

**NINETY-NINTH NATIONAL CONVENTION  
OF  
THE AMERICAN LEGION  
Reno, Nevada  
August 22, 23, 24, 2017**

**Resolution No. 80: Support Expansion of Microsoft Software and Systems Academy  
Origin: Convention Committee on Veterans Employment & Education  
Submitted by: Convention Committee on Veterans Employment & Education**

WHEREAS, Servicemembers transition from active-duty to a civilian sector that often overlooks or underestimates their employment potential; and

WHEREAS, The Global War on Terror has incurred record high deployment rates of citizen soldiers, who have the responsibility of competing for civilian employment while waiting for the call to serve their country; and

WHEREAS, The unemployment rate for veterans ages 25-34 is 7.2 percent compared to 4.6 percent amongst nonveterans; and

WHEREAS, Servicemembers and veterans need proper training and tools to begin new careers transitioning from military service; and

WHEREAS, The Microsoft Software & Systems Academy (MSSA) bridges this gap with comprehensive training and career mentorship that helps prepare servicemembers for long-term, high-paying tech careers; and

WHEREAS, MSSA has a 91 percent graduation rate with 85 percent working in information technology fields earning an average salary of more than \$70,000; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 22, 23, 24, 2017, That The American Legion supports the Microsoft Software & Systems Academy (MSSA) in order to provide servicemembers with necessary skills and resources to obtain gainful employment in today's global information technology marketplace; and, be it finally**

**RESOLVED, That The American Legion supports adaptation and expansion of the MSSA across eligible military installations.**