

**THIRTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
Miami, Florida
October 10, 11, 12, 13, 1955**

**Resolution No. 302: Eric Fisher Wood be Given Title of Past National Commander
Origin: Pennsylvania
Submitted By: Convention Committee of Internal Affairs**

WHEREAS, According to the minutes and historical files of The American Legion (national), it appears that recognition has been given to all of the veterans who took an active part in the original planning and early formation of The American Legion from the time of the first Paris caucus until the actual formation of the same, by bestowing upon them the title of “past national commander,” the same having been conferred by The American Legion in national convention assembled ; and

WHEREAS, Eric Fisher Wood, one of the keynoters and active participants in the planning and formation of The American Legion, has never had any recognition bestowed upon him acknowledging the outstanding services he has rendered; and

WHEREAS, The said Eric Fisher Wood was one of the four veterans including Roosevelt, White and Donovan, and was a member of a committee of 20 which, in February, 1919, called the original Paris caucus for the formation and planning of the said American Legion, and Eric Fisher Wood was vice-chairman of the said committee and also secretary of the committee, and as said secretary, prepared, signed and distributed the “Call for the Paris Caucus,” this being the first written American Legion document; and

WHEREAS, The said Eric Fisher Wood planned and made all of the physical arrangements for the holding of said Paris caucus; and Whereas, As vice-chairman, and in the absence of Chairman Roosevelt, Eric Fisher Wood opened the Paris caucus with the keynote speech which said keynote speech substantially includes what is now the Preamble to The American Legion Constitution, this being the first fundamental address in Legion history; and

WHEREAS, As vice-chairman, and in the absence of Chairman Roosevelt, Eric Fisher Wood opened the Paris caucus with the keynote speech which said keynote speech substantially includes what is now the Preamble to The American Legion Constitution, this being the first fundamental address in Legion history; and

WHEREAS, The said Eric Fisher Wood was made permanent secretary of the said Paris caucus and served as such throughout the three-day session and upon his return to the United States, he became secretary of the committee that organized the St. Louis caucus and signed and issued the “Call for the St. Louis Caucus,” and practically alone made all the physical arrangements and plans for the said St. Louis caucus and was made permanent secretary and parliamentarian of the said St. Louis caucus; and

WHEREAS, The said Eric Fisher Wood served as national secretary (now designated as national adjutant) of the Legion from May to November, 1919; and

WHEREAS, The said Eric Fisher Wood was appointed and acted as chairman of the committee to draft a national constitution which was submitted to and adopted by the Minneapolis national convention in 1919, the said Eric Fisher Wood having made the physical arrangements

for the Minneapolis convention and was made permanent secretary and parliamentarian of this said convention; and

WHEREAS, The said Eric Fisher Wood is solely responsible for designing and having patented "The American Legion Emblem," and then sold the said patent to The American Legion for the nominal sum of one (\$1.00) dollar; and

WHEREAS, The said Eric Fisher Wood was chairman of the Constitutional Committee of the Cleveland American Legion convention in 1920, when the Legion constitution finally formulated itself into its present general form; and Whereas, The said Eric Fisher Wood has, throughout his entire lifetime, faithfully served The American Legion in whatever capacity under which he was called to serve, and rendered very distinguished and capable service to the said Legion; and

WHEREAS, Recognition for such outstanding and distinguished service by Eric Fisher Wood was requested of The American Legion by Resolution Register No. 577 as adopted by the Executive Committee of The American Legion, Department of Pennsylvania, and forwarded to the National Internal Affairs Commission; the said commission, as shown by the minutes of their meeting, "found as a matter of fact," that the said Eric Fisher Wood did render exceptional service to The American Legion in its formative stages, a service comparable to that rendered by those to whom have been given the honorary title of past national commander, and the commission was of the opinion that it was questionable whether the National Executive Committee had authority to confer such honorary title as past national commander, and that the same should be left for action by The American Legion in national convention assembled; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Miami, Florida, October 10, 11, 12, 13, 1955, That there be bestowed upon the said Eric Fisher Wood the honorary title of "Past National Commander" in view of the outstanding, distinguished, extraordinary and noteworthy services he performed in the planning, formation and permanent organization of the said American Legion.