

**NINETY-FOURTH NATIONAL CONVENTION  
OF  
THE AMERICAN LEGION  
Indianapolis, Indiana  
August 28, 29, 30, 2012**

**Resolution No. 204: Support Building a Veterans Small Business Resource Community of  
Private Volunteers**

**Origin: Missouri**

**Submitted by: Convention Committee on Other Economic Matters  
(As amended)**

WHEREAS, Of approximately 12 million American veterans participating in the U.S. labor market 3.6 million are self-employed small business owners or co-owners of their small business; and

WHEREAS, According to the census Bureau, self-employed veterans generate \$1.65 trillion annually in the American economy and employ more than 10 million Americans, more than the total economic output of Canada or Mexico; and

WHEREAS, Historically veterans are self-employed at a rate almost 50 percent higher than non-veterans; and

WHEREAS, Small Business Administration research found that 23 percent of veterans are either starting a small business or are seriously considering doing so; and

WHEREAS, Government programs and services for veteran entrepreneurs are funded at approximately \$1 per veteran entrepreneur; and

WHEREAS, Government programs are limited in that small business success for most veterans is achieved in the American private sector, not the public sector; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion was responsible for the largest veteran small business program in history as the 1944 GI Bill provided more than 280,000 small business and small farm loan guarantees between 1944 and 1954; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion, as the nation's largest veterans service organization, should play a central role in helping young and returning veterans and servicemembers start and succeed as self-employed small business owners; and

WHEREAS, Thousands of members of The American Legion are successful entrepreneurs in the private sector, which includes financial services, law, construction, transportation, healthcare, information technology, energy, etc.; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion Business owners could be a part of a proud, powerful volunteer community of veteran business advisors who could share their experience, expertise and network with returning and start-up veteran entrepreneurs at no cost and minimal involvement from the government; and

WHEREAS, If private sector Legionnaires and other patriotic Americans offered and provided free advice and assistance to new veterans entrepreneurs, these new veteran entrepreneurs could accelerate their success in the American economy; and

WHEREAS, This effort would benefit veterans, their families, and the country, while continuing the legacy of The American Legion assisting veterans as they return home; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana August 28, 29, 30, 2012, That The American Legion undertake, participate in and support building a veterans small business resource community of private volunteers to assist and support new veteran entrepreneurs in order to help facilitate the successful assimilation of thousands of veterans through self-employment success.**