

**NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
OF  
THE AMERICAN LEGION  
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA  
OCTOBER 14-15, 2015**

**Resolution No. 9: Appointment of TBI/PTSD Committee  
Origin: Internal Affairs Commission  
Submitted By: Internal Affairs Commission**

WHEREAS, In 2010, The American Legion created an ad hoc committee to investigate the existing science and procedures as well as alternative methods for treating Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) not currently being employed by the Department of Defense (DoD) or Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for the purpose of determining if such alternative treatments are practical and efficacious; and

WHEREAS, The ad hoc committee became a permanent committee at the Spring 2013 National Executive Committee meeting; and

WHEREAS, Since its inception, The American Legion's TBI/PTSD Committee has carefully and compassionately studied both TBI and PTSD and the way in which our government is responding to them; and

WHEREAS, Having met with mental health experts, veterans, families and VA officials, the TBI/PTSD Committee has formulated recommendations that included total-family involvement in recovery plans as well as published *The War Within*, which documented the committee's initial findings; and

WHEREAS, As TBI and PTSD remain the "signature wounds" of Iraq and Afghanistan and with the increase of Vietnam veterans suffering from PTSD, there remains a continued need for The American Legion to remain at the forefront of these conditions and thus, this committee needs to review treatment methods; and

WHEREAS, The need continues to exist for a committee to review treatment methods for veterans suffering from TBI and PTSD; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 14-15, 2015, That the TBI/PTSD Committee shall be assigned to the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission; and, be it further**

**RESOLVED, That the TBI/PTSD Committee shall consist of not more than six (6) members selected, at large, for terms of one (1) year and such consultants and commander's representative, as deemed necessary by the national commander; and, be it further**

**RESOLVED, That the national commander is authorized to make such interim appointments as may be required to fill vacancies in unexpired terms, subject to ratification by the National Executive Committee at its next ensuing meeting; and, be it further**

**RESOLVED, That at its fall meeting each year, the National Executive Committee shall appoint, upon nomination by the national commander, a chairman and a vice chairman of the committee from the membership of the committee to serve in such capacity for one year; and, be it further**

**RESOLVED, That this committee be charged with the responsibility of continuing to investigate the existing science and procedures as well as alternative methods for treating Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) not currently being employed by the Department of Defense (DoD) or Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for the purpose of determining if such alternative treatments are practical and efficacious; and, be it further**

**RESOLVED, That this committee also evaluate the therapies for treating TBI and PTSD currently being employed by the DoD and VA; and, be it further**

**RESOLVED, That the TBI/PTSD Committee make an annual report to the full Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission and the National Executive Committee concerning the TBI/PTSD Committee's findings and recommendations; and, be it finally**

**RESOLVED, That the "Outline of Authorization: Membership and Purpose for Commissions and Committees" shall be updated to reflect the above.**