Arsenal of Democracy"), demanding the participation of the entire citizenry and thus leading to increased opportunities for racial minorities and women; and

WHEREAS, The war ended on September 2, 1945, after the unconditional surrender of Nazi Germany, Fascist Italy, and Imperial Japan, amounting to a total victory for the United States and the Allies; and

WHEREAS, The generation of United States citizens who fought World War II is passing away with the march of time, and that therefore the urgent need to give honor to those who served is all the more critical; and

WHEREAS, The period from May 8, 2020, to September 2, 2020, will mark the 75th anniversary of the end of the involvement of the United States in World War II and the surrender of Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan; respectively; and

WHEREAS, The commemoration of the end of World War II is not only an appropriate time to mark the achievement of the World War II generation, but to further the mission of The National World War II Museum in telling the story of the American experience in the war that

changed the world - why it was fought, how it was won, and what it means today - so that all generations will understand the price of freedom and be inspired by what they learn; and

WHEREAS, In recent years, commemorative coin programs have been successfully conducted for other worthy causes related to veterans and the military; and

WHEREAS, The United States Mint, in compliance with the Commemorative Coin Reform Act of 1996 ("CCRA of 1996"), Public Law 104-208, conducts commemorative coin programs to honor a person, place or event; and

WHEREAS, Consistent with the CCRA of 1996, The National World War II Museum has demonstrated the ability to raise funds from private sources, "in an amount that is equal to or greater than the total amount of the proceeds of such _surcharge derived from the sale of such numismatic item"; and

WHEREAS, The proceeds from the sale of this 75th anniversary of the end of World War II commemorative coin will benefit the educational mission of The National WWII Museum to tell the story of the American experience in the war that changed the world - why it was fought, how it was won, and what it means today - so that all generations will understand the price of freedom and be inspired by what they learn; and

WHEREAS, The Commemorative Coin Program provides for surcharge payments to be made from proceeds received from the sale of commemorative coins; and

WHEREAS, Consistent with the CCRA of 1996, The National World War II Museum must submit an audited financial statement and submit the results of the annual audits to demonstrate, to the satisfaction of the secretary of Treasury, that it has qualified for surcharge proceeds and is properly expending them; 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 The National World War II Museum proposed legislation to mint coins commemorating the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II by the United States Mint with the understanding that the surcharge payment will be earmarked to benefit the educational mission of The National World War II Museum.