

**NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA
May 5-6, 2004**

Resolution No. 25: The American Legion Support of the VA Organ Transplant Program

Submitted by: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Committee

WHEREAS, The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Transplant Program began providing solid organ transplants to veteran patients in 1961; and

WHEREAS, The VA Transplant Program has expanded services to provide veteran patients with heart transplant services in 1980, bone marrow in 1982, liver in 1989, and lung in 1991; and

WHEREAS, There have been two options for veterans to undergo organ transplant operations: through VA Transplant Centers or through sharing agreements between the VA and local University hospitals where transplantation is performed; and

WHEREAS, the system of organ distribution may be undermined as a result of unilateral collaboration with other hospitals seeking organ donations; and

WHEREAS, There are many veterans living today who are in need of organ transplants in order to sustain their lives; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 5-6, 2004, That The American Legion support a system of organ distribution that will ensure that veteran patients receive equitable consideration when in need of transplants.