

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

**Resolution No. 81: Military Spouse Employment**

**Origin: Convention Committee on Veterans Employment & Education**

**Submitted by: Convention Committee on Veterans Employment & Education**

WHEREAS, Military spouses struggle to find jobs and are more likely to work for less pay, or in positions lower than their education level, with over 40 percent of spouses stating that the biggest barrier to employment is employers not wanting to hire spouses due to frequent moves; and

WHEREAS, Military spouses earned less on average than their civilian counterparts; and

WHEREAS, Military families identified spouse unemployment and underemployment as the highest obstacle to financial security, with 44 percent of spouses reported living paycheck to paycheck or struggling financially; and

WHEREAS, Struggling with frequent moves, deployments, and unpredictable schedules of their servicemember spouses, military spouses have a much higher unemployment rate of 16 percent, compared to the national unemployment rate of 4.4 percent; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion fully supports all veterans, servicemembers, and their family members to the fullest extent possible in order to further expand the economy, and enhance veteran economic prosperity; 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 legislative and administrative measures that seek to encourage and recognize organizations that hire veteran and military spouses; and, be it finally**

**RESOLVED, That The American Legion reminds employers, both public and private sectors, of their moral obligation to hire, not only veterans, but their civilian spouses as well.**