

**NINETY-EIGHTH NATIONAL CONVENTION
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
Cincinnati, Ohio
August 30, 31, September 1, 2016**

**Resolution No. 294: Boy Scouts of America and the Department of Defense
Origin: Convention Committee on Americanism
Submitted by: Convention Committee on Americanism**

WHEREAS, The Eighty-Second National Convention of The American Legion in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, passed Resolution 334 titled "Support of Boy Scouts of America" which reiterated The American Legion's longstanding support of the Boy Scouts of America; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion, as chartered by the United States Congress, pledges to "transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy"; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion endorses the concept that the perpetuation of these principles may best be initiated by an enlightened public achieved through the implementation of educational practices offered in the homes, in our schools and through public-wide programs organized and developed for this purpose by organizations like the Boy Scouts of America; and

WHEREAS, Scouting programs instill in youth the values found in the Scout Oath and Scout Law, which are relevant in helping youth grow to their full potential through the academic, self-confidence, ethics, leadership, and citizenship skills that will influence their adults lives; and

WHEREAS, Members of the United States Armed Forces embody leadership, citizenship and patriotism, serving as positive role-models for young people; and

WHEREAS, The chartering of Boy Scout units by components of the active duty military, National Guard and reserve units provides military servicemembers an avenue for active engagement with the local community and its youth; and

WHEREAS, On November 15, 2004, in response to a lawsuit brought by the ACLU of Illinois, the Department of Defense (DOD) ceased the direct sponsorship of Boy Scout units on military facilities and chartering of Boy Scout units by DOD components; and

WHEREAS, DOD Instruction 1015.09 of January 19, 2016, outlines the fiscal and logistical support that the DOD may provide to qualified scouting organizations operating on military installations overseas but does not authorize chartering of Boy Scout units by DOD components; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Cincinnati, Ohio, August 30, 31, September 1, 2016, That The American Legion express its steadfast opposition to Department of Defense policies that prohibit the chartering of Boy Scout units by components of the Armed Forces of the United States of America; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion use every executive, legislative and judicial avenue available to restore longstanding policies of cooperation between the Department of Defense and the Boy Scouts of America that will allow Boy Scout units the right to authorize components of the active duty military, National Guard and reserve units to charter Boy Scout units without fear of legal reprisal.