

**ONE HUNDRED AND THIRD NATIONAL CONVENTION
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
August 30, 31, September 1, 2022**

**Resolution No. 15: Supportive Services Funding for Homeless and At-Risk Veterans
Origin: California
Submitted by: Convention Committee on Veterans Employment & Education**

WHEREAS, Veterans represent approximately 11% of the general homeless population, and 3.7% of veterans become homeless in the first five years after service; and

WHEREAS, Isolation and lack of social support systems are major risk factors among United States veterans leading to one out of five veterans living alone with an increased risk of going homeless if proper social support is not in place after discharge; and

WHEREAS, The fiscal year 2021 Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) Community Homelessness Assessment, Local Education and Networking Groups (CHALENG) report that consistent with 2020 data and with the previous 20 years of data, unmet needs of veterans are primarily services that VA cannot provide directly; and

WHEREAS, CHALENG sites eight of the ten unmet needs continue to be housing for veterans who need to register as sex offenders, and legal assistance in the areas of court fees/court fines, credit issues/debt collection, expunging criminal records, child support, family law, discharge upgrade appeals, and tax issues and sites six of the ten met needs continue to be medical services, mental health services, case management, food, TB testing, and substance abuse treatment; and

WHEREAS, Several studies have identified unemployment as one of the factors that greatly contribute to homelessness among veterans due to a combination of factors that may or may not include mental or physical problems and substance abuse; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Milwaukee, Wisconsin August 30, 31, September 1, 2022, That The American Legion renew its commitment to assisting homeless veterans and their families; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion continue to support the efforts of the public and private sector agencies and organizations with resources necessary to aid homeless veterans and their families; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion seek and support any legislative or administrative proposal that will provide medical, rehabilitative and employment assistance to homeless veterans and their families; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion expresses strong support in the importance of collaboration among agencies and sectors to meet the needs of veterans and put an end to homelessness and at risk homelessness among veterans.