

**EIGHTY-SEVENTH NATIONAL CONVENTION
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
HONOLULU, HAWAII
August 23, 24, 25, 2005**

Resolution No. 5: Saluting Military War Dogs

Origin: Utah

Submitted by: Convention Committee on National Security

WHEREAS, Over the course of our nation's military history, tens of thousands of war dogs served during World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Gulf War, Bosnia, Kosovo Peacekeeping operation, and coalition operation in Afghanistan and Iraq; and

WHEREAS, These war dogs were specially trained for jobs like scout, sentry, tracker, mine and booby trap detection, tunnel, water patrol, coast guard, messenger, search and rescue, explosive detection, and drug detection; and

WHEREAS, America's military war dog teams have a long and legendary history of courage, heroism, and sacrifice on thousands of foreign fields of battle and are credited with saving countless numbers of lives of Americans, Allies, and noncombatants; and

WHEREAS, War dogs have significantly reduced the enemy's capacity to sabotage or destroy American equipment and property worth billions of dollars; and

WHEREAS, War dogs work for food, water, and the love, loyalty, and bonds of their handlers, not many know the special bond and sense of brotherhood that exists among combat veteran dog handlers and their dogs, during war time almost all branches of the military have depended on dogs and handlers; and

WHEREAS, Thousands of war dogs with names such as Stubby, Chips, Prince, Ranger, Rebel, Sarge, Kelly, Tiger, Smokey, and Missy, never returned from their duty in harms way, in the Vietnam War alone over 4,000 dogs were sent into combat with less than 200 returning to the United States; and

WHEREAS, The Veteran Dog Handler Association has over 2,000 members from all eras and branches of the military and civilian sectors and is dedicated to the National War Dog Team Memorial being currently crafted for permanent display in Washington, DC; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Honolulu, Hawaii, August 23, 24, 25, 2005, That The American Legion strongly commend the efforts of war dogs and the many courageous and heroic accomplishments of their combat veteran dog handlers, and that their dogs be forever remembered by The American Legion and citizens of the United States of America; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion offer its humble gratitude for the heroic duties, great accomplishments and sacrifice war dogs have made as well as that of American military service personnel.