

**NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
May 4-5, 2022
Indianapolis, Indiana**

Resolution No. 4: The American Legion Legacy Scholarship

Origin: Americanism Commission

Submitted by: Finance Commission

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 20 of the National Executive Committee, May 2002, titled *The American Legion September 11 Memorial Scholarship Trust*, established a trust to generate interest and other income to fund a scholarship program for children of those members of America's armed forces who died while on active duty on or after September 11, 2001 (hereafter referred to as "Post-9/11"); and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 1 of the National Executive Committee, May 2016, titled *The American Legion Legacy Scholarship Enhancement* expanded eligibility for the Legacy Scholarship to the children of Post-9/11 veterans having been assigned a disability rating by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) of at least (50%); and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 1 of the National Executive Committee, May 2016, titled *The American Legion Legacy Scholarship Enhancement* appointed the Americanism Commission to determine, establish in writing, and review annually thereafter, all other conditions, rules, guidelines, and procedures for the American Legion Legacy Scholarship program to attain maximum equity and efficiency for the eligibility, application, selection, award and disbursement processes; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 27 of the National Executive Committee, May 2021, titled *Appointment of Successor Trustees of The American Legion September 11, 2001 Memorial Scholarship Trust Fund* authorized the national commander, the Finance Commission chairman, the NEC Finance Commission Liaison Committee chairman, the American Legion Charities, Inc. treasurer, the national treasurer, and the national adjutant (only as member with voice and no vote) be appointed trustees of The American Legion Scholarship Trust Fund (Legacy Trust); and

WHEREAS, There has been no formal cessation of hostilities in the global war on terrorism that otherwise could predict an appropriate sunset target date for the tenure of The American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund (Legacy Scholarship); and

WHEREAS, The Joint Economic Committee of the United States Congress reported that 3.9 million veterans have served in the Post-9/11 era; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Defense reported on April 4, 2022, that the number of Post-9/11 veterans killed in action to date is 5,449 and the number of Post-9/11 veterans wounded in action to date is 53,268; and

WHEREAS, Since the inception of the Legacy Scholarship, the average annual charitable donations has been insufficient to apply equitably to the population of eligible children of veterans that apply; and

WHEREAS, The Legacy Scholarship is not a merit-based scholarship where competitive criteria among children is a consideration in funds allocation or distribution, thus failure to select otherwise eligible children in competitive form based on perceived need or funds depletion would be considered inappropriate; and

WHEREAS, The Legacy Scholarship is a needs-based scholarship awarded using criteria established by the Americanism Commission and executed by Committee on Youth Education after careful and deliberate review of the applicants' economic necessity; and

WHEREAS, The labor market demand for skilled trades continues to compete with traditional undergraduate and graduate degrees, leading more young Americans toward trade schools as an alternative to traditional higher education; and

WHEREAS, The addition of qualifying criteria for the children to be affiliated with The American Legion family by extension of their family member's active membership is prudent to ensuring maximum possible allocation of funds to eligible applicants; and

WHEREAS, This resolution has been reviewed by the Americanism Commission, and with concurrence of the Finance Commission, is recommended to the National Executive Committee for favorable action; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 4-5, 2022, That the existing trust fund from which monies are issued will maintain the legal title The American Legion September 11 Memorial Scholarship Trust Fund, which is also referred to as The American Legion Legacy Scholarship and that the title The American Legion Legacy Scholarship will be used for marketing, promotion and fundraising efforts to promote brand awareness and help alleviate confusion with other funds/scholarships programs associated with the September 11, 2001, attack on America; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion Legacy Scholarship be recognized as a needs-based scholarship, not a as a merit-based competitive scholarship, thus all eligible applicants that demonstrate a financial need shall be entitled to a scholarship dollar amount not to exceed \$5,000 per qualifying academic year, and for the number of awarded academic years outlined in The Americanism Commission guidelines, for children of Post-9/11 veterans having been assigned a disability rating by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) of at least fifty-percent (50%), equitably divided among approved applicants; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the children of military servicemembers who have died while serving on active duty on or since September 11, 2001, retain primacy and priority in selection for the scholarship with an award up to \$20,000 per qualifying academic year, and for the number of awarded academic years outlined in The Americanism Commission guidelines, based on financial need; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the awarded scholarship amount will be 100% of the prior year's charitable donations to the Legacy Trust divided equitably among eligible applicants; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the awarded scholarship amount will also include 50% of the prior year's net investment income of the Legacy Trust; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the scholarship be awarded for undergraduate study, graduate study, and trade schools at an accredited institution of higher education commensurate with those eligible for GI Bill benefits within the United States; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That as a result of the large qualifying population with a VA disability rating of 50% or more disabled Post-9/11 veterans, the additional qualifier of eligibility for The American Legion Legacy Scholarship will be that a parent or legal guardian must be a member in good standing of The American Legion or was a member at the time they passed and had a VA disability rating of 50% or more; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Americanism Commission will determine, establish in writing, and review annually thereafter, all other conditions, rules, guidelines and procedures for The American Legion Legacy Scholarship program so as to attain maximum equity and efficiency for the eligibility, application, selection, award and disbursement processes; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Americanism Commission will be responsible for the awarding and administration of scholarships and will report same through the Finance Commission to the National Executive Committee at its annual May meetings; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the national judge advocate and national treasurer shall cooperate in the drafting of the appropriate amendment to The American Legion September 11 Memorial Scholarship trust, as originally established in Resolution No. 20 of the National Executive Committee, May 2002, titled *The American Legion September 11 Memorial Scholarship Trust Fund*; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That Resolution No. 1 of the National Executive Committee, May 2016, titled *American Legion Legacy Scholarship Enhancement*, is hereby superseded and rescinded.