Resolution No. 20: Encourage Collaboration with Selected Post-9/11 Generation Veterans Groups

Origin: 100th Anniversary Observance Committee

Submitted By: Internal Affairs Commission

WHEREAS, The American Legion 100th Anniversary Observance Committee and 100th Anniversary Honorary Committee have developed and reported to the National Executive Committee a centennial commemoration strategy to share the organization’s legacy of accomplishments and vision for a second century of service; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion has worked closely in numerous local capacities with Team Red White and Blue, The Mission Continues and Team Rubicon, which are three effective and innovative post-9/11 veterans groups that share values similar to those of The American Legion and can play an important part in defining a second-century vision for the organization; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion has established a relationship of collaboration with Student Veterans of America, providing office space for several months as the group was forming, and uniting to help student veterans through relationships at a growing number of American Legion campus posts; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion National Headquarters is frequently asked to provide media support or other forms of recognition from numerous post-9/11 generation veterans groups among the 45,000 the George W. Bush Institute has identified; and

WHEREAS, Team Red White and Blue’s mission is to enrich the lives of America’s veterans by connecting them to their communities through physical and social activity and local volunteerism; and

WHEREAS, Team Red White and Blue and The American Legion are finding healthy camaraderie and volunteer opportunities in numerous communities nationwide, to the mutual benefit of each other and the veterans they support; and

WHEREAS, The Mission Continues empowers veterans in readjustment transitions by deploying them in platoons to fulfill community service projects, often with support or involvement from The American Legion, nationwide; and

WHEREAS, The Mission Continues and The American Legion have mutually beneficial opportunities to help veterans through the readjustment process while at the same time fulfilling community service needs, which are core values of both organizations; and

WHEREAS, Team Rubicon combines the skills and experiences of military veterans with first responders and emergency workers to rapidly deploy well-trained disaster-relief teams worldwide; and

WHEREAS, Team Rubicon and The American Legion have worked together during a variety of natural disasters, including floods in Colorado, Superstorm Sandy along the
northeastern U.S. coast, and tornadoes in Oklahoma, connecting victims and relief workers with the Legion’s National Emergency Fund, post homes as command centers, volunteers and other assets; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion Membership & Post Activities Committee’s five-year plan strongly urges engagement and collaboration with post-9/11 generation veterans in order to improve awareness about The American Legion among eligible members from that war era; and

WHEREAS, This resolution originating in The American Legion 100th Anniversary Observance Committee has the concurrence of your Internal Affairs Commission and the Subcommittee on Resolutions; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 6-7, 2015, That the National Executive Committee does affirm The American Legion’s commitment at the national, department and post levels to seek active coordination wherever feasible with The Mission Continues, Team Red White and Blue, Team Rubicon and Student Veterans of America on initiatives that support veterans, their families, communities and camaraderie; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That American Legion posts and departments are encouraged to build and maintain mutually beneficial relationships with these post-9/11 veterans groups, and that The American Legion Marketing, Media & Communications Division highlight such relationships in print, digital and social media campaigns and seek reciprocal or similar treatment about The American Legion in the print, digital and social media of those groups.