

**EIGHTY-SIXTH NATIONAL CONVENTION  
OF  
THE AMERICAN LEGION  
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE  
August 31, September 1, 2, 2004**

**Resolution No. 20: The American Legion Policy On The Department Of Veterans  
Affairs Medical School Affiliations**

**Origin: Michigan**

**Submitted by: Convention Committee on Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation**

WHEREAS, The Veterans Health Administration (VHA) and its medical school affiliates have enjoyed a long-standing and exemplary relationship for over 50 years that has continued to thrive and evolve to the present day; and

WHEREAS, VHA has four core missions that include patient care, education, research and contingency support for the Department of Defense (DoD) medical services and the National Disaster Medical System (NDMS); and

WHEREAS, VHA conducts the largest coordinated education and training program for health care professions in the nation and medical school affiliations allow the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to train new health professionals to meet the health care needs of veterans and the nation; and

WHEREAS, Medical school affiliations have been a major factor in VA's ability to recruit and retain high quality physicians and to provide veterans access to the most advanced medical technology and cutting edge research; and

WHEREAS, VHA research has made countless contributions to improve the quality of life for veterans and the general population, and the medical school affiliations are an integral component of VA's ability to expand medical knowledge through research; and

WHEREAS, The partnership with this country's medical schools has allowed VHA to enhance its ability to provide quality medical care to America's veterans, to promote excellence in education and research, and to provide back-up medical care to the Department of Defense in the event of war or national emergency; and

WHEREAS, The academic medical model of integrated clinical care, education and research is universally accepted as the best means of providing high quality and state-of-the-art medical care; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Nashville, Tennessee, August 31, September 1, 2, 2004, That The American Legion affirm its strong commitment and support for the mutually beneficial affiliations between the Veterans Health Administration and the medical schools of this nation; and, be it finally**

**RESOLVED, That VA medical school affiliates should be appropriately represented as a stakeholder on any national Task Force, Commission, or Committee established to deliberate on veterans health care.**