

**FIFTY-FIRST NATIONAL CONVENTION
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
Atlanta, Georgia
August 26, 27, 28, 1969**

Resolution No. 262: Religious Freedom

Origin: Indiana

Submitted By: Convention Committee on Americanism

WHEREAS, The beginning of the Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion reads as follows: "For God and Country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes: To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a 100% Americanism"; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion is bonded together regardless of race or creed and gives whole-hearted support to patriotic endeavors that are for the good of our country; and

WHEREAS, There are forces at work within our great nation which are detrimental to our growth, and which threaten to destroy our entire American way of life; and

WHEREAS, It is a known fact that the law banning the use of public prayer in our schools was an outgrowth of the disapproval of one person; and

WHEREAS, It is a known fact that over 47,000 signatures have been received at National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) offices condemning the use of the Bible in the reading of the scriptures of our own United States astronauts as they orbited the moon; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, August 26, 27, 28, 1969, That we endorse the following statement:

"We whole-heartily support the decision of our astronauts to read scriptures from the Bible while in space as they orbited the moon.

"We believe in freedom of use of the Bible in public places, over the air waves and while traveling in space.

"We believe it should be the right of every human being to publicly express his faith in God and the Bible without fear of reprisal from the government or any other power.

"May this serve as a full endorsement for their gesture, upholding them in the expression of their faith and their belief in God."