

**NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA
October 5-6, 2005**

Resolution No. 15: Maintaining The USS Iowa And Wisconsin On The Naval Vessel Register

Origin: 2005 NC Resolution No. 89 (WA)
Submitted by: National Security Commission
(As amended)

WHEREAS, The United States Navy has a long-standing tradition of projecting American military power on the world's oceans; and

WHEREAS, The battleship has long been a key component in carrying out Naval Surface Fire Support (NSFS), which facilitates the completion of strategic and tactical objectives while at the same time helping to support—and minimize casualties among—American and allied ground forces and assets; and

WHEREAS, Concerns remain over the reliability and effectiveness of combat air support in current strategic plans; and

WHEREAS, Concerns exist over the delays, feasibility, and effectiveness of Extended Range Guided Munitions (ERGM) and the DD(x) class of ships that are still in the development stage; and

WHEREAS, Public Law 104-106, passed by Congress in 1996, keeps the USS *Iowa* (BB-61) and the USS *Wisconsin* (BB-64) on the Naval Vessel Register to stand ready for reactivation in the event of wartime needs or national security crises in which naval gunfire, not just missile fire, is needed to support the land forces ashore; and

WHEREAS, The United States Navy leadership is considering asking Congress to repeal Public Law 104-106, which would strike these two battleships from the Naval Vessel Register and donating them to be used as museums, leaving the Navy with no platform in active or standby service that is capable of carrying out the Naval Surface Fire Support role; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 5-6, 2005, That The American Legion support of the provision Public Law 104-106 which would retain the USS *Iowa* (BB-61) and USS *Wisconsin* (BB-64) on the Naval Vessel Register at least and until the Navy's DDX gunfire ship is produced in the years ahead.