

**NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA
MAY 4 - 5, 2016**

Resolution No. 17: La Fiere Bridge Memorial Agreement

Origin: Internal Affairs Commission

Submitted By: Internal Affairs Commission

WHEREAS, The American Legion, Amis des Veterans Americains (AVA) and The City of Ste. Mere-Eglise, Normandy, France, share a common purpose to ensure that U.S. military sacrifices of the World War II D-Day invasion of France are honored, respected and memorialized for future generations; and

WHEREAS, AVA and Ste. Mere-Eglise annually invite American Legion participation in ceremonies at the La Fiere Bridge Memorial in Normandy to commemorate the anniversary of the invasion that led to the end of World War II in Europe; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion National Executive Committee passed Resolution No. 16 May 6-7, 2015, commending AVA for its many years of organizing ceremonies, honoring veterans and advancing the Normandy story to new generations, including active-duty U.S. military personnel; and

WHEREAS, AVA owns the heavily visited memorial park, site and monuments near La Fiere Bridge, and the City of Ste. Mere-Eglise provides maintenance of the site; and

WHEREAS, AVA wishes to ensure that the memorial site serve in perpetuity as a tribute to U.S. military sacrifice in the World War II liberation of France; and

WHEREAS, AVA and the City of Ste. Mere-Eglise, trusting The American Legion as a faithful guardian of honor and remembrance for those who fell fighting during World War II, requested the nation's largest veterans service organization specifically; and

WHEREAS, AVA and the City of Ste. Mere-Eglise also seek to ensure that no changes in the memorial site's configuration, including the removal or sale of any monuments, plaques or statues, can occur without mutual consent of AVA, The City of Ste. Mere-Eglise and The American Legion, representing the U.S. veteran and military community honored there; and

WHEREAS, AVA and the City of Ste. Mere-Eglise plan to produce and display an engraved plaque to honor The American Legion's commitment "to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the Great Wars," as stated in the Preamble to The American Legion Constitution; and

WHEREAS, A ceremony on June 6, 2016, at the La Fiere Bridge Memorial is scheduled to recognize the alliance of honor among The American Legion, AVA and the City of Ste. Mere-Eglise, with an agreement-signing ceremony, pending passage of this resolution; and

WHEREAS, AVA and the City of Ste. Mere-Eglise seek no financial obligation from The American Legion in any agreement related to the site; and

WHEREAS, This agreement has been reviewed by The National Judge Advocate and the National Adjutant and found to be in compliance with American Legion policy and values alike; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 4-5, 2016, That The American

Legion is authorized to enter into an agreement with Amis des Veterans Americains and the City of Ste. Mere-Eglise that would require consent of all three parties before any changes in the configuration of the La Fiere Bridge Memorial can be made; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the National Executive Committee recommend to the national adjutant that The American Legion emblem may be used on a plaque recognizing the alliance among The American Legion, Amis des Veterans Americains and the City of Ste. Mere-Eglise to be displayed at the La Fiere Bridge Memorial in Normandy, France; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the national commander, after review and approval by the national judge advocate, is hereby authorized and directed to execute appropriate agreement with Amis des Veterans Americains and the City of Ste. Mere-Eglise at no cost to The American Legion, and the national adjutant is hereby authorized and directed to attest the same.