

**NINETY-NINTH NATIONAL CONVENTION
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
Reno, Nevada
August 22, 23, 24, 2017**

**Resolution No. 70: Medal of Honor for E. Royce Williams
Origin: California
Submitted by: Convention Committee on National Security**

WHEREAS, On November 18, 1952, then LT E. Royce Williams, USN serving with Fighter Squadron Seven Hundred Eighty-One (VF-781) on the USS Oriskany participated in an early morning major strike against the Hoeryang industrial complex five miles from the North Korea-Russian border; and

WHEREAS, Against later enemy retaliating bogeys LT Williams launched in treacherous winter weather as section lead of a four plane F9F-5 Combat Air Patrol (CAP) in defense of Carrier Task Force 77 (CTF-77); and

WHEREAS, With complications amidst the other three CAP aircraft, LT Williams unhesitatingly and with no regard for personal safety or risk of life, climbed and singly engaged the seven superior MiG-15s; and

WHEREAS, In a fierce 30-40 minute fight, LT Williams' superb pilot skills and gunnery accounted for three MiGs downed and a fourth confirmed years later, stopping the attack against CTF-77 in its tracks; and

WHEREAS, Out of ammo and suffering a 37 mm hit which disabled all but elevator control and a little aileron control LT Williams successfully disengaged and returned to the task force using the weather for cover; and

WHEREAS, LT Williams displayed outstanding airmanship in getting his badly damaged F9F-5 back on USS Oriskany with a minimum control speed of 170 knots (normal carrier approach speed 105 knots); and

WHEREAS, LT Williams' singular courage, superb skill, call to duty over personal risk of life reflected great credit upon himself and were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service; and

WHEREAS, LT Williams' singular act of valor is unmatched either in the Korean War, the Vietnam War, or since then; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 22, 23, 24, 2017, That The American Legion petition the United States Congress and the Department of Defense to consider CAPT E. Royce Williams USN (Ret.) to be awarded the Medal of Honor for his act of valor given in service to our country on Nov. 18, 1952; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion continues to exert the maximum effort for honoring our forgotten heroes that have given so much to ensure our freedom.