

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

Resolution No. 429: Armed Forces Day

Origin: Convention Committee on Americanism

Submitted by: Convention Committee on Americanism

WHEREAS, On August 31, 1949, Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson announced the creation of an Armed Forces Day to replace separate Army, Navy and Air Force Days and to acknowledge the unification of the Armed Forces under one department—the Department of Defense; and

WHEREAS, Armed Forces Day is celebrated annually on the third Saturday of May and is the day on which special tribute is directed towards the men and women of the Armed Forces who are in the service of their country; and

WHEREAS, Because of their unique training schedules, National Guard and Reserve units are permitted to celebrate Armed Forces Day/Week over any period in May; and

WHEREAS, President Dwight D. Eisenhower said in 1953 that “It is fitting and proper that we devote one day each year to paying special tribute to those whose constancy and courage constitute one of the bulwarks guarding the freedom of this nation and the peace of the free world”; and

WHEREAS, General Earle G. Wheeler, former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said in 1967 “Armed Forces Day, above all, honors the dedicated individuals who wear the uniforms of their country. Each serviceman, wherever he may be, whatever his task, contributes directly and importantly to the defense of the nation. The task of each one is the task of all the Armed Forces; to protect the freedoms which underlie the greatness of America”; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion, an organization of wartime veterans, wishes to acknowledge the sacrifices and the dedication of today’s service men and women and to increase public awareness of the honorable nature of military service; 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 reiterates its continuing support of those who serve in the Armed Forces of the United States and the families that are left behind; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion encourages its Posts and others to conduct and sponsor appropriate observances of “Armed Forces Day” in their respective communities to inform all citizens of the important role of this country’s armed forces and to acknowledge the service of those who serve in them.