

**NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
OF  
THE AMERICAN LEGION  
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA  
MAY 10 - 11, 2017**

**Resolution No. 17: National Desert Storm and Desert Shield Memorial**

**Origin: Internal Affairs Commission**

**Submitted By: Internal Affairs Commission**

WHEREAS, One of the founding principles of The American Legion is, "To preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the great wars"; and

WHEREAS, There were 500,000 Americans who served in the Gulf War in a coalition force from 34 nations led by the United States in response to Iraq's invasion and annexation of Kuwait during the codenamed operations of Desert Storm (January 17, 1991 thru February 28, 1991) and Desert Shield (August 2, 1990 thru February 28, 1991) and there were almost 400 fatalities; and

WHEREAS, The National Desert Storm Memorial Association, a nonprofit organization incorporated in the state of Arkansas, developed a campaign to seek approval to erect a National Desert Storm and Desert Shield Memorial in Washington, D.C. in honor of those who served during Desert Storm and Desert Shield; and

WHEREAS, The 113th Congress has approved that the National Desert Storm Memorial Association may proceed to establish the National Desert Storm and Desert Shield Memorial as a commemorative work on federal land in the District of Columbia without the expenditure of federal funds; and

WHEREAS, The National Desert Storm Memorial Association was given authority to work with the National Park Service to identify the land and start the process to obtain the necessary approvals from the various committees and commissions overseeing the protection of the Mall or other federal property in the District of Columbia to obtain the property and design approval as well as conduct fundraising; and

WHEREAS, The erection of this memorial should be funded through donations from the private sector and voluntary individual donations and at no cost to the federal government of the United States or the District of Columbia or from the corporate body of The American Legion; and

WHEREAS, It would be ideal if Congress would have assigned the responsibility of overseeing the design, fundraising and construction to the American Battle Monuments Commission due to their expertise and knowledge of erecting memorials as was done for three memorials in Washington, D.C.: the American Expeditionary Forces Memorial, the Korean War Memorial and the World War II Memorial and after construction the administration was given to the National Park Service; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion is in favor of honoring these veterans with such a memorial; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 10-11, 2017, That The American Legion goes on record in support of the construction of a memorial dedicated to Desert Storm and Desert Shield veterans in our nation's capital without financial obligation by The American Legion; and, be it further**

**RESOLVED, That The American Legion would support the American Battle Monuments Commission, if recommended, to serve as the administer because of their expertise in coordinating the erection of previous national monuments in the National Capital Region for fundraising, design and construction of the Desert Storm and Desert Shield Memorial; and, be it finally**

**RESOLVED, That our national American Legion media channels be utilized to advance awareness to our membership on the progress of the National Desert Storm and Desert Shield Memorial.**