PROCEEDINGS

of the

National Executive Committee

of

THE AMERICAN LEGION

National Headquarters
Indianapolis, Indiana

May 9 – 10, 2018
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Thursday, May 10, 2018

Invocation

Roll Call

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...At 9:00 a.m., Wednesday, May 9, 2018, the National Executive Committee was called to order by National Commander Denise H. Rohan.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: The colors of our country in place. Hand salute by the numbers: One, two. I now call on our national chaplain, Robert Vick, for our invocation and the POW/MIA Remembrance Ceremony.

Invocation
Robert A. Vick, Florida, National Chaplain

Bow with me, please. Heavenly Father, we again, today, acknowledge Your grandeur, Your holiness, Your power, and also Your presence. We could not do the things that we have been assigned to do were it not for Your deference and Your assistance. Father, I ask that Your spirit be felt strongly in this meeting today so that the things we do, not only represent those who can't represent themselves, but represent You. We want to glorify You and further Your kingdom on this earth. Bless us in our deliberations. May they be peaceful. May we act towards each other as family. And I pray this prayer in the name of my Savior, my Soon-Coming King. Amen.

POW/MIA Remembrance Ceremony
Robert A. Vick, Florida, National Chaplain

Before I do the national POW/MIA Empty Chair ceremony, I would like to tell you that in the book of Hebrews, Paul says that, "We are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses," and I believe that the spirits of the people we represent as American Legion members, and that I represent as chaplain, are watching over us. We don't do anything in this world that isn't known, that isn't appreciated, that isn't honored by God if it's done to further His glory and His kingdom. So remember what we do, we're being watched. We're setting an example for the world.

Resolution 288 adopted at the 67th Annual National Convention requires the designation of a POW/MIA chair or flag at all official meetings of The American Legion. This is a symbol of the thousands of American POWs/MIAs still unaccounted for from all wars and conflicts involving our nation. With the POW/MIA flag positioned to my left, let it serve as a reminder for all of us to spare no effort to secure the release of any American prisoners, the repatriation of the remains of those who have been killed in action, and a full accounting of those who are still missing. Let us rededicate ourselves to this vital endeavor. Amen.

Pledge of Allegiance and Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion
Roy A. Helms, Wisconsin, National Sergeant-at-Arms

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: Now I will call on the national sergeant-at-arms, Roy Helms, from Wisconsin, to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.
...The National Executive Committee recited the Pledge of Allegiance followed by the Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: You may be seated. I now declare our National Executive Committee meeting in session, and welcome. Mr. Adjutant, please call roll.

Roll Call
National Officers

National Commander
Denise H. Rohan, Wisconsin

National Adjutant
Daniel S. Wheeler, Virginia

National Vice Commanders
Larry J. Marcouillier, Delaware (Excused)
William J. Flanagan, Illinois
Bobby D. Bryant, Oklahoma
Byron I. Callies, South Dakota
Paula R. Stephenson, Utah

Past National Commanders
Clarence M. Bacon, Maryland (Excused)  Hon. John A. Brieden, III, Texas
John P. 'Jake' Comer, Massachusetts  Thomas L. Bock, Colorado
Miles S. Epling, West Virginia  Paul A. Morin, Massachusetts
Robert S. Turner, Georgia  Martin F. Conatser, Illinois
Dominic D. DeFrancesco, Pennsylvania (Excused)  Robert W. Spanogle, Michigan
Bruce Thiesen, California (Excused)  David K. Rehbein, Iowa
William M. Detweiler, Louisiana  Clarence E. Hill, Florida
Daniel A. Ludwig, Minnesota  Jimmie L. Foster, Alaska
Joseph J. Frank, Missouri  Fang A. Wong, New York
Anthony G. Jordan, Maine (Excused)  James E. Koutz, Indiana
Butch L. Miller, Virginia  Daniel M. Dellinger, Virginia
Hon. Alan G. Lance, Sr., Idaho  Michael D. Helm, Nebraska
Richard J. Santos, Maryland  Harold D. Barnett, Georgia
Ronald F. Conley, Pennsylvania  Charles E. Schmidt, Oregon

National Executive Committeemen

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France  Nola L. Maloney (Excused)  James M. Settle
Georgia  Charles F. Wessinger
Hawaii  David Carlson
Idaho  Arthur L. Gimpel
Illinois  Bernard A. Stegmueller
Indiana  Jerry L. Jordan
Iowa  Jerry D. Sebben
Kansas  David O. Warnken
Kentucky  Joseph M. Flynn
Louisiana  Charles D. Aucoin
Maine  John W. Hargreaves
Maryland  Michael L. Mooney, Jr.
Massachusetts  Louis E. Brault, Jr.
Mexico  Michael D. Wood
Michigan  Raymond W. Moore
Minnesota  Marland A. Ronning
Mississippi  Robert E. Gosa
Missouri  Kenneth J. Goth
Montana  David A. Driver
Nebraska  William D. Crosier, Jr.
Nevada  Ronald L. Michalski
New Hampshire  William R. Roy
New Jersey  Charles K. Robbins
New Mexico  Felix Trujillo
New York  Edward Bertrand
North Carolina  Jeff W. Joyner
North Dakota  Robert L. Krause
Ohio  Dennis E. Clausing
Oklahoma  Timothy W. Smith
Oregon  Robert D. Liebenow
Pennsylvania  Dennis C. Haas
Pennsylvania  Lawrence E. Wade
Puerto Rico  Angel O. Narvaez-Negron
Rhode Island  Cory D. Bates
South Carolina  Gary L. Michell (Excused)  Peter Rice (Excused)
South Dakota  James Huls
Tennessee  Don E. Mathis
Texas  C. W. Sparks, Jr.
Utah  Terry D. Schow
Vermont  Marlys A. Lemnah
Virginia  Michael F. Mitrione
Washington  Ken C. Lee
West Virginia  William W. Kile
Wisconsin  Kenneth J. Rynes, Jr.
Wyoming  Terry E. Miller

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: Recognize NEC from Virginia
NEC MEMBER MITRIONE (VA): Madam Commander, in light of the fact that the
NEC and alternate from South Carolina are absent, request to extend the courtesy of a voice
to Jimmy Hawk from South Carolina. ...Second.
NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded to allow Jimmy
Hawk to sit in and have a voice for South Carolina. Are there any questions? All those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Welcome, Jimmy.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: That completes the roll call. You have a quorum.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: Thank you. Mr. Adjutant, are there any announcements?

Announcements

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: Yes, Ma'am. We received a card from the family of Merv Gunderson that says, "Dear Legion Executives, Committee, and Family, and Dave Warnken, Thank for your words of sympathy, your voice of concern, your gesture of caring, and the love you offer. The flowers were beautiful. We cherished all of your friendships. The Gundersons."

The National Commanders Dinner honoring the NEC is tonight at the Sheraton City Centre, Indianapolis. The reception and dinner will be 30 minutes earlier than usual. The reception will be held at 5:30 p.m. at the Circle Suites. Dinner will be served in the Meridian Ballroom at 6:30. NECmen who have not yet submitted names of attendees will find a bright yellow form on their desk. This needs to be completed and returned to Kevin Long, who is in the back of the room. The cutoff for seating requests is 10:00 a.m. So if you have a yellow form, please complete it and turn it in to Kevin Long immediately. Tickets will be available for pickup after lunch. That completes the announcements.

Reading of Minutes of Previous Meeting

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, I move that since the minutes have been printed in digest form and mailed, they be approved without being read. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded that the minutes of the previous meeting have been printed in digest form and they be approved as written without being read. Are there any questions? All those in favor, say aye. All opposed, same sign. Carried. I do believe Past National Commander Santos has an additional announcement.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER SANTOS: Yes, ma'am. As you can tell by the roll call, Larry Marcouillier, national vice commander, is not present. Approximately 10 days ago he had prostate removal. It was like a 9 on a 10 scale. It was very cancerous. So he's now home recuperating. He starts Monday taking radiation treatments. So if anyone is interested, send him a card, give him a call. I'm sure he would like that and it will cheer him up. He can only walk out to the mailbox. He can't pick anything up. Really restricted in what he can lift. Have him in your prayers. Thank you, commander.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: Thank you.

...National Vice Commander Flanagan assumed the chair.

Opening Remarks

Denise H. Rohan, Wisconsin, National Commander

I say good morning from down here. National officers, past national commanders, members of the NEC, national staff, especially good morning to my aide, Mike Rohan. And all of our guests, both here in the room and those who are listening on the internet.

These are historic times, not just for The American Legion, but for our entire world. It was just a little more than six months ago that I woke up one morning at the Dragon Hill
Lodge located at U.S. Army Garrison in Seoul, South Korea. We woke up to the news that North Korea had just launched an intercontinental ballistic missile test. One of an even greater capacity than it was in the previous test. The world, as well as our son, was understandably very alarmed and concerned, but our stoic military members stationed on that peninsula shrugged it off and just told us "It's just another Wednesday in Seoul."

Now we are on the verge of another historic summit between the leaders of the United States and North Korea. Just a couple weeks ago the two Koreas announced that they considered an official end to the Korean War. Nobody wants peace more than American veterans. But as President Reagan used to tell the Soviets, "Trust, but verify." We have many Korean War veterans in our ranks at the American Legion. We cherish their sacrifice and their service. They, and the following generations of veterans, who have served and still serve in Korea have made peace there possible, and that is one of the primary missions of our military.

Yes, we are warriors and our skilled servicemembers are the bravest and the toughest that the world has ever seen, but we are also peacekeepers and peacemakers. And as such, The American Legion fully understands that the best way to stop tyranny and aggression is when America has a strong national defense. The best wars are the wars that are never fought, but we still need a mighty military to stop future Hitlers. We owe those currently serving the best possible equipment and training to ensure not just their success, but also their safety.

A recent report in the "Military Times" examined last summer's collisions involving the U.S. Navy. 17 U.S. sailors died in separate incidents involving the U.S.S. John S. McCain and the U.S.S. Fitzgerald. Navy leadership has repeatedly cited the lack of readiness, maintenance, and training among ships across the fleet. We understand that military training is inherently dangerous, but we must do everything we can in our power to prevent our Blue Star families from becoming Gold Star families simply because we were not prepared.

You've all heard I'm very fond of the saying "Family First," and that is my theme for the year. I say it because most veterans themselves prioritize their families. If you take care of my family, they are reasoning that they are taking care of them also. The reverse is also true. Our family members would say, "Take care of my veterans. Take care of my husband, my wife, my son, my daughter, who is in harm's way defending us."

The American Legion has always understood that veterans benefits are a cost of war. I am proud that later today we will present a gift to the Department of Veterans Affairs from our Operations Comfort Warriors. Putting these donations in the hands of deserving veterans and their families is just another way for us to live up to our preamble and to our four pillars.

We also live up to our tradition and ideas through advocacy. We believe that veterans fought for the Red White and Blue, not for Blue Cross and Blue Shield. They deserve real health care, not just a thank you and a voucher. That is why we're opposed to sacrificing the best health-care system in American at the altar of privatization.

Now, the Department of Veterans Affairs secretary, David Shulkin, he has left. He's left his part in leadership. That is not the only vacuum that needs to be filled. There are currently more than 33,000 job openings at the VA. So not only must the Senate quickly proceed with the important business of confirming a new secretary, but the VA must continuously strive to be worthy of the population that they serve.

For several years now we have been hearing about the centennial, and now our centennial is upon us. In March we celebrated our 99th birthday, and in August we will gather at our 100th National Convention. The Centennial Coin Act was passed and soon these historical collector's items will be available for purchase.

Are we living up to the vision of our Founding Fathers? What I have seen during my
visits to your departments and to the communities, I absolutely believe that we are living up to that vision, but, and isn't there always a but, can we do better?

We have fewer members than we had last year at this time. And last year we had fewer members than the year before that. It doesn't seem that long ago when we had almost three million members, and now when we say the two million members of The American Legion, we are actually rounding up. We are still the most respected and influential veterans service organization in this country, but we can't simply take it for granted that it will always be that way.

Everyone on this committee has been identified as national leaders by your respective departments. If anything, our status gives us an even greater responsibility to build our membership. I was just reviewing some of the membership recruiting tips that are on our national website, and I highly recommend that you not only read them, but that you practice them at every opportunity that you may have.

For starters, always be ready with a two- or a three-minute elevator pitch on the importance and the benefits of American Legion membership. Download our Legion app to your phones so you will be able to sign up a member on the spot anywhere that you are. Get some of those door hangers and tailor them for your post, your district, or your department, and keep an ample supply of membership applications, Why You Should Belong, Troop Support, and This is The American Legion pamphlets. Visit local college campuses, veterans students organization, military bases, and our reserve and National Guard. Focus on veterans from all war eras. They are all equally important. And diversity, diversity is a strength. Spend some time on mylegion.org and contact the expired members listed that you can find under the heading "find members in my area." Also, pay special attention to media leaders in your communities. Invite them to your post for a free lunch. It can make a world of difference in getting coverage for your local events.

It's also not surprising to learn that a high number of our first responders are also eligible for The American Legion. Recognition of these important members of our community can lead to a greater membership.

These tips may seem very basic to many of you, but we should never lose sight of the fact that we are a community-based organization, and even though we yield enormous, enormous pressure and national influence, we can always benefit from practicing basic recruiting tips and our principles.

And then going along with my theme of "Family First," we have to remember that we must retain our existing members so that they can help continue that bond. It is our older members who can pass on the traditions and the principles of our great American Legion to the next generation of Legionnaires who will advance that service into our second century.

General MacArthur once said, "Old soldiers never die, they just fade away." The American Legion will not die, nor will we fade away. Neither will our American Legion Auxiliary, our Sons of the American Legion, or our American Legion Riders.

So in closing, I would like to pledge Family First. Family First today, Family First tomorrow, Family First always. Thank you and let's have a great meeting. (Standing applause) ...National Commander Rohan resumed the chair.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN KILE: Thank you, commander. Motion to receive and file the report of the national commander. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded to receive the report of the national commander. Any questions? All those in favor of receiving the report, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried.

It is now my pleasure to introduce to you the president of the nation's largest patriotic women's organization, the president of The American Legion Auxiliary, Diane Duscheck
Greetings: Diane Duscheck, Wisconsin
National President, American Legion Auxiliary

Good morning. Commander Denise, members of the NEC, guests. Thank you for the opportunity to let me address you just briefly this morning on behalf of the American Legion Auxiliary. It has been my pleasure to be able to visit your departments, especially with Commander Denise and experience her leadership. She is quite a lady, I'll tell you.

I want to briefly tell you about two veterans that I met this year, and they really sort of exemplified what The American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary are about. One of them is named Sterling Cale. He's a 20-year-old pharmacist mate at the time of the bombing of Pearl Harbor. He looked out and he saw that the water was on fire. He knew that his job was to save whoever he could, so he jumped into the water and he swam out so he could look up and see that the water above him wasn't on fire. He began swimming around rescuing as many people as he could. Those who were still able to be rescued, he took them over to a barge. Those that weren't he had other plans for.

But now Sterling Cale is 97 years old. He went on to be in the Korean War and also the Vietnam War. The day before Pearl Harbor I met his daughter, she gave me a book on Sterling's life, and I started reading it that night. The next day I looked out at Sterling Cale and introduced myself to him, and I said, "I was reading your book last night. It's remarkable all the things you've done." And he's down in his wheelchair, and remember he's 97, he looks up at me and he goes, "What, it didn't put you to sleep?" (Laughter)

I have to tell you the man caught me off guard. I was not expecting that at all. And then I thought, "What a man this is." Everything that he's done for this nation and he still has this great sense of humor. I bet if he could get up out of his wheelchair and be a spry person, he would be involved in fighting again. He was just that kind of a guy.

A second fellow I met last week in a prosthetic unit in one of our VA hospitals. And as we talked to the nurses, they said, "When you see this guy go down the hall, realize that this is what he does every day."

So Ken's wheeling down the hall in his wheelchair. Imagine a veteran, who is probably about Vietnam Veteran era. He's a new amputee, so lots of swaddling bandages there. Imagine him going down the hall in his wheelchair singing "Proud Mary" at the top of his lungs. (Laughter)

And we stopped and I say, "How are things going for you?"

He said, "Excellent."

I said, "Are they taking good care of you?"

He said, "Yep." And he went wheeling off down the hall, singing again. And when I look at this, I think of the resiliency of our veterans.

And I would have to say that it's these kind of veterans in our military all the way down to the 18-year-olds who are just beginning to serve their military careers that are some reasons that The American Legion Family needs to be remain a strong and influential entity.

We have work to do, and as commander keeps telling us, we have a family to watch out for, and it's more than just the people that we see underneath our roof every day. It amazes me looking out here how many of us it takes to keep an organization going.

I wish you a very productive and informative meeting. Thank you for all that you're doing for veterans, military, and their families. And thank you for making our communities better places to live. And as I looked around this morning, commander, that chair does seem to fit you well. Thank you all so very much for what you do. (Standing applause)
motion that we receive and file the report of our national president. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: There's been a motion and a second to receive and file the report of National President Diane Duscheck. Are there any questions? All those in favor, say aye. Opposed, same sign. Motion carried. Thank you. If we're ready, I'm going to call on Chairman David Warnken from Kansas for the Resolution Committee.

Oral Report: Subcommittee on Resolutions
David O. Warnken, Kansas, Chairman

Thank you commander. Good morning. Commander, your Subcommittee on Resolutions has been in session for the last two days, reviewing the resolutions to be presented to the National Executive Committee. We have 36 resolutions that will be presented, coming from the commissions and committees who will make the report. Any resolutions dealing with the commission will follow that report. All other resolutions have been disposed of by other action or held for further study and will be reported out as an addendum.

Tomorrow the Subcommittee on Resolutions will introduce two resolutions, No. 33 and No. 34, dealing the Uniform Code of Revocation, Cancellation or Suspension of Post and Department Charters. Please familiarize yourself with those resolutions so they do not need to be read in their entirety tomorrow. Commander, at this time I ask that you prepare the NEC for memorializing resolutions.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: Uncover.

Memorial Resolutions
Keith A. Kreul, Wisconsin

WHEREAS, It has pleased almighty God, the Great Commander, to summon to His immortal legions our beloved comrade, Keith A. Kreul — Department Vice Commander - - 1972 to 1973; 1976 to 1977; Department Commander -- 1973 to 1974; National Executive Committee Member -- 1974 to 1976; National Vice Commander -- 1979 to 1980; National Commander -- 1983 to 1984; and

WHEREAS, We humbly bow to the will of Divine Providence, while ever cherishing in our hearts the memory of his distinguished service to our country and his outstanding contributions to American Legion comradeship; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the National Executive Committee of The American Legion, in regular meeting assembled on this 9th Day of May in the year of our Lord 2018, does mourn the passing of our distinguished Legionnaire, Keith A. Kreul, that we commend to all men his works and to God his spirit; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That in token of our common grief, a copy of this resolution be presented to his family.

...National Vice Commander Bryant assumed the chair.

Eulogy for Past National Commander Keith A Kreul

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: Past National Commander Keith A. Kreul of Fennimore, Wisconsin, passed away at age 89 on Thursday, December 28, 2017, in Lancaster, Wisconsin. He was born on April 21, 1928, in Mount Ida Township, Grant County, Wisconsin, the son of Harry and Elsie Kreul. He was united in marriage to Dolores Morfey on February 14, 1953.

Following graduation from high school, Keith attended and received his bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin in Madison in mechanical engineering. Keith
reported that the only test that he ever failed was when he tried to join the Navy. The test subjects were a quarter about mechanics, a quarter about mathematics, and the other half was about vocabulary. He said he didn't do very well when he was trying to beat the odds on guessing on vocabulary. He got a perfect score in mechanics and in mathematics, but he flunked the vocabulary part by just one point.

The Navy turned him away. However, two weeks later, he did get a letter from the Navy that said they lowered their standards and that they were ready to accept him. In October of 1951, he enlisted in the U.S. Army and he was honorably discharged a few years later.

Keith's father was a charter member of the Whitish-Funk Post 184 in Fennimore, Wisconsin. And in 1956, his father offered to pay Keith's first year of membership in the Legion if Keith promised to pay his own dues from then on. A year later, he was nominated to be the post adjutant. Though he lost his first election, the post nominated him again the following year and he won. It was shortly after that when he attended his first Legion meeting.

Keith was employed at the Fairbanks-Morse in Beloit, Wisconsin, until he moved to Fennimore to join his father on the family farm. It was operating under the name of "Diamond K Farms." When he wasn't doing Legion business, he was also busy working for and with the Wisconsin Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Services.

In 1966, Keith wanted to see the local American Legion get more involved with the community and with their projects. To that end, he became part of the Fennimore Good Samaritan Society Steering Committee, which was instrumental in building a local nursing home in Fennimore. American Legion Post 184 raised over $84,000 towards that project.

He served as post commander, county commander, district commander, and the Department of Wisconsin commander from 1973 to '74, and in 1979 he was elected national vice commander. In 1981, he was appointed chairman of the National Legislative Commission and was elected national commander during convention in Seattle, Washington, in 1983.

During his tenure as national commander, the United States dealt with the attack on multinational force barracks in Beirut, which resulted in the deaths of 241 U.S. servicemembers, as well as the U.S. invasion of Grenada. He stressed the importance of Legionnaires being active in their communities and to spread the word about The American Legion.

The 40th anniversary of the signing of the original GI Bill also happened under Commander Kreul while he was leading the Legion. Commander said that the anniversary serves as a reminder to all Legionnaires that we are here to serve, and the GI Bill provides a standard against which we can measure our efforts.

Around Wisconsin Keith made a point to praise Legionnaires doing the organization's work at the post level. He said it is the blue cap with a dedication and a zeal unmatched at the grassroots level who has created and keeps alive the dynamic programs for which we are known. It is you, the blue cap Legionnaires and your families, who are the life blood to our great organization.

I remember Past National Keith, best as a mentor, and a friend. He was instrumental in the quiet mentoring of many of our leaders from Wisconsin and across the nation, especially within our third district, to include our Past National Vice Commander David Gough, our current NEC Ken Rynes, our Past Department Adjutant Mike Rohan and myself. He taught us that patriotism comes from your heart, and to that, we should focus on compassion for one another. He quietly listened and gently shepherded us in the right direction. He was like a father who was always proud of our accomplishments.

Keith is survived by his wife, Dolores, of 64 years; four children, Jeff, John, Jim, and Kim; nine grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren; along with several nieces and
nephews; and over two million members of our American Legion Family. We will miss him. Thank you. National Commander Rohan resumed the chair.

**Mervin G. Gunderson, Montana**

WHEREAS, It has pleased almighty God, the Great Commander, to summon to His immortal legions our beloved comrade, Mervin G. Gunderson — Department Vice Commander -- 2005 to 2006; Department Commander -- 2006 to 2007; National Vice Commander -- 2011 to 2012; National Executive Committee Member -- 2013 to 2018; National Americanism Commission Liaison Committee Member -- 2017 to 2018; and

WHEREAS, We humbly bow to the will of Divine Providence, while ever cherishing in our hearts the memory of his distinguished service to our country and his outstanding contributions to American Legion comradeship; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the National Executive Committee of The American Legion, in regular meeting assembled on this 9th Day of May in the year of our Lord 2018, does mourn the passing of our distinguished Legionnaire, Mervin G. Gunderson, that we commend to all men his works and to God his spirit; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That in token of our common grief, a copy of this resolution be presented to his family.

**Eulogy for Mervin G. Gunderson**

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, I understand we have someone who will eulogize Mervin.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: You may be seated.

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER STEPHENSON: Mervin Gary Gunderson, National Executive Committeeman, Montana. Merv Gunderson passed away in his home in Bozeman, Montana, on March 31, 2018, at the age of 70.

He was drafted into the United States Army and served as a crew chief on helicopters. After his service, he completed his bachelor's degree in police science, worked for 30 years with Montana State University Police Department, and retired as a lieutenant.

Merv was involved with many activities around the state of Montana, including Little League baseball, girls softball, the youth bowling program, and was the president of the Montana State Bowling Association, and is in the Montana State Hall of Fame for both the youth bowling and the Montana State Bowling Association.

He joined The American Legion in 1993, holding many state and national positions. He was a Gold Brigade recipient for 13 years in a row. Merv was the national vice commander for the Western Region from 2011 to 2012, and was on track to be the national commander for The American Legion before he was involved in a serious motorcycle accident and a difficult recovery following. He was a good friend to the Montana Senator Jon Tester, and assisted him and the Legion with many veteran issues.

Merv's dedication to The American Legion helped him greatly in his recovery from that accident. He always had a smile on his face and would help anyone who needed it, without hesitation. He never held a grudge. He always said what was on his mind and then moved on. He embraced social media. He was always looking for new leaders and always mentoring. I always came away from every conversation with Merv having learned something.

Merv was married to Patricia Jane Patterson in 1968. They had one son, Orin. He is also survived by his siblings, Merle, Marty, Myrna, and Myra. He was preceded in death by his parents and brother Melvin.

A memorial service was held in Bozeman, Montana, on April 10, with hundreds of
friends and American Legion Family members in attendance. I want to think Ken Lee from Washington and Past National Commander Charlie Schmidt from also attending that.

Following that evening was a gathering at Merv’s Post 30 in Belgrade, Montana, in his honor, a true public servant. His final resting place will be at the veterans cemetery at Fort Harrison in Helena, Montana.

I want to thank the leadership of our national organization, the Department of Montana, and Patty Gunderson, his wife, for providing input and letting me do this eulogy. Merv, we're going to miss you. Thank you.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Similar resolutions will be presented to the families of the following: Sara Ann Jennings, Alaska; Art Castro, California; William F. Jenkins, Colorado; Roy R. Mahoney, Florida; Charles F. Price, Sr., Idaho; Vincent A. Sanzotta, Illinois; Louis C. Kirk, Iowa; Wayne Mantinooth, Kentucky; Clenoe L. Anthony, Louisiana; Dalton J. Comeaux, Louisiana; Russell Lee Fisher, Maryland; James C. Loughran, Maryland; Charles W. Ferguson, Minnesota; Hugh A. Broome, Mississippi; William “Billy” Mack, New Jersey; Roger DeFrancesco, New York; Dennis Virga, New York; Benedict A. Lee, North Carolina; David A. Cropper, Ohio; Roger Hight, Ohio; J.P. “Pat” Hone, Ohio; Roselynn J. Utech, Oklahoma; Isidoro Cerpa – Alicea, Jr., Puerto Rico; G. Dale Gibson, South Dakota; Ronald E. Brooks, Tennessee; Vernon J. Peterson, Utah; Charles P. Powell, Jr., Virginia; Dale E. Hoover, West Virginia; Teddy L. Duckworth, Wisconsin; Wayne W. Faber, Wisconsin; Jesse J. Haro, Wisconsin; Barbara A. Eatridge, Wyoming; John A. Sturgeon, Wyoming.

The Abiding Love

It singeth low in every heart;
We hear it each and all—
A song of those who answer not,
However we may call.
They throng the silence of the breast,
We see them as of yore—
The kind, the true, the brave, the sweet,
Who walk with us no more.
‘Tis hard to take the burden up,
When these have laid it down;
They brighten all the joys of life,
They soften every frown.
But oh, ‘tis good to think of them
When we are troubled sore;
Thanks be to God that such have been,
Although they are no more!
—John W. Chadwick

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: Cover. Call on chairman Michael Walton from Illinois for the Convention Commission report.

Oral Report: Convention Commission
Michael E. Walton, Illinois, Chairman

Good morning Commander Rohan and members of the NEC. Although our written report in is your packets, I would like to touch on some of the highlights of our meeting.

Jeanette Rae Evans, the president of The American Legion National Convention
Corporation of Nevada, gave a final report regarding our 99th National Convention in Reno, which we believe was very much a success. President Jeanette will be presenting a check to the NEC later on this morning.

On behalf of Jeff Olson, president of The American Legion National Convention Corporation of Minnesota, I and the Minnesota Department Adjutant Randy gave an update on the progress of our up and coming 100th National Convention in Minneapolis, which will be August 24 through 30 this year. The Department of Minnesota and the City of Minneapolis are very well prepared, along with our commission, for this 100th Annual Convention which we think is really going to be quite an ordeal. We hope everyone is able to attend.

We conducted two site visits to cities seeking to host the 105th National Convention in 2023. Those cities were New Orleans, LA and Charlotte, North Carolina. Both cities presented to the convention commission on Monday, May 7, 2018. On Tuesday, May 8, the judge advocate advised that an error involving the year listed on the document for Charlotte contains the incorrect year and it was necessary for the commission to again vote on who was to be recommended to the NEC to host the 2023 National Convention. A second note was taken and it was again the recommendation of the Convention Commission that the 2023, 105th National Convention of The American Legion be awarded to Charlotte, North Carolina for the dates of August 25 through 31, 2023.

Four resolutions were received and acted upon by the commission. A resolution to approve the contract between the national organization of The American Legion and The American Legion Convention Corporation of Arizona. This was approved by the Convention Commission. There was a resolution rescinding Convention Commission resolutions that are obsolete, or that have been accomplished and, therefore, should be rescinded. This was approved by the Convention Commission.

Three resolutions were received to host the 2024, 106th Annual National Convention of The American Legion, one from the Department of Florida, supporting the city of Tampa, and there were two resolutions received from the Department of Missouri, one supporting the city of Kansas City, and the second supporting the city of St. Louis. The commission voted to receive and record the resolutions.

National Conventions are now set through 2022 as follows: This year, obviously, the hundredth in Minneapolis, that will be the 24th through to this 30th. The 101st in Indianapolis, 23rd through the 29th of 2019, in August. The 102nd in Louisville, Kentucky, which will be August 28 through September 3 of 2020, and 103rd in Phoenix, Arizona, August 27 through September 2 of 2021, and the 104th in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, August 26 through September 1 of 2022.

Madam Commander, members of the NEC, that concludes my report. Thank you for allowing me to serve.

Report: Convention Commission
May 7, 2018
Michael E. Walton, Illinois, Chairman

Chairman Michael E. Walton, Illinois, called the meeting to order at 8:00 A.M., May 7, 2018. Roll call was taken and all members present except for John D. Morris was excused.

Items Requiring NEC Action:
Resolution No. 31: 2021 National Convention Contract – Approval of the recommendation by the Convention Commission that the contract between the National Organization of The American Legion and The American Legion National Convention Corporation of Arizona for the dates of August 27 – September 2, 2021, be signed by the National Commander and the President of the Convention Corporation.
Resolution No. 32: Rescinding of Convention Commission Resolutions – Approval of the recommendation by the Convention Commission. These are resolutions that have become obsolete or resolutions that have been accomplished and therefore should be rescinded.

Addendum A:
Resolution No. 2751– submitted by the Department of Florida supporting a bid for the 2024 National Convention from the city of Tampa, Florida. Received and Recorded
Resolution No. 2752– submitted by the Department of Missouri supporting a bid for the 2024 National Convention from the city of St. Louis, Missouri. Received and Recorded
Resolution No. 2753– submitted by the Department of Missouri supporting a bid for the 2024 National Convention from the city of Kansas City, Missouri. Received and Recorded

The following cities provided presentations requesting they be awarded the 2023 National Convention of The American Legion: New Orleans, Louisiana and Charlotte, North Carolina. We conducted two site visits to cities seeking to host the 105th National Convention in 2023. Those cities were New Orleans, Louisiana and Charlotte, North Carolina. The city of Charlotte is recommended to receive the tentative award of the 2023 National Convention for the dates of August 25 – August 31, 2023. Both cities presented to the Convention Commission on Monday, May 7, 2018. On Tuesday, May 8, 2018, the National Judge Advocate, Kevin Bartlett, advised that an error involving the year listed on a document for Charlotte contained the incorrect year and was necessary for the commission to again vote on who to be recommended to the NEC to host the 2023 National Convention of The American Legion. A second vote was taken and it was again the recommendation of the Convention Commission that the 2023, 105th National Convention be awarded to Charlotte, North Carolina for the dates of August 25-31, 2023.

(Addendum B)

Planning for the 100th National Convention of The American Legion is on schedule. President of The American Legion National Convention Corporation of Minnesota, Inc.,

Jeff Olson, gave an update on the progress. The Minneapolis Convention Center will be the site of the general sessions, exhibit hall, color guard contests, band contest, the National Commander’s Banquet and the Auxiliary States Dinner. The National Staff Offices for The American Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary, Sons of The American Legion, Distinguished Guest Registration and Badges & Packets will also be in the Minneapolis Convention Center. The Color Guard contest will take place on Friday, August 24, 2018, starting at 5:00PM. The Competitive Concert Band Contest will be held Saturday, August 25 at 1:00PM in the Minneapolis Convention Center. Sunday evening, August 26 will be the annual parade in downtown Minneapolis starting at 4:00PM. This year a Post Parade Party will be hosted by the Department of Minnesota. The National Commander’s Banquet, on August 28, will feature Three Dog Night.

Jeanette Evans, President of The American Legion National Convention Corporation of Nevada, Inc, gave the final report to the Convention Commission for the 99th National Convention of The American Legion. Mrs. Evans reported the 2017 Convention Corporation generated a net profit of $117,180.89. She will present a check to the National Executive Committee for $58,590.45.

Our National Convention Request for Proposal (RFP) has been updated to reflect our current numbers and to ensure what we provide to bidding cities is properly reflected within the RFP. The RFP will be updated each year as necessary.

Chairman Walton assigned each member of the commission specific assignments to observe at the 2018 National Convention. Each commission member will report their findings to the full commission during the 2018 Fall Meetings in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Dates for future National Conventions are:
Addendum A: Resolutions Not Being Reported For Approval

The Convention Commission recommends the indicated action on the listed resolutions, which are presently before this body for disposition.

Received and Recorded

Register Resolution No. 2751 (FL) (DEC): City of Tampa offers to host the 2024 National Convention
Register Resolution No. 2752 (MO) (DEC): City of Kansas City offers to host the 2024 National Convention
Register Resolution No. 2753 (MO) (DEC): City of St. Louis offers to host the 2024 National Convention

Addendum B

The Convention Commission recommends the following dates for the events/meetings from our report, which was presented to the body for disposition.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Commission Meeting Date</th>
<th>Event/Meeting</th>
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<tr>
<td>May 7, 2018</td>
<td>2023 National Convention – Charlotte, North Carolina</td>
<td>August 25 – August 31, 2023</td>
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RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, a motion to receive and file the report of the Convention Commission with the exception of four resolutions, Addendum A and Addendum B. …Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded to receive and file the Convention Commission's report with the exception of four resolutions and addendums. Are there any questions? All those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Thank you, chairman.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Resolution No. 31, this resolution will be read under rule 8a. Take note of the time of the first reading is 9:56 a.m. This resolution will be read and there will be no action taken until four hours have elapsed and the resolution is read a second time.

Resolution No. 31: 2021 National Convention Contract

Origin: Convention Commission

Submitted By: Convention Commission

WHEREAS, The Convention Commission has reviewed the status of the proposed National American Legion Convention in Phoenix, Arizona, August 27 – September 2, 2021; and

WHEREAS, Subject to receiving a properly executed contract from the 2021 The American Legion National Convention Corporation of Arizona the Convention Commission believes that all conditions for a contract covering The American Legion
National Convention in Phoenix, Arizona, August 27 – September 2, 2021, have been satisfied; and

WHEREAS, The Convention Commission hereby recommends to the National Executive Committee that it enter into the appropriate contract with the 2021 The American Legion National Convention Corporation of Arizona to cover the 2021 American Legion National Convention; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 9-10, 2018, That the national commander, after receipt of an executed contract from the 2021 The American Legion National Convention Corporation of Arizona and the review and approval of same from the national judge advocate, be and is hereby authorized and directed to execute said contract and the national adjutant, be and is hereby authorized and directed to attest to same.

Resolution No. 32: Rescinding of Convention Commission Resolutions

Origin: Convention Commission

Submitted By: Convention Commission

WHEREAS, The Convention Commission reviews its resolutions on a regular basis in accordance with the suggested review practices recommended by the National Convention and the 1961 Report of the Program Study Committee by the National Executive Committee; and

WHEREAS, The Convention Commission has completed a review of National Executive Committee and National Convention resolutions that are still in effect pertaining to conventions and/or events; and

WHEREAS, This review has found that five resolutions should be rescinded because they have been superseded, accomplished and/or are obsolete; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 9-10, 2018, That the following resolutions are rescind for the reasons indicated below.

SUPERSEDED/ACCOMPLISHED/OBSOLETE

Resolution No. 15 2013 Spring NEC  2016 National Convention Contract
Resolution No. 40 2012 Spring NEC  2015 National Convention Contract
Resolution No. 40 2011 Spring NEC  2014 National Convention Contract
Resolution No. 36 2010 Spring NEC  2013 National Convention Contract
Resolution No. 47 2009 Spring NEC  2012 National Convention Contract

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, I move for the approval of this resolution. It has the approval of the Convention Commission and your Subcommittee on Resolutions. ....Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: There's been a motion and second to approve Resolution No. 32, the rescinding of Convention Commission resolutions. Are there any questions? All in favor, say aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried.

Resolution No. 35: Award the 2024 National Convention to the City of New Orleans, Louisiana

Origin: Subcommittee on Resolutions

Submitted By: Subcommittee on Resolutions

WHEREAS, It is from the battlefields of the coast of France thousands of servicemembers fought on the beaches of Omaha, Juno, Gold, Sword and Utah and proceeded to march inland towards eventual victory and the end of the war; and
WHEREAS, After World War Two these, and many other servicemembers from all over the world, returned home where they joined The American Legion; and
WHEREAS, The men and women who served during World War Two dedicated years of service to our great nation both in service to their Country and their families; and
WHEREAS, 2024 is the 80th year since that fateful day know as D-Day, a day that celebrated annually in many places over the world; and
WHEREAS, The City of New Orleans, Louisiana has the honor of having the world’s largest museum dedicated to the men and women who served this great nation in World War Two; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 9-10, 2018, That The American Legion shall waive the established process for the selection of a National Convention city in order to appropriately commemorate the “80th Anniversary of D-Day” in the city where the nation has the largest World War Two museum; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the 2024 National Convention of The American Legion shall be awarded to the City of New Orleans, Louisiana, provided that the Department of Louisiana informs the National Executive Committee of the Department’s concurrence at the October 2018 regular meeting.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, this resolution has the approval of the Subcommittee on Resolutions. I move for its approval. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded to approve Resolution No. 35, awarding the 2024 National Convention to in the City of New Orleans, Louisiana. Are in any questions? All those in favor of approving this resolution, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried.

Resolution No. 36: Assignment of Convention Commission
Origin: Subcommittee on Resolutions
Submitted By: Subcommittee on Resolutions

WHEREAS, The Convention Commission was created by the National Executive Committee in its present form by Resolution No. 27 of 1947; and
WHEREAS, The Convention Commission’s purposes are overseeing the implementation of The American Legion’s request for proposal pertaining to the guidelines for selecting cities to be recommended to the National Executive Committee for awarding a National Convention bid; and
WHEREAS, This commission supervises and coordinates all applicable activities, venues, logistical requirements and financial expenditures associated with the conduct of a National Convention; and
WHEREAS, This financial expenditures for holding a National Convention have grown tremendously over the years; and
WHEREAS, It is the responsibility of the Finance Commission to prepare The American Legion’s yearly budget and the handling of all funds of The American Legion; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 9-10, 2018, That the National Executive Committee hereby approves of the responsibilities and authorities of the Convention Commission; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Finance Commission is now hereby assigned oversite of the Convention Commission; and, be it further
RESOLVED, That the Convention Commission will continue its purposes as before with the added purpose of providing financial updates to the Finance Commission at all regular meetings of The American Legion when the Convention Commission is in session; and, be it further
RESOLVED, That the national adjutant, after consulting with the national judge advocate, shall be empowered to make the necessary changes to The American Legion’s Outline of Authorization; and, be it finally
RESOLVED, That this Finance Commission oversite of the Convention Commission will begin with the passage of this resolution.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, this resolution has the approval of the Subcommittee on Resolutions. I move for its approval. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded to approve Resolution No. 36. Are there any questions? All those in favor of approving Resolution No. 36, titled "Assignment of Convention Commission," signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, attached to this report are Addendum A and Addendum B. I move that the actions of the Convention Commission become the actions of the National Executive Committee. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded that Addendum A and Addendum B be accepted by our committee. Are there any questions? All those in favor, say aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried.

Thank you. I now call on Jeanette Evans, the Nevada Convention Corporation president, for the final report of the 2017 National Convention.

**Final Report of the 2017 National Convention**

Jeanette Rae Evans, Nevada, Nevada Convention Corporation President

Thank you, Commander. As the commander said, I am Jeanette Rae Evans, Nevada Convention Corporation president, here to present to you the final report of the 2017 National Convention in Reno, Nevada.

First I would also like to thank The American Legion National officers, National Executive Committee and the Convention Commission for allowing The Department of Nevada the opportunity to host the 2017 National Convention. It was exactly 10 years since we last hosted the National Convention in 2007. We would like to commend also Bridget Robinson and her team, Andrea Watson, Ellen Miller and Reggie Mathis for all their hard work, guidance and assistance in making yet another annual convention a huge success. In my opinion, it simply cannot be done without their expertise. We would also like to give a big "Thank You" to the Reno-Sparks Convention & Visitors Authority for their support and hard work helping this convention become a reality. Without their support we would not have made this work in such a short time.

I would also like to thank the members of the Convention Corporation; Lionel Motta, Dave Evans & John Warden for their guidance and work on a job well done. And particularly thank our committee chairs; Parade Chairman – Marco Manor; Badges & Packets & Volunteer Coordinator Chairman – Mitch Roach; After Party Chairman – Jim Stewart; Distinguished Guest Chairman – Dave Evans and Distinguished Guest Holding Area Chairwoman – Yvette Weigold, also our department commander this year. All who volunteered countless hours to make this a successful convention.
While no plan comes off without the occasional hitch, we feel everyone pulled together to resolve any issue as it arose for a satisfactory outcome for all. As with all organizations and events, successful communication seems to always be the greatest challenge. All-in-all most feedback, and all feedback I've received, has been positive and everyone we’ve heard from loved attending the convention in Reno and would like to come back again someday.

Reno loves a parade and the route through downtown past several casinos provides an opportunity for spectators, other than Legionnaires, to view our proud procession. The after parade party was the highlight of the event with approximately 450 Legionnaires attending. The air conditioned was particularly appealing especially on a hot day after the parade. The Silver Legacy provided the 10 bar stations and management shared that this was one the most successful events they had ever experienced from one of these venues. The live band and dance floor was a big hit and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. Even though there were competing events in town and we only had one food trucks show up, the vendor was extremely happy as he completely sold out.

Now for the part you’ve all been waiting for. The net assets from the 2017 National Convention totaled $117,180.89 and I would like to present a check to the National Commander in the amount of $58,590.45. Thank you. (Applause)

...National Vice Commander Callies assumed the chair.

And that concludes my report. Thank you.

...National Commander Rohan resumed the chair.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, a motion to receive the final report of the 2017 National Convention. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded to receive and file the final report of the 2017 National Convention. Are there any questions? All those in favor, say aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried. Thank you, Jeanette. I'll now call on Chairman Ken Danilson from Iowa with the Marketing Commission report.

**Oral Report: Marketing Commission**  
**Kenneth D. Danilson, Iowa, Chairman**

Madam Commander, members of the NEC and guests. You have my written report. But I will give certain parts of this report to you orally.

The Marketing Commission continues to work diligently using all marketing tactics available to raise public awareness of The American Legion emblem, brand, and our efforts on behalf of veteran issues. The intent of this report is to outline the newest marketing, strategic alliances, and business development initiatives that the Marketing Commission and division are pursuing since the last report was given. In addition, a report from the national Emblem Committee to the Marketing Commission has been included and attached to the report. Our report included two resolutions, one of which originated with the national Emblem Committee, the second which will be presented in the Finance Commission report.

USAA Agreement Renewal. USAA has offered to extend the duration of the current contract, with some modifications, through May 31, 2023. The contract and resolution has been reviewed and been recommended for adoption by the Marketing Commission to the Finance Commission. The agreement will be extended to May 2023 and still has a potential to provide significant revenue to The American Legion National Headquarters. Each department will have the opportunity to opt out of their secondary exclusive agreement for the purpose of providing automobile, property, and casualty insurance to their members through USAA, maintaining a significant potential to provide significant revenue to their department.
National Poppy Day will take place on May 25, 2018. The American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary are working very closely on this initiative. As an initial effort to highlight cohesion between the two organizations, a new website was developed, that being poppydayusa.org. There, visitors can find more information about National Poppy Day. To bring further awareness to the red poppy and its significance and extend National Poppy Day beyond the month of May, the Marketing Division created a Veteranpreneur Contest. The contest began at the end of February and ran through the end of April. Three finalists have been invited to participate in a two-day television news story on May 24 and 25, slated for Fox and Friends. The winner will be announced on National Poppy Day and will receive up to a $10,000 order for products to be sold in the Emblem Sales Poppy Shop.

Take Down Hep C Awareness Tour. The American Legion continues to work with AbbVie for a third straight year. Launching in June 2018, AbbVie will be sponsoring The American Legion Veteran Outreach Command Center, a fully wrapped coach bus highlighting the goal of curing hepatitis C in the veteran community. It is currently slated to travel to large veteran-centric events during a four-month span that will include the national Legion convention, creating a highly visible opportunity to identify and test veterans who are at high risk for hepatitis C. The goal is to bring support directly to veterans in need by connecting them with national VA&R staff and department service officers while engaging departments and posts for membership outreach opportunities.

PSA Refresh and Billboard Campaign. The Marketing Division has completed the initial phases of a complete PSA refresh that will incorporate a billboard and digital fundraising campaign utilizing consistent imagery and creative. There will be a focused effort to top 25 veteran populations, pitching television and radio stations in time for Memorial Day/Veteran Day window.

American Legion departments and posts will have the opportunity to customize the television PSAs with their department/post information to be aired in their local markets. This will be coordinated by the Marketing Division but will be at their own cost. Each PSA and billboard will link to the a webpage on legion.org with easy links to membership and programs of The American Legion.

Tournament of Roses Parade. The American Legion submitted an application to participate in the 2019 Tournament of Roses Rose Parade, and on May 3, 2018, The American Legion was approved for this participation. The 2019 Tournament of Roses Rose Parade will be held on January 1, 2019, and will be aired on national television. The Marketing Division, as well as local points of contacts in Pasadena, California, are working hard to ensure maximum exposure and return on our investment.

U.S. Minted Coin Update. After receiving advice from the CCAC and the CFA, the secretary-treasurer of U.S. Mint finalized the coin designed and scheduled for production. As of today, the target for revealing official designs will be at this year's convention. A first strike ceremony is slated for January 2019 at the Philadelphia Mint Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The American Legion will have the opportunity to participate in the first strike ceremony to commemorate the launch of the coin program. The Marketing Division will continue to work with the U.S. Mint to build a marketing plan this strike event as well as other events leading up to the sale of coins in quarter 1 of 2019 in an effort to maximize our return on investment.

Emblem Sales made a presentation to the Marketing Commission and you will find this report attached in my report.

In conclusion, Marketing is pleased to report that the DMS program has exceeded its goal of 120,000 new members by over 800 members to date, with five weeks left in the allocated time.

Commander, this concludes my report. Thank you.
The American Legion Marketing Commission continues to make progress, after two full years providing oversight to strategize, integrate, prioritize and execute the organization’s efforts to generate membership, raise funds, develop corporate alliances, improve brand awareness and promote merchandise sales.

The following was covered and reviewed by the Marketing Commission and reported to the Finance Commission while in Washington D.C.:

A review of the Direct Marketing plan and budget request for the 2019 membership year, which begins July 1, 2018. The Marketing Commission has reviewed and submits to the Finance Commission a DMS plan that, in summary, involves the following key features:

- The DMS membership target for 2019 of 120,000.
- Similar to the current year, emphasis on solicitations to prospects, whereas in recent years a higher percentage of mailings have been sent to expires. The statistics show that prospects do renew at a significantly higher rate than expires.
- The request, dependent on Finance Commission approval, for the 2019 DMS budget is $6,200,000, compared to the 2018 budget of $6,105,000. This budget belongs to the Membership Division at National Headquarters, but the Marketing Division carries out the program and manages performance.
- This budget includes a new communications plan to the new DMS members that is designed to better communicate with these members and foster higher renewal rates.
- The 2018 DMS program is on target to achieve its 120,000-member goal by the end of the current membership year and within budget.
- In addition to print mailings, the 2019 DMS program will also look to continue to build on digital media momentum of 2018, which showed strong growth both for joins and renewals. Online renewals for 2018 is expected to exceeded the 2017 finish within the next several weeks. By the end of the 2018 cycle, online renewals could exceed 250,000, which is another record year.

Separately, the national fundraising program reaching out to DMS holding-post members generating $114,000 in net revenue after ten campaigns in 2017. Analysis has shown that members who donate renew their membership about 20% better than those who do not contribute. The new communications plan has specific fundraising elements included to continue to perpetuate this positive trend. Additional fundraising efforts and their performance are as follows:

**National Fundraising Program (Non-member)**

The national fundraising program donor file grew to about 312,000 active donors in 2017, which is about 26,000 better than the 2016 finish. Member donors represent about 26% of that total. At 80,500 donors those members provided about 33% of total gross income to the program.

The National Fundraising Program (Non-Member) finished 2017 with $11,287,000 in gross revenue and net income of $2,143,000 (before the department revenue share). This amount was in line with budget.

The 2018 budget and plan is based on continuing the file growth strategy and mailing on a similar cycle as 2017, of every two to three weeks (21 times per year). 2018 budget is set to grow the donor file, produce gross income of $11.5 million and finish the year with a net income of about $2.8 million (before the department revenue share).
Planned Giving

The planned giving platform on Legion.org has been operational going into its second year, leads are funneled to the National Treasurer for processing. Additional digital and direct-mail efforts are being developed for implementation this year.

American Legion Charities

Unsolicited donations to American Legion Charities for the 2017/2018 cycle are on pace to once again outperform the previous period. The total is already in excess of $2,350,000, which is more than $400,000 ahead of last periods pace.

Corporate Relationships, Special Events and More

Also under the Marketing Commission are corporate relationships, member discount providers, special events and other initiatives.

Altogether, these efforts generated $5,885,000 million in revenues for 2017, including over $325,000 in promotional commitments from 13 discount providers in the second full year of the marketing investment requirement under resolution no. 2 of October 12-13, 2016.

USAA remains The American Legion’s biggest corporate alliance in terms of revenues. In 2017, the relationship accounted for more than $5 million that included $1,000,000 back to the Legion departments in revenue sharing and fees. This relationship contract expires in May and a new contact will be presented to finance and the NEC after negotiations are completed.

As a reminder, Marketing is using the tools provided to them to improve membership benefits and establishing marketing relationships, such as previously mentioned resolution no. 2: Established Guideline for Acceptance of outside Offers of Membership Benefits. Also resolution no. 3: Authority to Enter into Revenue Enhancement and Marketing Relationships on a Test Basis. To help make good use of these tools at the direction of the Marketing Commission, the Marketing division has established a stage gate approach to making well thought out and vetted decisions. The marketing division is currently working with other divisions to refine the process and collectively move forward with opportunities presented to the organization.

Multiple corporate relationships and discount provider arrangements are now in the pipeline, the newest discount provider coming online is going to be Hotel Planner.com.

The corporate alliances team in its second year is continuing to working closely with the American Legion Auxiliary to promote National Poppy Day in May, which stands to gain The American Legion Family extraordinary brand awareness and offers many revenue opportunities.

With a small staff, the marketing division has relied heavily on agency support, which has helped leverage experience without having to carry a labor burden on the organization. The following is a list of some of the most recent efforts carried out by 1st Degree.

- Launched TV PSA platform and program with earned media value (EMV) of $28M and over 1.3B impressions.
- Designed and launched outdoor PSA platform with 500 placements with an anticipated EMV of $552K and over 98.8M impressions a month.
- Ten companies with active conversation projecting $1.5M in sponsorships.
- Project managed 100th Anniversary Coin Bill Kickoff Reception at Capitol Hill Visitors Center. Attended by 3 Senators and 17 Congressmen among others.
- Developed full media outreach strategy for USAA Salute your post that resulted in one onsite media outlet and 171 regional pickups to an audience of 14.8M.
- Created American Legion Boys State toolkit to provide post and departments with tools to recruit students for program and build awareness with the public and educators.
- Creating American Legion Oratorical Contest toolkit with goal of developing
standardized material for greater awareness for external audiences for post and departments.

- Working on National Poppy day currently reaching out for over 70 companies seeking financial and in-kind support.
- Working with leading candidate to develop speeches and pitching strategy for addressing external audiences once elected.
- Developing US Mint Coin marketing plan for support of sales and implementation.
- Tasked with coordinating new locations and logistics in support of a GI Bill Exhibit Tour.
- Will be tasked with Rose Bowl Parade support once project scope has been defined.

The American Legion marketing team has continued to work closely with the Media & Communications Division under a new organizational chart that converted the national Marketing, Media & Communications Division into two separate divisions each with its own director since about this time last year. Hired to lead the Marketing Division, as director was James Baca who is now quickly approaching one year on staff. Jeff Stoffer has done a tremendous job onboarding and working with James to make his transition a successful one.

**Report: Marketing Commission**

**May 9, 2018**

**Kenneth D. Danilson, Iowa, Chairman**

The Marketing Commission continues to work diligently using all marketing tactics available to raise public awareness of The American Legion emblem, brand and our efforts on behalf of veteran issues. The intent of this report is to outline the newest marketing, strategic alliances and business development initiatives that the marketing commission and division are pursuing since the last report. In addition, a report from the National Emblem Committee to the Marketing Commission has been included. Our report included two resolutions, one of which originated with the National Emblem Committee. The second, which will be presented in the Finance Commission report.

**USAA Agreement Renewal**

In May 2010, The National Executive Committee directed the National Commander to execute an agreement between The American Legion and United Services Automobile Association (USAA) for the purpose of providing automobile, specialty auto and motorized recreational vehicle insurance, and property and specialty property insurance to members of The American Legion. The relationship proved very fruitful for the members, The American Legion and USAA and the National Executive Committee, signifying its decision by a mail vote directed the National Commander to extend an agreement between The American Legion and with USAA through May 31, 2018. This agreement extended all current provisions and added additional provisions which have provided significant revenue to The American Legion departments which consented to entering into an exclusive arrangement for the purpose of providing automobile, and property and casualty insurance to their members. This extension not only profited members of The American Legion, but also generated more than $15 million in revenue to support American Legion programs, including over $3 million to The American Legion departments.

USAA has offered to extend the duration of the current contract with some modifications to May 31, 2023. The contract and resolution has been reviewed and been
recommended for adoption by the Marketing Commission. The agreement would be extended to May 2023, and still has the potential to provide significant revenue to The American Legion National Headquarters. Each department will have the opportunity to renew their secondary exclusive arrangement for the purpose of providing automobile, property and casualty insurance to their members through USAA maintaining a similar potential to provide significant revenue to their department.

**National Poppy Day**

National Poppy Day® will take place on May 25, 2018. The American Legion and The American Legion Auxiliary are working very closely and are encouraging posts and units to host poppy making events, invite media, and expand distribution efforts so that even more Americans will be wearing a red poppy as a symbol of remembrance and hope. As an additional effort to highlight cohesion between the two organizations, a new website was developed, poppydayusa.org. There, visitors can find more information about National Poppy Day®, including the new logo and updated media toolkit for download.

To bring further awareness to the red poppy and its significance, and extend National Poppy Day® beyond the month of May, the marketing division created a Veteranpreneur Contest. The contest began at the end of February and ran through the end of April. While the contest was open, it was promoted to national broadcast media, VSOs and veteran business organizations, and on Legion Family social media channels and websites. The contest puts a spotlight on the Legion Family’s commitment to support veteran-owned businesses within our military and veteran communities, in addition to the general public and participation was limited to veterans, servicemembers and their spouses who own their own business.

A panel of judges have narrowed down the entries and the three finalists have been invited to participate in a two day television news story on May 24 and 25 slated for Fox & Friends. The winner will be announced on National Poppy Day® and will receive up to a $10,000 order for product to be sold in the Emblem Sales Poppy Shop.

**“Take Down Hep C” Awareness Tour**

The American Legion continue to work with AbbVie for a third straight year. Launching in June 2018, AbbVie will be sponsoring The American Legion Veteran Outreach Command Center, a fully wrapped coach bus highlighting the goal of curing hepatitis C in the veteran community. It is currently slated to travel to large, veteran-centric events during a four month span (including TAL Convention), creating a highly visible opportunity to identify and test veterans who are at high risk of hepatitis C. The goal is to bring support directly to veterans in need by connecting them with National VA&R staff and department and post service officers while engaging departments and posts for membership outreach opportunities.

**2018 Veterans Day Concert**

We Serve America, a Washington DC based 501 C3, is creating annual Concert programs for a national salute to Active Duty, Veterans and Military Families. In an initiative that has been approved by both the marketing and finance commissions, the We Serve America Salute to Veterans, presented by The American Legion will take place at historic DAR Constitution Hall on November 11, 2018. The United States Army Concert Orchestra with invited guest performances from The United States Marine Corps, The United States Navy, The United States Air Force and The United States Coast Guard Bands will provide the music. Andrew Carroll, the Director of The National War Letters Project, and a Special Advisor to the Executive Producer and the Concert program has provided original letters written from the front lines by soldiers from the Revolutionary War to
Afghanistan and Iraq. Tom Selleck, an Army Veteran, has agreed to be official host and Master of Ceremonies for the 2018 Concert as well as the Veterans Day Concerts already being planned in 2019 and 2020.

**PSA Refresh and Billboard Campaign**

The marketing division has completed the initial phases of a complete PSA refresh that will incorporate a billboard and digital fundraising campaign utilizing consistent imagery and creative. There will be a focused effort to top 25 veteran population markets, pitching television and radio stations in time for Memorial Day-Veterans Day window. American Legion departments and posts will be have the opportunity to customize the television PSAs with their department/post information to be aired in their local markets. This will be coordinated by the marketing division but will be at their own cost. Each PSA and billboard will link to a webpage on legion.org with easy links to membership and programs of TAL.

**Tournament of Roses Parade**

The American Legion submitted an application to participate in the 2019 Tournament of Roses Rose Parade and on May 3, 2018, The American Legion was approved. This is an excellent opportunity to showcase The American Legion’s legacy and vision, during its centennial year, before millions of viewers. The Tournament of Roses Parade and the Rose Bowl are a major, internationally recognized events and present an excellent opportunity for The American Legion to increase brand awareness.

This is not the first time The American Legion has participated in the Rose Bowl Parade. Pasadena American Legion Post 13 was one of the first American Legion Posts charted in California and the country in the early 1920. The Post annually participated in the Tournament of Roses Parade with floats from the 1930’s to the1960’s. During that time, the post published and sold the parade’s official program along the parade route to help fund community projects in the Pasadena community. The American Legion has sponsored participating bands since the 1920’s. Two past presidents of the Tournament of Roses, Carl E. Wopschall and Bob McCurdy, were members of American Legion Post13 and served as county commanders. Many more of the post’s members have served in leadership positions or as members of the Tournament of Roses Association.

The 2019 Tournament of Roses Rose Parade will be held on January 1, 2019 and will be aired on national TV. The marketing division as well as local points of contacts in Pasadena are working hard to ensure maximum exposure and return on investment.

**US Minted Coin Update**

After Congress authorized a commemorative coin, the U.S. Treasury began the coin design process by selecting artists. This process involves consultation with the Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee (CCAC) and a design recommendation by the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts (CFA) The final decision on a coin’s design is made by the Secretary of the Treasury.

For commemorative coins, the CCAC advises the Secretary with regard to events, persons, or places to be commemorated, the mintage level of coins, and commemorative coin designs. The CCAC consists of 11 members appointed by the Secretary of the Treasury, with four persons appointed upon the recommendation of the congressional leadership. For each coin considered, the CCAC provides advice to the Secretary “on thematic, technical, and design issues related to the production of coins.”

Once the CCAC has recommended a commemorative coin design, the U.S. Mint makes a formal presentation of CCAC’s recommendation and other design options to the CFA. The CFA advises “upon the location of statues, fountains, and monuments in the
public squares, streets, and parks in the District of Columbia, the selection of models for statues, fountains, and monuments erected under the authority of the Federal Government; the selection of artists; and questions of art generally when required to do so by the President or a committee of Congress. This includes review of commemorative coins when they are presented by the U.S. Mint and the issuance of recommendations for a coin’s design.

After receiving advice from the CCAC and the CFA, the Secretary of the Treasury, through the U.S. Mint, finalizes the coin’s design and schedules it for production at the appropriate time.

First Strike Ceremony

Slated for January 2019 in at the Philadelphia Mint, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The American Legion will have the opportunity to participate in a first strike ceremony to commemorate the launch of the coin program. The strike activity will encompass each selected attendee striking one silver legion coin prior to production. The marketing division continues to work with the US Mint to build a marketing plan around the strike event as well as other events leading up to the sale of the coins in Q1 of 2019 in effort to maximize ROI.

Disbursement of Surcharges

“The American Legion 100th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Act” bill as it has been passed calls for the following surcharges.

(a) In General.—All sales of coins minted under this Act shall include a surcharge as follows:

(1) A surcharge of $35 per coin for the $5 coin.
(2) A surcharge of $10 per coin for the $1 coin.
(3) A surcharge of $5 per coin for the half-dollar coin.

DMS

Marketing is also pleased to report that the DMS program has exceed its goal of 120,000 new members on budget with five weeks left in the allotted time.

Report: Emblem Committee

Robert A. Baranowski, Massachusetts, Chairman
(Submitted through the Marketing Commission)

The Emblem Sales division’s year-end total revenue for 2017 was $13,685 million vs. $13,058 million in 2016. Net year-end profit for 2017 was $2,026 million vs. $1,876 million in 2016.

2018 first quarter revenue was $2,933 million vs. $3,024 million in 2017. First quarter net profit was $316,037 vs. $412,493 in 2017. An April postage expenditure of $73,000 was charged in March negatively impacting first quarter net profit.

Flag sales continue to be strong in 2018. First quarter flag sales were $568,000. This was a 2% decrease from last year. April flag sales, however, have been strong. Emblem Sales experienced the highest April Flag sales in our history, selling over $556,000 in flags. For the year, we have now sold over $1,125,000 in flags. This is a 3% increase over the same time period last year.

Currently, 1,840 posts are registered in the “Flag Rewards” program and 18,575 schools, businesses, churches and individuals have signed up to sponsor a post. An additional 199 American Legion Posts have registered and 3,775 new sponsors have signed on since Spring Meetings in 2017.
Emblem Sales continues to market items to members and patriotic Americans electronically and in print. In 2018, we have sent out over 415,000 marketing emails with a cost of only $1,245. These marketing emails have resulted in $88,150 revenue.

The 2018 Catalog features over 50 new items for sale.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, a motion to receive and file the Marketing Commission report with the exception of one resolution. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded to receive and file the Marketing Commission report with the exception of one resolution. Are there any questions? All those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried.

Resolution No. 1: Rules and Regulations Governing use of the Name and Emblems of The American Legion

Origin: Emblem Committee

Submitted By: Marketing Commission

WHEREAS, The National Organization of The American Legion is the sole trademarked owner of name “The American Legion,” “American Legion,” the traditional golden emblem of The American Legion and a number of other American Legion related logos and/or insignia; and

WHEREAS, Some merchandise bearing the Legion name, emblem, logo or insignia thereon, are neither meeting the specifications heretofore adopted for the manufacture of such merchandise nor receiving approval for the manufacture thereof, have been manufactured and sold to Legionnaires, departments, districts, counties and posts, and that neither the national organization nor the several departments are receiving any financial benefit by reason of the sale of such unauthorized merchandise except in the instances by the purchase of the Legion name, emblem, logo or insignia from the American Legion Emblem Division and/or American Legion official licensees; and

WHEREAS, It is the desire and intention that the individual Legionnaire and the several posts, counties, districts and departments shall have merchandise bearing the Legion name, emblem, logo or insignia thereon of the best quality obtainable and at the best price and that any profits therefrom shall inure to the benefit of The American Legion for its many programs; and

WHEREAS, The basic endeavor of the Emblem Committee and its division always shall be to provide the best quality official American Legion merchandise to our membership at equal to or better than would be available through any other medium, by the mass production of such Legion merchandise; and

WHEREAS, The manufacture, sale, or purchase for re-sale of any merchandise bearing thereon the name, emblem, logo or insignia, or any colorable imitation thereof, of The American Legion, should be made only when authorized under the rules and regulations of The American Legion; and

WHEREAS, The emblem is protected by federal criminal law, letters patent and trademark and the name is a trademark and appears as part of the emblem of The American Legion and should never ever change; and

WHEREAS, Resolution Number 71, adopted by the National Executive Committee May 5-7, 1947, as amended by Resolution Number 51, adopted by the National Executive Committee May 3-5, 1948, as amended by Resolution Number 11, adopted by the National Executive Committee May 5-8, 2005, was the most recent resolution addressing the rules and regulations governing use of the name and emblems of The American Legion; and

WHEREAS, There have been several changes since 2005 that affect the use of the name and emblems of The American Legion; and
WHEREAS, This resolution clarifies, brings up-to-date, replaces, and rescinds Resolution Number 71, adopted by the National Executive Committee May 5-7, 1947, as amended by Resolution Number 51, adopted by the National Executive Committee May 3-5, 1948 and Resolution Number 11, adopted by the National Executive Committee May 5-8, 2005; and

WHEREAS, Your Emblem Committee and your Marketing Commission have reviewed this resolution and recommend it for approval; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 9-10, 2018, That the use, display and the manufacture, sale or purchase for re-sale either separately or appended to, or to be appended to, or the reproduction on any article of merchandise manufactured or sold, of the badge, medal, emblem, or other insignia or any colorable imitation thereof, or the reproduction thereof for commercial purposes, of The American Legion, or the printing, lithographing, engraving or other like reproduction on any poster, circular, periodic, magazine, newspaper or other publication, or the circulation or distribution of any such printed matter bearing the reproduction of such badge, medal, emblem or other insignia or colorable imitation thereof, of The American Legion, shall be in accordance with the following rules and regulations (For examples of use see Attachment A) hereby declaring the policy of The American Legion:

1. That the word “Emblem” used hereafter shall mean all insignia, logo, badge, medal, emblem, or any colorable imitation thereof or the reproduction thereof, of The American Legion, including all trademark designs as listed in the booklet titled “Name and Emblem – Use and Protection Guide” (amended as needed) and/or listed at the United States Patent Office.

2. That the national organization of The American Legion is sole owner of the Emblem and all associated trademarks.

3. That the national adjutant has the legal authority to authorize the use of an Emblem and may appoint designated representatives who may also authorize the use of an Emblem.

4. That all national officers are charged with resisting and restraining any unauthorized use of the name, “The American Legion,” “American Legion” or an Emblem.

5. That the use of an Emblem by the individual Legionnaire shall be limited to the wearing of the official insignia and to the possession of authorized jewelry, or merchandise, bearing an Emblem provided by American Legion Emblem Sales or official American Legion licensees.

6. That the use of an Emblem by posts shall be strictly confined to self-production by using the exact imprint or reproduction of an Emblem upon stationery, or upon post publications, notices, posters, or placards, websites or matters of similar character used in the ordinary routine communication of legitimate post business and activities sponsored and duly authorized by the post and to the use of authorized regalia or merchandise bearing an Emblem as provided by American Legion Emblem Sales, official American Legion licensees or otherwise authorized by the national adjutant or the national adjutant’s designated representative.

7. That the use of an Emblem by posts for:
   (a) any commercialized use;
   (b) any items reproduced by non-Post commercial means; or
   (c) for the sale of any merchandise bearing an Emblem and/or words “The American Legion” or “American Legion” needs prior written
authorization from the national adjutant or the national adjutant’s designated representative for such activity.

8. That the use of an Emblem by departments shall be the exact same standards as the use by posts, as stated herein, except that department convention committees are privileged to use an Emblem for decoration and souvenir purposes, subject in each instance to the prior approval of the national adjutant or the national adjutant’s designated representative.

9. That any other use of the name, “The American Legion”, or “American Legion” or an Emblem, including but not limited to licenses or permissions, shall be subject to the prior written approval of the national adjutant, or the national adjutant’s designated representative: Provided, however, (a) that any requests for such other use of an Emblem by posts shall first be subject to department written approval before submission to the national adjutant, and (b) that any such use by the departments, when approved by the national adjutant, shall be confined completely within the territorial limits of the department.

10. That all merchandise bearing an Emblem for commercial purposes by any entity shall be manufactured in accordance with all trademarked specifications and only upon the prior written approval of the national adjutant or the national adjutant’s designated representative.

11. That the manufacture, sale or purchase for re-sale of any merchandise, equipment or products of any kind whatsoever bearing thereon an Emblem, by any person or corporation without the prior written approval of the national organization of The American Legion, shall be prohibited and shall be considered in violation of the rules and regulations of the national organization and the Act of Congress of the United States, approved June 25, 1940, it being Public Law No. 663, 76th Congress, 3rd Session, Chapter No. 426.

12. That display of an Emblem shall be in a dignified manner and each display shall be the entire Emblem standing by itself without any attachment or inclusion of or into any other symbol, with the exception of jewelry where room is not available for such independent display. The Emblem represents The American Legion, and accordingly, is entitled to all appropriate respect; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That Resolution Number 71, adopted by the National Executive Committee May 5-7, 1947, as amended by Resolution Number 51, adopted by the National Executive Committee May 3-5, 1948 and Resolution Number 11, adopted by the National Executive Committee May 5-8, 2005 is hereby rescinded.

Attachment A

Examples of what a post may use an Emblem for without prior written approval:
- Post self-made stationary
- Post self-made posters and/or flyers advertising upcoming post events
- Copy ready material provided to a Post/Department from National HQ

Examples of what a department may use an Emblem for without prior written approval:
- Department self-made stationary
- Department self-made poster and/or flyers advertising upcoming department events
- Copy ready material provided to a Post/Department from National HQ

Examples of when a post and/or department may use an Emblem after receiving prior written approval via department adjutant and national adjutant:
• Having stationary made by an outside vendor
• Having posters and/or flyers, etc. made by an outside vendor
• Having any other merchandise made by an outside vendor

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Resolution No. 1 has the approval of the Emblem Commission, the Marketing Commission and the Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its approval. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded to approve Resolution No. 1. Are there any questions?

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER CALLIES: Question.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: National Vice Commander Callies.

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER CALLIES: Is there something going on that caused this to be revised, something unclear out there in the field or anything that caused this to be revised?

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: Refer to the judge advocate.

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE BARTLETT: The question is, is there anything that's going on and why this is being implemented. The last time this was implemented was in 2005. We're now approaching our hundredth anniversary, and through our offices, both national adjutant and my office, we've had a lot of coins and other memorabilia come through. Many violations were noted, and upon discussing this with commander, with the adjutant, and with my assistant, it was determined that we needed to update this and codify everything so people knew what was going on and to make it easier for you. It's already in the book, the Name and Emblem Use and Protection Guide. There's a couple slight changes, but it makes it easier to read.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: Past National Commander Morin.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER MORIN: In layman's terms, nothing is changing. It's just codifying everything that's in existence?

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE BARTLETT: That is correct. And that is why we put the examples, the attachment here of the examples of what you can do and what you can't do. That's the layman's terms.

NEC MEMBER MICHALSKI (NV): Ron Michalski, NEC Nevada. I have a question on a blue shirt that should be received from emblem sales. They have the emblem all in blue. Is that within trademark compliance?

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE BARTLETT: The blue shirts that you receive from emblem sales?

NEC MEMBER MICHALSKI: Yes.

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE BARTLETT: Everything you receive from emblem sales is in compliance.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: Are there any further questions on Resolution No. 1? All those in favor approving Resolution No. 1, the Rules and Regulations Governing the Use of the Name and Emblem of The American Legion, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I now call on Gaither Keener, chairman of Finance Commission, for his report.

Oral Report: Finance Commission
Gaither M. Keener, Jr., North Carolina, Chairman

You have my report. Commander, national officers, members of the NEC, past national commanders, staff and guests. The Finance Commission met on Monday and Tuesday May 7 and 8. All commission members were present. Also present was the national adjutant, national treasurer, executive directors, finance director, NEC Liaison
Committee Chairman David Warnken and all members of the NEC Liaison Committee.

Throughout the meeting several guests joined us throughout the meeting along with our national commander. Reports were received from the national adjutant, national treasurer, national judge advocate, the national headquarters executive directors, the finance director, the Convention Corporation of Reno, Endowment Fund Corporation, Internal Affairs Commission, Membership & Post Activities Committee, Marketing Commission, Americanism Commission, the report from our auditors, Crowe Horwath LLP and The S.A. Van Dyke Agency. It is always delightful to have Maggie there to give us her report. The national Information Technology Division on the update of our systems and from the Media & Communications division we received a written report.

The net operating surplus for 2017 was $3,374,260. The NEC approved the 2018 budget based on revenues of $82,698,921 and expenditures of $81,793,565 for a net operating surplus $905,356. If you recall, subsequently the NEC adopted a resolution impacting national fundraising. The budget was then adjusted and revised to reflect the effect of that resolution, and per the instruction of the NEC, the adjustment of the 2018 budget, based on revenues of $83,462,920 and expenditures of $81,856,864, for a net operating surplus of $1,606,056. The budget is based on a total of 2018 membership of a 1,900,000. Actual membership as of March 31 of this year is just over 1,778,434. So you can understand how that affects the budget.

At the finance commission February 26 meeting in Washington, it approved the 2019 membership budget of $6,200,000. It also approved $4,720.05 and $3,168 in emergency purchases and budget overruns since its fall meeting.

Fifty thousand was added back to the National Convention budget for reenactors and other special events at our 100th Annual National Convention.

The commission approved $2,950 application fee for a historical landmark to be placed outside of the first permanent American Legion headquarters at 777 North Meridian. Ideally, it will be dedicated during the hundredth birthday National Convention in Indianapolis in 2019.

As you heard, Jeanette Evans, the Nevada Convention Corporation president reported that the 2017 convention corporation, and she's already did this, presented a check to the national commander in the amount of $58,590.45 which represents 50 percent of the convention's net profit.

The finance commission approved the 2017 Audited Financial Statements.

The commission received an update from Maggie Van Dyke on current insurance coverages, claims, and costs.

There are currently 294 authorized positions at national headquarter.

The finance commission approved $7,786.94 in write-offs on manuscript, invoices, and just place obsolete items that cannot sold.

The commission was updated on the ongoing study of our current membership and management information system from the IT special committee and from, also, the director of IT, Brad Pryor.

A list of resolutions recommended for approval is attached. The finance commission recommends the NEC approve and adopt the resolutions listed. Commander, that's my report.

Report: Finance Commission
May 7-8, 2018
Gaither M. Kenner, Jr., North Carolina, Chairman

The Finance Commission met on Monday and Tuesday, May 7-8. All commission members were present. Also present were National Adjutant Daniel S.
Wheeler; National Treasurer George Buskirk; Executive Directors Verna Jones and Jeff Brown; Finance Director Shawn Long; and Finance NEC Liaison Committee Chairman Dave Warnken (KS) and members Edward Bertrand (NY), Robert Krause (ND and Michael Mitrione (VA). Several guests joined us throughout the meeting.

Reports were received from:
- National adjutant
- National treasurer
- National judge advocate
- National headquarters’ executive directors
- Finance director
- Convention Corporation of Reno
- Endowment Fund Corporation
- Internal Affairs Commission
- Membership & Post Activities Committee
- Marketing Commission
- Americanism Commission
- Crowe Horwath LLP
- S. A. Van Dyk Insurance
- National’s Information Technology division
- Media & Communications Commission (written report)

The net operating surplus for 2017 was $3,374,260. The NEC approved the 2018 budget based on revenues of $82,698,921 and expenditures of $81,793,565 for a net operating surplus of $905,356. Subsequently the NEC adopted a resolution impacting on national fundraising. The budget was adjusted to reflect the effect of that resolution, per the instructions of the NEC. The adjusted 2018 budget is based on revenues of $83,462,920 and expenditures of $81,856,864 for a net operating surplus of $1,606,056. The budget is based on a total 2018 membership of 1,900,000. Actual membership as of March 31, 2018, was 1,778,434.

At the Finance Commission’s February 26 meeting in Washington, it approved the 2019 membership budget of $6,200,000. It also approved $4,720.05 in write-offs and $3,168 in emergency purchases and budget overruns since its fall meeting. $50,000 was added back to the national convention budget for re-enactors and other special events at our 100th annual national convention. The commission approved a $2,950 application fee for a historic landmark marker to be placed outside of the first permanent American Legion Headquarters at 777 N. Meridian. Ideally, it will be dedicated during the 100th birthday National Convention in Indianapolis in 2020. Jeanette Evans, Nevada Convention Corporation President, reported that the 2017 convention corporation will present to national headquarters a check for $58,590.45 which represents 50 percent of the convention’s net profit. The Finance Commission approved the 2017 audit as presented by Crowe Horwath LLP. The commission received an update from S. A. Van Dyk Insurance on our current insurance coverage, claims and cost. There are currently 294 authorized positions at national headquarters. The Finance Commission approved $7,786.94 in write-offs of manuscripts, invoices and outdated/obsolete inventory. The commission was updated on the ongoing study of our current membership management information system. A list of resolutions recommended for approval is attached.

Resolutions

The Finance Commission recommends the NEC approve and adopt the resolutions listed below. Copies of the resolutions accompany this report.

- **Resolution #22: Extension of USAA Contract.** The current contract, executed on 8/20/2010, is extended to 5/31/2023, for the purpose of extending the current
agreement with some modifications and provisions which may still have the potential to provide significant revenue to The American Legion National Headquarters. Agreements between departments and USAA which are currently in effect, and every department which does not choose to opt out, may renew their secondary exclusive arrangement for the purpose of providing auto, property and casualty insurance to their members through USAA.

- Resolution #23: Rental Space for The American Legion Office Space. Authorizes rental of excess office space in the building located at 1608 K Street, NW, Washington, DC.
- Resolution #24: Establishment of a Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission Executive Committee. Establishes an executive section comprised of six members from the VA&R Commission so they may be called in as needed during times when VA&R Commission is not scheduled to meet.
- Resolution #25: Air Force Academy Awards Sponsorship. Allocation for the annual award is increased to an amount not to exceed $1,000, which can be provided either annually or in multi-year terms.
- Resolution #26: National Sergeants-at-Arms Association. Makes official the existing association and provides for dues and other funds for operational expenses to be maintained by the national finance division.
- Resolution #27: Past National Vice Commander’s Club. Makes the existing PNVC Club an official club of The American Legion and provides for dues and other funds for operational expenses to be maintained by the national finance division.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, motion to approve the report of the Finance Commission with the exception of six resolutions. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded to approve the report of the Finance Commission with the exception of six resolutions. Are there any questions? All those in favor for approving the Finance Commission report, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried.

Resolution No. 22: Extension of USAA Contract  
Origin: Marketing Commission  
Submitted By: Finance Commission  
WHEREAS, The National Executive Committee on May 5-6, 2010, by Resolutions No. 6 and 8, directed the national commander to execute an agreement between The American Legion and the United Services Automobile Association (USAA) which commenced August 20, 2010, for the purpose of providing automobile, specialty auto, and motorized recreational vehicle insurance, and property and specialty property insurance to members of The American Legion; and

WHEREAS, The national commander did execute said contract; and

WHEREAS, The National Executive Committee, signifying its decision by a mail vote pursuant to Rule 12 of the Rules of The National Executive Committee of The American Legion, directed the national commander to execute and extend an agreement between The American Legion and with USAA which was extended to May 31, 2018, for the purpose of extending all current provisions and adding additional provisions which have provided significant revenue to The American Legion departments which consented to entering into an exclusive arrangement for the purpose of providing automobile, and property and casualty insurance to their members through USAA; and

WHEREAS, The national commander did execute and extend said contract; and
WHEREAS, This contractual arrangement has not only profited members of The American Legion, but also generated more than $15 million in revenue to support American Legion programs, include over $3 million to The American Legion departments; and

WHEREAS, USAA is now offering to extend the duration of the current contract with some modifications to May 31, 2023; and

WHEREAS, This resolution has been recommended for adoption by the Marketing Commission, the Finance Commission, and the Subcommittee on Resolutions; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 9-10, 2018, That the current contract with United Services Automobile Association (USAA) executed on August 20, 2010, be extended to May 31, 2023, for the purpose of extending the current agreement with some modifications and provisions which may still have the potential to provide significant revenue to The American Legion National Headquarters; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That agreements between departments and USAA which are currently in effect and every department which does not choose to opt out, renew their secondary exclusive arrangement for the purpose of providing automobile, property and casualty insurance to their members through USAA; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the national commander, after review and approval of the national judge advocate as to legal form, be authorized and directed to execute said extension contract, and that the national adjutant be authorized and directed to attest the same.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Resolution No. 22 has the approval of the Marketing Commission, the Finance Commission, your Subcommittee on Resolutions. I move for its approval. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded to approve Resolution No. 22, the extension of the USAA contract. Are there any questions? All those in favor of approval, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried.

Resolution No. 23: Rental Space for The American Legion office space
Origin: Finance Commission
Submitted By: Finance Commission

WHEREAS, The national organization of The American Legion owns a building located at 1608 K Street, N. W., Washington, DC; and

WHEREAS, Within said building there is available office space to rent due to The American Legion having excess space for the organization’s current needs; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion has rented office space in the past; and

WHEREAS, If said office space is rented, such rental space will be rented in an equitable manner for all parties at current rental rates thereby providing income to the national organization; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 9-10, 2018, That the national commander, after consulting with the national judge advocate, is authorized to sign documents for the rental of excess office space in the building located at 1608 K Street, N.W., Washington, DC and said documents will be attested to by the national adjutant.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: This resolution has
the approval of the national Finance Commission, your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its approval. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and second to approve Resolution No. 23, titled "Rental Space for The American Legion Office Space." Are there any questions? All those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried.

Resolution No. 24: Establishment of a Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission Executive Committee
Origin: Internal Affairs Commission
Submitted By: Finance Commission

WHEREAS, At various times during the year, members of the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission may need to meet to discuss time sensitive, critical matters with the national commander concerning support to veterans with the Department of Veterans Affairs claims and benefits, health care, memorial affairs and women veterans programs; and

WHEREAS, The necessity to meet may occur when the entire Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission is not scheduled to meet and the matter may need immediate attention; and

WHEREAS, This resolution has the approval of your Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 9-10, 2018, That The American Legion establish a Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission Executive Committee of six members, comprised of members of the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the National Executive Committee, acting on the recommendation of the national commander, shall make appointments for one year to this executive committee; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the members of this committee may be called in as needed during a time when the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission is not scheduled to meet; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That this addition be made to the next published edition of the Outline of Authorization.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Resolution No. 24 has the approval of the Internal Affairs Commission, the Finance Commission, the Subcommittee on Resolutions. I move for its approval. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded to approve Resolution 24, the Establishment of a Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission Executive Committee. Are there any questions? All those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried.

With Resolution No. 24 having been approved, as national commander, I hereby appoint the following to serve as said VA&R Executive Committee: Kelly Ackerman from Montana; Phil Youngblood, Georgia; K. Robert Lewis from Connecticut; Patrick Rourk from New York; Anthony DiFrancesco, Pennsylvania; and George Cushing from Arizona. Thank you.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, I move for the approval of those appointments to that committee. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and second for the approval of those appointments for this new committee. Any questions? Yes.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER BRIEDEN: I noticed that the chair of the VA&R
is not listed. Is that automatic that they included or are they not part of the executive committee?

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: For the resolution it is not included.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: The chairman is automatic. As if they call for an executive committee meeting, under our rules the chair would be called automatically.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: Past National Commander Comer clarified that the commission chairman is automatic to that commission.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER BRIEDEN: I understand it automatically would be called. But the fact that you're establishing an executive committee and not indicating they're a member of it, seems to me that's not what you're intending to do.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: Understood.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: It's an executive committee of his commission.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: This would be a subcommittee of the Veterans Affairs Commission and the commission chairman would be an ex-officio member of that, even though it's not in the resolution. So any other questions? Past National Commander, sir.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER CONLEY: Madam Commander, that resolution establishes an executive committee to be in effect years ago. And what transpires is right now, under the outline of authorization, the VA&R meets in Washington, D.C. and at the convention. As everybody's well aware of all the problems dealing with the VA, we needed to have a board available to come in and handle some of the problems that The American Legion is facing now with the Veterans Administration and Washington, D.C.

The chairman is always called, every chairman is called to the meeting, and the chairman of the VA&R is always called up. And he's always here. Right now we're reinforcing The American Legion's position of one of our pillars, and that's VA&R, and there was really no need to put it into the resolution. There was a discussion about that, but I don't believe it was really needed because the chairman is always here when we have a meeting. Always called in.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: Any further discussion? All those approving the list of the new VA&R Commission Executive Committee, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Thank you.

Resolution No. 25: Air Force Academy Awards Sponsorship

Origin: Internal Affairs Commission

Submitted By: Finance Commission

WHEREAS, The American Legion has a long history of sponsoring awards for top graduating cadets and midshipmen of the United States Military Academy, the United States Naval Academy, the United States Air Force Academy, the United States Coast Guard Academy and the United States Merchant Marine Academy; and

WHEREAS, The service academy awards are some of our longest running awards and reinforce our commitment as an organization to the future of our country and its future leaders; and

WHEREAS, Since 1959, The American Legion has sponsored an annual award for the graduating cadet from the United States Air Force Academy who demonstrates the highest proficiency in all academic subjects; and

WHEREAS, In 2010, the sponsorship for the United States Air Force Academy Award was increased to not exceed $500 annually; and

WHEREAS, In 2014, the United States Air Force Academy sponsorship for the United States Air Force Academy annual award was raised again to $575 at the request of
the Air Force Academy, with the added stipulation that such sponsorship be payable three years at a time; and

WHEREAS, The Air Force Academy's operating/award procedures now require that the sponsorship be made to an Air Force Academy representative foundation and with unknown future costs; and

WHEREAS, In recent years, several new authorizing resolutions have been required in order for The American Legion to maintain its long history of sponsorship of the Air Force Academy Award; and

WHEREAS, In March 2018 the academy asked for $600 for the annual award; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 9-10, 2018, That the national adjutant be authorized to provide sponsorship money to the United States Air Force Academy or its representative foundations or agencies, either annually or in multi-year terms, for the purpose of purchasing the traditional annual award; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the national commander and national adjutant be authorized to make payment on an annual basis not to exceed $1,000, which allows for inflation and increased cost of award; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That Resolution No. 2, Air Force Academy Awards Update, passed by the National Executive Committee in Indianapolis, Indiana on May 7-8, 2014 is hereby superseded and rescinded.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: This resolution has the approval of the Internal Affairs Commission, the Finance Commission, the Subcommittee on Resolutions. I move that Resolution No. 25 be approved. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded to approve Resolution No. 25, titled "Air Force Academy Awards Sponsorship." Are there any questions? All those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Resolution 25 carries.

Resolution No. 26: Past National Vice Commander’s Club
Origin: Internal Affairs Commission
Submitted By: Finance Commission

WHEREAS, Past National Vice Commanders have been in existence since 1920; and

WHEREAS, The Past National Vice Commanders Club is a group of individuals who have served The American Legion one year along with a national commander; and

WHEREAS, There are three (3) officers of this group, i.e., president, secretary/treasurer, and historian; and

WHEREAS, The group meets once a year at the National Convention for a social time of those members and conduct any business that may arise; and

WHEREAS, Membership in the club is voluntary and not mandatory; and

WHEREAS, Participation in the paying of annual dues is also voluntary and at a minimum amount; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 9-10, 2018, That the existence of the Past National Vice Commander’s Club be authorized formally by the National Executive Committee as of approval of this resolution and meeting date; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That all funds from dues or other sources, which may be used for the operational expenses of the club, will be deposited with and records maintained
by the National Finance Division which shall report same to the national Finance Commission and provide status of fund to the Past National Vice Commander’s Club secretary/treasurer for their annual meeting at National Convention.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Resolution No. 26 has the approval of the Internal Affairs Commission, the Finance Commission, your Subcommittee on Resolutions. I move for the approval of Resolution No. 26. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded to approve Resolution No. 26, titled "Past National Vice COMMANDERS Club." Are there any questions? All those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried.

Resolution No. 27: National Sergeants-At-Arms Association
Origin: Internal Affairs Commission
Submitted By: Finance Commission

WHEREAS, The National Sergeants-At-Arms Association has been in existence since first assembling at the American Legion National Convention city of Reno, Nevada, in September, 1984; and

WHEREAS, The National Sergeants-At-Arms Association is a group of individuals who have served The American Legion as an elected or appointed national sergeant-at-arms, or as special assistant national sergeant-at-arms, or any assistant national sergeant-at-arms who has served five (5) or more years in that position; and

WHEREAS, Membership in the National Sergeants-At-Arms Association is contingent upon membership in good standing in The American Legion; and

WHEREAS, There are currently seven (7) officers of this group, the president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, parliamentarian, chaplain, and sergeant-at-arms; and

WHEREAS, The group meets once a year at the National Convention for a social time of those members and to conduct any business that may arise; and

WHEREAS, Membership in the club is voluntary and not mandatory; and

WHEREAS, Participation in the paying of annual dues is also voluntary and at a minimum amount; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 9-10, 2018, That the existence of the National Sergeants-At-Arms Association be authorized formally by the National Executive Committee as of approval of this resolution and meeting date and any constitution and by-laws be approved by the national judge advocate and the Internal Affairs Commission; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That all funds from dues or other sources, to be used for operational expenses of the association, will be deposited with and records maintained by the National Finance Division which shall report same to the national Finance Commission and provide status of the fund to the National Sergeants-At-Arms Association treasurer for their annual meeting at National Convention.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Resolution No. 27 has the approval of the Internal Affairs Commission, the Finance Commission, your Subcommittee on Resolutions. I move for its approval. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded to approve Resolution No. 27, titled "National Sergeant-At-Arms Association." Are there any questions? All those in favor of approving Resolution 27, National Sergeant-At-Arms Association, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this time, we're going to take a slight deviation from our schedule. I'm going to recognize a Sons of American Legion member, Steve Gower.
...National Vice Commander Stephenson assumed the chair.

SAL MEMBER GOWER: Thank you, commander. My name is Steve Gower from Squadron 327 in Norfolk, Virginia. We've held a fishing tournament last couple years on Hatteras Island, North Carolina. We've had two of them, and all the proceeds have been earmarked for Operation Comfort Warriors. Last year we raised $6,750 for this tournament, and this past Veterans Day we raised $7,800. Even though it's two years old, so far we've raised $14,550, and we plan on having another one this Veterans Day and hope to raise another $8- or $9,000.

I'd like to also thank Bruce Drake for helping me. I would like to present this check for $7,800 for Operation Comfort Warriors on behalf of Squadron 327 and we look forward to doing this more. And I just want to note that this check was not included in the donations that was reported from the SAL this past weekend. It was reported we raised over $94,000, but this check brought the sum of the donations to over $101,000 that we took in this week. (Applause) ...National Commander Rohan resumed the chair.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: Sorry about interrupting for a short commercial. I will now call on Chairman Ralph Bozella from Colorado for the report of Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission.

Oral Report: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

Ralph P. Bozella, Colorado, Chairman

Thank you, commander. Good morning commander, NEC and guests. A written report of the VA&R Commission is filed. I would like to highlight some of the commission's activities since the October 2017 meeting. The commission met with a full commission meeting along with its three major subcommittees, the Veterans Health Committee, the Veterans Benefits Committee, and National Cemetery Committee while at the Washington, D.C. Conference.

What we did there was to prepare information for the spring meeting with the information that we had available at the time. And then we held additional teleconference and video conference meetings from the Washington Conference up until now. The TBI/PTSD Committee met in this building, Room 301, on Sunday morning, May 6, to discuss matters of interest and you will be given a full report by Chairman Past National Commander Bill Detweiler later on in your agenda. The commission has six resolutions for your attention while you're here today.

We have conducted eight system wide site visits so far this year and we have eight more to go to complete the 2018 year, so we are halfway through that cycle. And as always, we appreciate your participation, the support and cooperation and participation of your department offices, commanders and adjutants as we conduct town hall meetings and our site visits at your local VA facilities so that you are involved in helping us to resolve the issues working together in partnership with VA at your facilities.

We continue to provide our department service officers school twice a year. And since our Washington Conference the Board of Veterans Appeals have reached dispositions on 5,996 American Legion represented appeals. Of those appeals, the disposition on 72 percent were overturned. These were denials, they were overturned in favor of the veteran. That's a remarkable average. (Applause)

And now in an effort to help that in April, VA&R established a new team of American Legion Board of Veterans Appeals unit right here in the City of Indianapolis at the John H. Geiger Operations Center. We have established this team by moving the FTE from the Washington office here to the Indianapolis office, and we've already hired four experienced claims representatives that are working in that office, staff Director Lou Celli and I made
a visit there on Monday to see the setup of where our new office people will be working, and we have two more people to hire there yet.

I must update you about the American Legion's concern about the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, Past National Commander Conley alluded to that just moments ago about the need for an executive committee with VA&R. There have been great changes in VA which you probably have read about or seen on TV or whatever social media that you watch. Since January of 2018, 40 senior staff members have either left on their own volition or were asked to leave to include the firing of VA Secretary Dr. David Shulkin in late March. These changes have created voids in the VA structure, the VA system. There's a loss of talent. There's a drain of institutional knowledge, and this has had a negative impact on certain programs which are very concerning to us. Things like suicide prevention, the modernization of the electronic health records, the merging of VA records with Department of Defense records, the access to veterans health care in the community.

We're very concerned about this, our staff in Washington, D.C. is working very hard so that our voice is heard at the White House so that The American Legion can continue to ensure that the VA structure is viable. That it is there to meet the needs of veterans and their families. We're going to do everything we can to ensure that this structure continues in the way that we know that it has to continue.

Commander, as you can tell VA&R issues never rest and the division staff and our volunteer members stand ready to meet the many challenges that working with VA has to offer. The many challenges to improve the lives of our veterans. Our staff is dedicated, our volunteers work tirelessly to make these programs come together and to have the voice of The American Legion heard. Everything from health care to compensation to pension to burial benefits, ladies and gentlemen, this is with a we do.

Thank you for allowing me to serve in this capacity. I'm so pleased that we have the people that we have in Washington, D.C. and all across this country to work the way we do on the behalf of veterans of our nation. Commander, that concludes my report.

Advance Report: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission
February 28-March 2, 2018
Ralph P. Bozella, Colorado, Chairman

I. 2018 DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICERS SCHOOL

The first session of the 2018 Department Service Officers School was held at the Washington, D.C. Hilton from February 28-March 2, 2018. In attendance were 135 Department, State, and County Veterans Service Officers from around the country, Germany and Puerto Rico.

Pre event activities included conference registration on Tuesday evening followed by a reception hosted by Melody Libby from AbbVie Inc, with VA&R Commission Chairman Ralph Bozella acting as facilitator.

The training session began with a welcome and greetings from Verna Jones, Executive Director, and Lou Celli, Director, VA&R. Introductions were also made with our new training partners, Bergmann and Moore.

Following the welcome and introduction, the training curriculum broke out into three separate classrooms, each covering the same curriculum. New this year, service officers were assigned seating based on their experience; the purpose was to pair experienced service officers with those having less experience. The goal was to use the better-trained service officers to facilitate discussion and share their personal experiences with those less experienced. Attorneys from Bergmann and Moore facilitated all the training.

Topics for discussion included: the role of the DSO; the claims process and deadlines; applying for VA benefits, eligibility and entitlement; chronic conditions, secondary
Service officers also heard the following presenters: Melody Libby of AbbVie discussed her company’s role in the fight against hepatitis C and their ongoing partnerships to ensure every at-risk veteran is properly screened. Dr. Ann Marie Gordon presented on hearing loss and tinnitus claims and how to properly read medical records in order to be a better advocate for the veteran. Glenn Bergmann, Bergmann and Moore, presented on cases before the Court of Appeals for Veteran Claims (CAVC).

During an evening reception, American Legion National Commander Denise H. Rohan and VA&R Commission Chairman Ralph Bozella expressed appreciation and recognition of the ongoing training designed to ensure that veterans represented by The American Legion receive the highest level of advocacy.

The next Department Service Officer School will be held in Indianapolis, Indiana from August 9-11, 2018.

II. NATIONAL VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION COMMISSION

The 95th Annual Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation (VA&R) Conference was held at the Washington Hilton Hotel in Washington, D.C. on Monday, February 26, 2018.

III. MEETING OF THE NATIONAL VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION COMMISSION


Reports received, together with matters considered during this meeting, are as follows:

A.) Report of the Committee on Certificates of Appreciation

Your Committee on Certificates of Appreciation met on Monday, February 26, 2018 in the Washington Hilton, Lincoln, Concourse Level, and considered no new nominations for this award.

B). VAVS Volunteer of the Year Award/Legion Volunteering

National Commander Denise H. Rohan awarded Mr. Joseph H. Hodgson, from the Department of Wisconsin, the VA Voluntary Services (VAVS) Worker of the Year award during the 2018 Washington Conference. Unfortunately, Mr. Hodgson could not be present to receive the award in person due to a medical issue. Wisconsin National executive Committeeman Kenneth J. Rynes accepted the award for Mr. Hodgson and Commander Rohan will present the award to Mr. Hodgson during her visit to the Department of Wisconsin.

Mr. Hodgson was recognized for his dedicated service to the William S. Middleton Veterans Hospital, Madison, WI. He has devoted 14 years of service as the hospital representative providing services to sick, dying, and disabled veterans seeking care.

The American Legion’s Department of Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) program continues to support VA initiatives that support the care and treatment of veteran patients in VA medical facilities. During fiscal year 2017, Legionnaires volunteered at 201 VA facilities, which included VA medical centers, community clinics, Vet Centers, Fisher Houses, state Veteran’s Homes and national cemeteries.

An impressive total of 4,671 regularly scheduled volunteers contributed 737,292 hours and occasional visits contributed an additional 57,320.75 hours for a grand total of 794,612.75 hours volunteered by American Legion members. With more than 3 quarters
of a million hours volunteered, The American Legion saved the Department of Veterans Affairs more than $19.181 million in 2017.

The 72nd Annual VA Voluntary Service (VAVS) National Advisory Committee Meeting and Conference will be held April 9-13, 2018 in Tampa, Florida.

**Remarks**

Scott Blackburn, Executive in Charge for Information and Technology, Department of Veterans Affairs briefed the commission on the ongoing electronic transformation currently taking place at the VA. Mr. Blackburn reiterated that the number one priority was re-earning the trust of veterans following the wait scandal of 2014. Mr. Blackburn reported that as of October 2017, 70% of veterans who responded to the survey said they trusted the VA, this is an increase from 47% in January 2016. Mr. Blackburn mentioned that the foundation for modernization has to be built around a culture change. He mentioned that VA will accomplish this by focusing on collaboration, veteran outcomes, being veteran centric, transparent and having strong principles. Moving forward VA will accomplish this by focusing on four level of interoperability with all VA systems, DoD, local community providers and nationally. The departments top priorities include the electronic health record, digital veteran’s platform, finance management business transformation, scheduling, digital experience, telehealth, benefit integration platform, and contact center modernization. Mr. Blackburn thanked the commission for the opportunity to speak and that as a veteran both the VA and The American Legions mission are personal to him.

Dr. Carolyn Clancy, Executive in Charge, Veterans Health Administration (VHA), Department of Veterans Affairs. Dr. Clancy began her remarks by thanking The American legion for all it does for the VA and veterans in general. Dr. Clancy highlighted The American Legions System Worth Saving (SWS) and Veterans Affairs Voluntary Services (VAVS) programs. Dr. Clancy mentioned that the SWS program provides valuable insight in identifying best practices and shortcoming at VA medical facilities, and through the VAVS program more than 4,500 legionnaires volunteered over 667,000 hours saving VA in excess of $16 million during fiscal year 2017. Dr. Clancy commented on a recent Yelp review rating on patient experience, the VA medical centers outperformed non-VA care facilities by over 13%. Also, VA maintained shorter wait times in all specialties measured according to the 2017 Merrit Hawkins Survey of Appointments Wait Times. Dr. Clancy stated that VHA is committed on creating a veteran driven system by focusing on leveraging technology tools, providing care without borders, seamless care coordination and empowering veterans in their own healthcare.

Thomas J. Murphy, Executive in Charge, Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), Department of Veterans Affairs. Briefed the VA&R Commission on how VBA is working to deliver on Secretary Shulkin’s five priorities to modernize VBA and improve services to veteran, families and survivors. The secretary’s priorities include improve timeliness, greater choice, focus resources, modernize systems and suicide prevention. Mr. Murphy explained that some keys steps in accomplishing these priorities have already begun with the introduction of Decision Ready Claims (DRC), which can result in claims being completed in as little as 30 days. Another key component is the passing of the Appeals Modernization Act, which will allow veterans with pending appeals to opt-in to three separate lanes under the Rapid Appeals Modernization Program (RAMP), an early snapshot for those that opt-in shows they are waiting an average of 38 days for a decision. Mr. Murphy also thanked The American Legion for helping Congress passing The Forever GI Bill, which he called one of the most significant changes to the Post 9-11 GI Bill since its inception.

Ms. Melody Libby, Manager for Therapeutic Area Strategies in Government Affairs, AbbVie briefed the commission on the importance of encouraging veterans specially the baby boomer generation to get tested for Hepatitis “C”. Hepatitis “C” is an infection of the
liver, it is estimated that 3.5 million Americans are infected and don’t know it. The people most at risk are those who were born between 1946-1965, had a blood transfusion prior to 1987 or organ transplant procedure prior to 1992. Ms. Libby mentioned that Hepatitis “C” is the leading cause of death from long-term liver disease in the United States even though there is a cure. AbbVie has partnered with VHA on their campaign aimed to test every veteran for Hepatitis “C” at their local VHA facility for free. Ms. Libby mentioned that we can all help by recognizing that veterans have higher rates of infection, encourage them to visit the VA for a simple blood test and helping connect them with VA for treatment.

Dr. Keita Franklin, Acting National Director, Suicide Prevention, Department of Veterans Affairs. Dr. Franklin is a member of the Senior Executive Service, as the Director of the Defense Suicide Prevention Office. As of October 1, 2017 Dr. Franklin is on a six month detail to the Department of Veterans Affairs. Dr. Franklin discussed the suicide statistics and the need for VA to identify risk factors early to develop protective measures. Dr. Franklin mentioned that those at risk include white males over 50 years of age and female veterans. Dr. Franklin highlighted that moving forward VA needs to focus on proving suicide prevention for all veterans in general and focus on providing higher levels of treatment for the few that have increased risk factors. Dr. Franklin also discussed the recent Executive Order signed by President Trump, she feels that it will be beneficial by instructing VA and DoD to work together to ensure that mental health care is available to all newly separated veterans.

Randy C. Reeves, Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs, National Cemetery Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs thanked The American Legion for the opportunity to address the VA&R Commission about the accomplishments of NCA during FY2017, and the goals for FY 2018. According to Secretary Reeves, NCA interred more than 135,000 veterans and family members during FY2017. Secretary Reeves discussed NCA’s goals for 2018 and beyond, his first focus is to build a culture within NCA where every employee understands that they only have one opportunity to get it right. Secretary Reeves also announced that NCA would be establishing a Legacy Program with the purpose of memorializing and telling veteran’s stories. Under the Legacy Program, NCA will be partnering with schools across the country and offer grants to help students learn about the local veteran population, and currently nine schools have been added. Secretary Reeves remarked that we all die twice, when we breathe our last breath and when people forget us. Secretary Reeves mentioned that organizations like The American Legion exist to ensure that a veteran never dies by always honoring their memory.

**Resolutions**

During the afternoon business session, Ralph P. Bozella (CO), Chairman, National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission lead a discussion on the following resolutions in order to prepare for the Spring National Executive Committee Meeting.

Title: Helping Veterans Exposed to Burn Pits
Origin: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

Title: Rescinding Non-Legislative Resolutions from the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission
Origin: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

Title: Furnish Hospital Care and Medical Services to Veterans and Family Members Who Were Stationed at Military Installations at Which the Veterans and Dependents were Exposed to Per-and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances.
Origin: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

Title: Beneficiary Travel Philippines
Origin: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

C). Report on Health Administration Committee
The Health Administration Committee met on February 26, 2018, in Monroe Room, Concourse Level. During the hour long breakout the committee heard from Dr. Amy Fahrenkopf, Acting Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Community Care, Department of Veterans Affairs. Dr. Fahrenkopf discussed the challenges veterans and VA face under the existing Choice program. Under the proposed new program, Choice would change from a rule base system to a provider and veteran driven system.

During our Breakout session at the Washington Conference, the committee discussed (4) Health and Medical Resolutions. The Health Administration Committee recommended (2) resolutions be referred for approval and (2) resolutions be referred for rescinding at the 2018 Spring Nation Executive Committee Meeting.

D). Report on Benefits Committee

The Benefits Committee met on February 26, 2018, in the Lincoln Room. The committee conducted a panel discussion with the following participants: Maria Tripplaar, Staff Director, House Veterans Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs, United States House of Representatives; Cheryl L. Mason, Chairman of the Board of Veterans’ Appeals, Department of Veterans Affairs; and Nina Tann, Assistant Director, Appeals Management Office, Department of Veterans Affairs. Topics of discussion included an overview of the Board of Veterans’ Appeals and Chairman Mason’s early initiatives since becoming Chairman in December 2017; the Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act of 2017; and the Rapid Appeals Modernization Program (RAMP).

E). Report on Cemetery Committee

The National Cemetery Committee met on February 26, 2018, in the Cabinet Room, Concourse Level. The committee welcomed Mr. Timothy Nosal Chief External Affairs, American Battle Monuments Commission and Mr. Mike Conley, Chief of Staff, American Battle Monuments Commission. Mr. Nosal and Mr. Conley discussed the mission of the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) and new initiatives currently underway.

The ABMC was established in 1922 out of a need to preserve and guard overseas commemorative cemeteries and memorials. ABMC, is responsible for 21 cemeteries and 29 monuments, memorials and markers. Of interest to the committee was Clarke Veterans Cemetery in the Philippines. U.S. Public Law 112-260 passed in January 2013, directed ABMC to restore and maintain the cemetery upon agreement between the U. S. and the Philippines. Mr. Nosal explained that an agreement was reached in December 2013, giving ABMC the authority to restore, operate and maintain the cemetery. Mr. Conley stated that under the agreement ABMC does not conduct burial services, they only determine eligibility. A burial permit is then required from the Clarke Development Corporation and the family will need to make arrangements with a local funeral home. All burials are to be at family expense at no cost to the government.

Mr. Nosal mentioned that ABMC is currently working on three new memorial in Dartmouth, England, New Zealand and Iceland. Another new enterprise is the addition of visitor centers at the cemeteries which are designed to tell the story of the Americans who fought and are buried there.

F). System Worth Saving Program (SWS)

Past National Commander (PNC), Ronald Conley initiated the SWS Program in 2003. The American Legion resolved to support the SWS program through Resolution 206, which authorized visits to designated Veterans Administration Medical Centers. The American Legion passed Resolution 105, “Reiteration of the SWS Program” during its 2015 National Convention that established SWS as a permanent program managed by the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission (VA&R). Site visits 2018
During 2018, the following site visits were completed: Memphis, TN (Jan. 9-11), Muskogee, OK (Feb. 20-23), Denver, CO (Mar. 5-8), Little Rock, AR (Mar. 26-28).

The following site visits are scheduled: Durham, NC (Apr. 2-4), Ft. Wayne, IN (Apr. 23-25), White City, OR (May 1-3), Miami, FL (May 7-9), Detroit, MI (Jun. 4-6), Minneapolis, MN (Aug. 13-15), Atlanta, GA (Sept. 17-19), Leeds MA (Oct. 29-31), Marion, IL (Nov. 19-21), El Paso, TX (Dec. 3-5), and Tucson, AZ (Dec. 10-12).

A common theme throughout the 2018 SWS visits has been the following:

- Staffing,
- Retention and Recruitment of qualified health care professionals,
- Lengthy VHA Human Resources Onboarding process for new hires,

Veteran Town Hall Meetings

The American Legion conducts a veteran town hall meeting on the first day of a site visit at a local American Legion post. The town hall gives veterans and their families an opportunity to discuss their experiences at the local VA medical center with staff from The American Legion National Headquarters and a VA&R Commission member.

Executive Leadership Meeting

During the medical facility site visits, VA&R Commission members, and National staff conduct interviews with VA staff from the following areas: Human Resources, Business Office, Enrollment, Non-VA Care, Choice Program, Outreach, all Clinical Services, Homeless Program, Patient Advocate, Construction, Budget, and the Women’s Program. For each of the programs listed, The American Legion seeks to understand what new innovations or progress that have been made, the current situation, goals, and a strategic plan that.

G.) Report of The American Legion TBI/PTSD Committee

In 2017, The American Legion declared suicide prevention as one of its top priorities. Increasingly concerned by the number of veterans taking their own lives, The American Legion established a Suicide Prevention Program and aligned the program under the TBI & PTSD Committee. This committee reviews methods, programs and strategies that can be used to treat TBI & PTSD. In order to reduce veteran suicide this committee seeks to influence legislation and operational policies that can facilitate quality health care for veterans regardless of combat era.

On Saturday, October 7, 2017, the TBI/PTSD Committee met at The American Legion National Headquarters, Indianapolis, IN, Room 301 during the Fall National Executive Committee Meeting. PNC and TBI/PTSD Committee Chairman William Detweiler was unable to attend; Committee Vice Chairman Ralph Bozella conducted the meeting. The following invited guests provided a brief presentation: George C. Carpenter IV, President & CEO, Mynd Analytics; Dusty Baxley, Executive Director, Boulder Crest Retreat; Dr. Richard Tedechi, Clinical Psychologist, University of North Carolina, Boulder Crest Retreat.

During the meeting, Dr. Jeanne Stellman, PhD, discussed The American Legion/Columbia University Study on Agent Orange and PTSD. Dr. Ronald Poropatich, (Col Ret.), discussed translation of TBI Research & Important Neuroimaging Breakthroughs. TBI/PTSD Committee Vice Chairman Ralph Bozella led a discussion for the committee’s plans for 2018, to include hosting a symposium in 2018 and future committee meetings.

The TBI/PTSD will be hosting a planning meeting on Saturday, May 6, 2108, during the 2018 Spring National Executive Committee meeting. The Committee will work on finalizing the plan for a meeting during the 2018 National Convention. PNC Detweiler has requested the meeting be held at The American Legion Brain Center in Minneapolis, MN. PNC Ludwig and Roscoe Butler, Deputy Director for Health Policy have been tasked to work with the Minneapolis VAMC to confirm the availability of The American Legion
Brain Center.

Ryan Britch who has been working with Jeff Stoffer, Director, Media & Communications Division on updates to the War Within, will provide his updates during this meeting.

H). Caregiver Support Program

The American Legion and several Veterans Services Organizations delivered more than 180,000 signed petitions to Congress. The petitions urged lawmakers to pass bipartisan legislation expanding benefits for all disabled veterans and their caregivers through the Department of Veterans Affairs Comprehensive Caregiver Assistance Program. The Senate Committee on Veterans’ Affairs passed the legislation with a vote of 14-1 that expands veteran eligibility disabled by an injury regardless of the period of war or conflict involving the United States military.

The VSOs delivered the petitions during a press conference on December 6, 2017, on Capitol Hill. The American Legion spoke about the importance of ensuring equal benefits for all veterans. Congressional sponsors of the Caring for Our Veterans Act of 2017 also attended the conference and offered their support and celebratory comments about the Senate’s approval of the legislation.

On Wednesday, March 21, 2018, lawmakers released their FY18 Omnibus Budget Bill, which the President signed into law on March 23, 2018. The American Legion along with other veteran service organizations have expressed disappointment that the bill failed to include caregiver’s reform measures and care giver support for all deserving veterans and their families still remains unfunded.

Report: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission
May 9, 2018
Ralph P. Bozella, Colorado, Chairman

The Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission introduced six (6) resolutions to the National Executive Committee for adoption:

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<tr>
<th>Origin</th>
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<tr>
<td>VA&amp;R</td>
<td>Beneficiary Travel Philippines</td>
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<tr>
<td>VA&amp;R</td>
<td>Helping Veterans Exposed to Burn Pits</td>
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<tr>
<td>VA&amp;R</td>
<td>Furnish Hospital Care and Medical Services to Veterans and Family Members Who Were Stationed at Military Installations at Which the Veterans and Dependents Were Exposed to Per-and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances</td>
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<tr>
<td>VA&amp;R</td>
<td>Call on DoD to Provide Equal Benefits to All Veterans Being Buried at Arlington National Cemetery (ANC)</td>
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<tr>
<td>VA&amp;R</td>
<td>Rescinding Non-Legislative Resolutions from the Veterans Affairs &amp; Rehabilitation Commission</td>
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<tr>
<td>VA&amp;R</td>
<td>Suicide Prevention Program</td>
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Six (6) resolutions were presented to the Resolutions Subcommittee by the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission. Zero (0) resolutions were received and recorded and zero (0) resolutions were disposed of administratively.

CLAIMS UPDATE

Department Service Officers School

The first session of the 2018 Department Service Officers School was held at the Washington, D.C. Hilton from February 28-March 2, 2018. In attendance were 135 Department, State, and County Veterans Service Officers from around the country, Germany and Puerto Rico.
Pre event activities included conference registration on Tuesday evening followed by a reception hosted by Melody Libby from AbbVie Inc., with VA&R Commission Chairman Ralph Bozella acting as facilitator.

The training session began with a welcome and greetings from Verna Jones, Executive Director, and Lou Celli, Director, VA&R. Introductions were also made with our new training partners, Bergmann and Moore.

Following the welcome and introduction, the training curriculum broke out into three separate classrooms, each covering the same curriculum. New this year, service officers were assigned seating based on their experience; the purpose was to pair experienced service officers with those having less experience. The goal was to use the better-trained service officers to facilitate discussion and share their personal experiences with those less experienced. Attorneys from Bergmann and Moore facilitated all the training.

Topics for discussion included: the role of the DSO; the claims process and deadlines; applying for VA benefits, eligibility and entitlement; chronic conditions, secondary conditions and aggravation; gathering of evidence; requesting records; interviewing veterans; exposure claims; aid and attendance; compensation and pension exams; decision ready claims (DRC); the Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act of 2017; and the Rapid Appeals Modernization Program (RAMP).

Service officers also heard the following presenters: Melody Libby of AbbVie discussed her company’s role in the fight against hepatitis C and their ongoing partnerships to ensure every at-risk veteran is properly screened. Dr. Ann Marie Gordon presented on hearing loss and tinnitus claims and how to properly read medical records in order to be a better advocate for the veteran. Glenn Bergmann, Bergmann and Moore, presented on cases before the Court of Appeals for Veteran Claims (CAVC).

During an evening reception, American Legion National Commander Denise H. Rohan and VA&R Commission Chairman Ralph Bozella expressed appreciation and recognition of the ongoing training designed to ensure that veterans represented by The American Legion receive the highest level of advocacy.

The next Department Service Officer School will be held in Indianapolis, Indiana from August 9-11, 2018.

**Board of Veterans’ Appeals**

The Board of Veterans’ Appeals (BVA) reached dispositions on 5,996 American Legion represented appeals during fiscal year October 1, 2017 through March 31, 2018. Of those dispositions, over 72.0% of the denials were overturned with outcomes favorable to the veteran. In 2,079 cases, the Board granted benefits outright after considering The American Legion’s arguments. In 2,297 cases, The American Legion was able to point out errors in the development of the veteran’s claims which mandated corrective action under the law. Of the total number of dispositions, only 1,350 (22.5%) were outright denials.

Nearly 4,000 claimants were represented by The American Legion’s BVA unit in (FY October 1, 2017 to March 31, 2018) through submission of informal hearing presentations or veterans’ hearings. These claims included originals and remands as well as special cases (Advanced on Docket, Independent Medical Opinions, Court Remands, etc.). The BVA Unit also handled numerous telephone inquiries and provided consultation with veterans, VSOs and Congressional offices. The administrative team completed 1633 phone inquiries during this period. The disability claims specialists provided assistance for 13 walk-in veterans for their individual hearings held at the Board.

**Appeals Modernization**

The Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act of 2017 (Appeals Modernization Act) became law on August 23, 2017 (Pub L. 115-55). Here are the key provisions:

- Includes three options for veterans dissatisfied with VA’s decision.
• Requires enhanced notification letters so veterans will understand what additional evidence is needed to support a favorable or more favorable decision.
• Streamlines the claims and appeals process to provide veterans with the earliest possible claim resolution.
• Provides safeguards to ensure that the veteran receives the earliest effective date possible if a favorable decision is made.

The three options afforded veterans under the Appeals Modernization Act are as follows:

• Option 1: Higher-Level Review Lane
A reviewer conducts a higher-level *de novo* review of the decision based on the same evidence of record. The higher-level review consists of a closed record; therefore, there is no submission of new evidence. A reviewer can overturn a previous decision based on a difference of opinion, or based on clear and unmistakable error. A reviewer who identifies a duty to assist error can return the claim for correction of the error. The veteran or the veteran’s representative can request an informal hearing by telephone to identify specific issues or errors.

• Option 2: Supplemental Claim Lane
This review is done at the VA office that made the original decision. It allows the veteran to submit new evidence to support his or her claim and VA will assist in obtaining pertinent records.

• Option 3: Appeal Directly to the Board of Veterans’ Appeals Lane
This lane provides the veteran with the option of appealing directly to the Board of Veterans’ Appeals. The veteran can choose a direct review if he or she has no additional evidence to submit; a review based on additional evidence but without a hearing; or a hearing before a Veterans Law Judge at which the veteran may submit additional evidence.

Under a transitional phase known as the Rapid Appeals Modernization Program (RAMP), veterans who choose to “opt in” have the opportunity to have their appeals handled under most of the new provisions. However, the Appeals Modernization Act will not be fully implemented until February 2019.

**New BVA Unit Team Established in Indianapolis**

The week of April 2, 2018, VA&R Director Louis Celli and VA&R Deputy Director for Claims David Spivey traveled to Indianapolis to address issues surrounding the establishment of a new team of The American Legion BVA Unit which has just been established at the John H. Geiger Operations Center on the grounds of what was formerly Fort Benjamin Harrison. At present the new team is comprised of a Team Leader, Anthony Cross, and three veterans disability claims specialists, Marc Clift (transferred from the Washington-based BVA Unit staff), Sean Sparks and Cathy Kynard. We are working with Human Resources to recruit for a fourth veteran disability claims specialist as well as an administrative support person. As we carefully engage in this process, we are being particularly careful to select candidates for the veterans disability claims specialist position who demonstrate excellent writing ability as an integral part of the process by which candidates apply for our position. Pertinent work experience to show familiarity with veterans’ claims issues is also given appropriate consideration during the recruitment process. The list of applicants includes at least two highly-qualified candidates, and we will start interviewing as soon as possible.

This out-based team was made feasible because of the willingness of the Board of Veterans’ Appeals to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with The American Legion. The MOU allows our BVA Unit staff to have remote access through a system known as CITRIX, which enables access to veterans’ necessary information and individual claims records. CITRIX enables our staff the ability to perform advocacy work as veterans’
appeals are adjudicated at the Board. Mr. Clift is already performing the full range of duties in our new office. We are making good progress to get Mr. Sparks all the tools he will need to become fully trained and productive. As soon as Ms. Kynard reports, we will aggressively follow the established local procedures to get her fully engaged in the work process.

As soon as we can determine when all new staff members will be available for duty, we will be bringing in our Bergmann and Moore attorneys to conduct training on veterans’ benefits issues as well as specific training on the proper way to prepare informal hearing presentation briefs to make the best possible case for our veterans as their appeals are being decided at the Board.

HEALTHCARE UPDATE
System Worth Saving
Site visits 2018

During 2018, the following site visits have been completed: Memphis, TN (Jan. 9-11), Muskogee, OK (Feb. 20-23), Denver, CO (Mar. 5-8), Little Rock, AR (Mar. 26-28), Durham, NC (Apr. 2-4), and Lee County Healthcare Center, Cape Coral, FL (Apr 6), Ft. Wayne, IN (Apr. 23-25), and White City, OR (May 1-3).

The following site visits are scheduled: Miami, FL (May 7-9), Detroit, MI (Jun. 4-6), Minneapolis, MN (Aug. 13-15), Atlanta, GA (Sept. 17-19), Leeds MA (Oct. 29-31), Marion, IL (Nov. 19-21), El Paso, TX (Dec. 3-5), and Tucson, AZ (Dec. 10-12).

Common themes throughout the 2018 SWS visits have been the following:
- Staffing
- Delays in making budget decisions which causes budget deficits.
- Lack of adequate space continues to be problematic at VA/VHA medical facilities.
- Retention and Recruitment of qualified health care professionals.
- Lengthy VHA Human Resources Onboarding process for new hires.

TBI/PTSD Committee

On May 6, 2018, The American Legion TBI & PTSD Committee met at the National Headquarters Office, Indianapolis, Indiana. The meeting was called to order by PNC Detweiler, Chairman, TBI & PTSD Committee. The committee met in Room 301, and discussed the following topics:
- TBI & PTSD Strategic Plan for 2018/2019
- 2018 TBI & PTSD Meeting during the National Convention
- Veteran Suicide White Pager
- The follow-up edition of The War Within
- 2019 TBI & PTSD Symposium
- Alpha-Stim medical device

PNC Detweiler informed the committee that PNC Ludwig has agreed to reach out to Director Kelly and Dr. Georgopoulos to coordinate the TBI & PTSD meeting at The American Legion Brain Trust Center, which is located at the Minneapolis VA Health Care Center. The plan is to meet at The American Legion Brain Center on August 24, 2018 for 1 – 5:00 PM which will include a tour of the brain center and the spinal cord injury center.

The TBI & PTSD Program Manager briefed the committee on a white paper he authored in response to a request by the Director of Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation. The objectives of this white paper are to examine the recent trend of veteran suicide, discuss potential causes and recommend steps to take in order to address this crisis.

Jeff Stoffer, Director, Media & Communications Division and Ryan Britch, TBI & PTSD Program Manager updated the TBI & PTSD Committee on their plans to roll-out
the follow-up volume of the War Within publication. The next edition will focus on the
veterans journey home and will seek to inform the reader on a variety of topics including:

- TBI/PTSD/MST and the high rates of overmedication
- Complementary and alternative medicines and treatments for PTSD
- Ways to regain a sense of purpose and sense of belonging
- Recent advancements in science

This publication has a target date for distribution for the 2018 National Convention.

It has been proposed The American Legion TBI & PTSD Committee host its third TBI & PTSD Symposium. The last Symposium was held in 2014. It was proposed the Symposium be held during the 2019 Washington Conference. The following topics were presented for discussion.

- To hear directly from veterans on their experiences with CAMs to manage TBI, PTSD, and pain.
- To hear from leading scientists on emerging technology and treatments for TBI & PTSD.
- To hear from VA experts on their initiatives and programs on suicide prevention and treating TBI & PTSD.
- To hear from VA experts on the dangers of benzodiazepines on VA efforts to curb prescriptions and move to integrative health and wellness.
- Determine how the Administration, Congress, Departments of Defense (DOD) and Veterans Affairs (VA) are integrating complementary and alternative medical (CAM) treatments and therapies for service members and veterans suffering with TBI, PTSD, and chronic pain.

The Committee suggested before hosting a Symposium; the Committee should conduct a veteran survey on TBI/PTSD. The committee suggested the survey run from mid-August to September, and the results are reported out at the October NEC meeting. It was further suggested that the survey from 2014 be pulled and The TBI & PTSD Program manager works with Dr. Jean Stellman of Columbia University, Consultant to the TBI & PTSD Committee to develop the survey instrument for the committee’s approval.

OTHER BUSINESS:

The TBI & PTSD Committed discussed amending Resolution 28, Suicide Prevention Program to specify submitting the annual report to the VA&R Commission in October. VA&R National staff were tasked with working on the required changes and submitting a draft to the National VA&R Director by Monday, May 7, 2018, for consideration at the Spring NEC meeting.

Several Committee members voiced concerns about the Veteran Crisis Line. When you call a medical center, if you are a veteran contemplating suicide, you are directed to press 7, which will direct you to the Suicide Crisis hotline. Committee members voiced concerns that is not the case at every VA Medical Center. National Staff was directed to follow-up with VA Central Office and report back to the committee on its findings.

Alpha-Stim medical device – The Alpha-Stim is a medical device that is used by over 100 VA Medical Centers and on many military installations worldwide. Alpha-Stim is a safe, non-invasive, non-drug, and FDA approved treatment for pain, anxiety, insomnia, and depression. The device may be used in a clinical setting or in the comfort of your own home. Since 2005, VA and DoD have bought 42,500 Alpha-Stim devices. The TBI & PTSD Committee requests that the Media Department investigates and writes a story on this device.

VAVS Program

The American Legion’s Department of Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) program continues to advocate for veteran patients seeking treatment in VA medical centers, clinics, Vet Centers, Fisher Houses and state veterans homes, as well as
volunteering at veteran’s cemeteries, assisting adaptive sports and creative arts programs and veterans benefits offices nationwide. The American Legion has thousands of dedicated men and women from various communities providing significant contributions to VA medical facility and cemetery staffs. To continue this important work The American Legion must rely on the diligence of its departments to retain current volunteers and actively recruit new volunteers, particularly from the Iraq and Afghanistan veteran population. Department leadership is also reminded to annually review the rosters of representatives, deputies and associate representatives at their state’s facilities and to keep the national VA&R staff informed of any needed changes.

As of the end of the 2nd quarter, 2018, American Legion volunteers totaled 3,731 regularly scheduled and 6,510 occasional visits for an accumulated 362,660.25 hours volunteered. These volunteer hours result in savings to the Department of Veterans Affairs of more than $5.164 million. Legionnaires are encouraged to continue to volunteer and provide gifts and donations for the care of the nation’s heroes.

**Fiscal Year 2018 Omnibus budget legislation**

Lawmakers were hoping to attach a year’s worth of Veterans Affairs reform measures to the omnibus federal budget bill, in the hopes of adding another round of wins on veterans policies to the must-pass spending legislation. On March 22, 2018, Congress passed a 2,232-page, $1.3 trillion omnibus spending package to fund the government for Fiscal Year 2018 (through September 30, 2018), and President Trump signed the bill into law on March 23, 2018. However two key bills to reform veterans benefits were not included in the Fiscal Year 2018 Omnibus budget legislation, the bills to expand the Department of Veterans Affairs Choice and Caregiver program.

The American Legion and other major Veteran Service Organization held several meetings to discuss moving these two bills forward that will open caregiver’s benefits to all eligible veterans and overall haul the Choice program.

**CEMETERIES UPDATE**

**Arlington National Cemetery**

According to its 2017 Report to Congress, at current pace Arlington National Cemetery (ANC) will reach maximum capacity by the early 2040’s. Three possible solutions to extend ANC as an active cemetery for future use include redefining eligibility criteria, consideration of additional expansion, an use of alternative burial approaches. All three options come with their own unique set of challenges.

Changing the eligibility criteria can potentially impact thousands of veterans that planned on ANC as their final resting place. The American Legion testified on March 8, 2018 before the Committee on Armed Services on the changes the changes that The American Legion would support. The American Legion supports the option of possible expansion but the opportunities are very limited due to the location of ANC. Currently, two expansion projects known as the Millennium Project and the Southern Expansion are being developed. The option of using new above ground burial techniques to expand capacity has also been discussed. Some concerns with this option is the possibility to alter ANC’s architectural design, which some fear ANC will lose its iconic look.

In an effort to educate the veteran population and the American public on ANC’s capacity limitations, ANC launched a national survey on April 5, 2018. ANC is asking for a national dialogue about what the future of ANC should be, they encourage everyone to participate in the survey. I have included the link to the survey here: [www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/eligibility-survey](http://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/eligibility-survey).

**New Initiatives**

**Veterans Legacy Program:** The Veterans Legacy Program seeks to increase the profile of national cemeteries and to inform the public of NCA’s burial benefits to eligible veterans, their spouses, and dependents. NCA accomplishes this through engaging the
academic community (K-12 schools, universities, etc.), community organizations (Veteran Service Organizations, Scouts, Civil Air Patrol, etc.), and state and local government organizations (state-level departments of education, offices of state/local history, public museums, etc.). By engaging these constituencies through our programming, we hope to give Americans a new understanding of their history through the diversity of the Veteran experience.

NCA awarded three separate contracts to San Francisco State University, Black Hills State University and University of Central Florida as the first of many planned initiatives to engage educators, students and researchers and the general public through NCA’s Veterans Legacy Program.

Insurance, Pension and Debt Management

The VA&R VA Insurance unit reviewed and processed 2,337 applications for new insurance coverage for both basic Service-Disabled Life Insurance and Supplemental insurance for totally disabled veterans in the Service Disabled insurance program, along with 1,040 disability and settlement claims on veteran’s VA policies. Further case development included 707 other insurance inquiries or transactions, 548 phone call with veterans, family members and VSOs, and 1,235 veteran policyholders were contacted by mail on their policies, insurance options and action deadlines. There were also 658 direct contacts with VA personnel in regards to correcting or having additional actions taken on veteran’s accounts.

The VA&R Pension units at the Philadelphia, St. Paul and Milwaukee VA Pension Centers processed 5,669 new claims for veterans or death pensions, along with reviewing and preparing 12,093 case actions for support of on-going pension benefits. Casework also included processing 10,736 additional transactions and case inquiries to VA, performing 5,520 audits of pension and debt management (St. Paul) rating actions, and 9,632 phone/e-mail contacts with claimants and VSOs. There were 658 personal interview contacts, with 144 appeals. Additionally, the VA&R unit at the St. Paul Center received some 573 original debt management claims and 1,800 debt management grants and denials.

During this period the Department of Veterans Affairs provided a new resource to enable veteran’s service officers to electronically submit benefit claims. This direct upload process allows e-mailed claims in PDF format to be transmitted to the VA’s Evidence Intake Center in Janesville, WI, where such are identified and distributed to their respective offices of jurisdiction for processing. This has greatly speeded up claims establishment in the VA system and simultaneously allows electronic filing of cases for the submitting veteran’s service office as well.

DoD Boards

The DoD Boards section has submitted 39 applications (DD Form 149) to the Board for Correction of Military/Navy Records, 27 applications (DD Form 293) to the Discharge Review Board (DRB), and represented five (5) applicants during their personal hearing before the DRB. The DoD Boards hosted a training seminar at our K Street office location with The Pro Bono Consortium on how to best advocate for applicants seeking an upgrade to their discharge.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, a motion to receive and file the report of the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission with the exception of six resolutions. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It’s been moved and seconded to receive and file the report of the Veteran Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission with the exception of six resolutions. Are there any questions? All those in favor of receiving and filing the report, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried.
Resolution No. 16: Beneficiary Travel Philippines
Origin: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission
Submitted By: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

WHEREAS, The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Manila Outpatient Clinic is the only facility in the VA health-care system that the VA operates outside the United States; and

WHEREAS, Veterans with service-connected disabilities are treated at the clinic and would be otherwise eligible for beneficiary travel pay if treated at a stateside VA facility; and

WHEREAS, These same veterans are not afforded the benefit of service-connected beneficiary travel pay at the VA Manila Outpatient Clinic; and

WHEREAS, In 2008, the VA amended its beneficiary travel regulations to only include payment of beneficiary travel within the United States; and

WHEREAS, In October of 2017, the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) discontinued providing veterans any travel expenses in the Philippines; and

WHEREAS, Veterans with a service-connected disability living in the Philippines can choose to receive outpatient care at the VA Manila Outpatient Clinic, which provides primary and specialty care, medications, and refills ordered by a VA physician and also performs laboratory and other ancillary tests; and

WHEREAS, Veterans requiring a service, procedure, test or specialist that is not available at the clinic, have the option to enroll in the Foreign Medical Program to receive care related to service-connected disabilities; and

WHEREAS, Title 38 USC 1724 limits the VA secretary from providing benefits outside the United States unless the benefits are for service-connected conditions; and

WHEREAS, Exceptions for providing benefits are allowed pursuant to regulations prescribed by the VA; and

WHEREAS Eligible veterans visiting the Philippines will only be reimbursed for their travel if they are traveling within the Manila VAOPC catchment area; and

WHEREAS, There is a provision under 38 USC 111 for the VHA to make payments for travel expenses incurred in the United States to help veterans and other persons obtain care or services from VHA; and

WHEREAS, At this time, the VA has no plans to amend their regulations to grant any exceptions for beneficiary travel benefits for veterans living in the Philippines; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 9-10, 2018, That The American Legion urge Congress to amend the Beneficiary Travel statutory authority, title 38 United States Code 111 (b) (1) of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to allow for the payment of beneficiary travel to any veteran eligible for enrollment and services in the Manila catchment area for the purpose of examination, treatment, or care at VA’s Manila Outpatient Clinic.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN KILE: This resolution has the approval of the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission, your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded to adopt Resolution No. 16 titled "Beneficiary Travel Philippines." Are there any questions? All those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried.
Resolution No. 17: Call on the Department of Defense to Provide Equal Benefits to All Deceased Veterans Being Buried at Arlington National Cemetery

Origin: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

Submitted By: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

WHEREAS, Arlington National Cemetery is our nation’s most sacred shrine representing an embodiment of the sacrifices that were made to uphold our country’s ideals and freedoms; and

WHEREAS, More than 400,000 veterans and their dependents are buried in Arlington National Cemetery on 612 acres of land; and

WHEREAS, Arlington National Cemetery is one of more than 100 national cemeteries but, unlike the others, Arlington National Cemetery is administered by the Department of Defense (Department of the Army); and

WHEREAS, Arlington determines the type of honors rendered based on the individual’s rank and branch of service; and

WHEREAS, All officers are entitled to receive full military honors during funeral services at Arlington National Cemetery; and

WHEREAS, Under the current criteria the only enlisted personnel (*Not including members Killed In Action) eligible for full military honors are members who attain the military pay grade of E-9; and

WHEREAS, There is no rank among us, for each serves as the equal of his comrade; now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 9-10, 2018, That the Department of Defense provide the same level of honors to all veterans eligible for burial, regardless of rank or branch of service, at Arlington National Cemetery.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN KILE: This resolution has the approval of the VA&R Commission, your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded that Resolution No. 17, titled "Call on the Department of Defense to Provide Equal Benefits to All Deceased Veterans Being Buried at Arlington National Cemetery” be approved. Are there any questions? All those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried.

Resolution No. 18: Furnish Hospital Care and Medical Services to Veterans and Family Members Who Were Stationed at Military Installations at Which the Veterans and Dependents Were Exposed to Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances

Origin: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

Submitted By: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

WHEREAS, Beginning in the 1970s, the Department of Defense (DoD) used firefighting foam containing chemicals known as per- and polyfluorinated alkyl substances (PFAS) to extinguish jet fuel fires on certain military installations; and

WHEREAS, PFAS are man-made chemicals that do not occur naturally, but can be found in the environment; and

WHEREAS, These chemicals can be present in low levels in some food products and in the environment; and

WHEREAS, In certain instances, PFAS have been known to get into a community’s drinking water system; and

WHEREAS, Once in the water system PFAS contaminated water can be used for public drinking and consumption, cooking and food preparation, brushing teeth and other hygienic activities and preparing infant formula; and
WHEREAS, Upon entering the human body PFAS can be difficult or impossible to break down for expulsion; and

WHEREAS, Some scientific studies suggest that exposure to certain PFAS in water or food may affect different human systems in the body; and

WHEREAS, Although research is ongoing and inconclusive, some studies have shown that PFAS may be contributing factors in affecting growth, learning and behavior in infants and older children, lowering a woman’s chances of getting pregnant, interfering in normal human hormone production, increasing cholesterol levels, affecting the immune system and increasing the risks of certain cancers; and

WHEREAS, Some estimates conclude that many active and closed military installations nationwide may have been exposed to the use of toxic chemicals in the environment like PFAS or have contaminated water systems connected to the installations because of PFAS; and

WHEREAS, Veterans and their dependent family members may have been exposed to PFAS while serving and living at or near any of the mentioned military installations; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 9-10, 2018, That The American Legion urges Congress to amend title 38 United States Code, to provide hospital care and medical services to veterans and dependent family members who were stationed at military installations at which the veterans and dependents were exposed to per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS); and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion urge Congress to require the Department of Veterans Affairs to consider any health impacts determined by any study to be connected to PFAS exposures be considered service-connected illnesses; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That veterans and their families receive corresponding health coverage for these illnesses.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN KILE: This resolution has been approved by the VA&R Commission, your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded to adopt Resolution No. 18, titled. "Furnish Hospital Care and Medical Services to Veterans and Family Members Who Were Stationed at Military Installations at Which the Veterans and Dependents Were Exposed to PFAS Substances." Are there any questions? All in favor of Resolution 18, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried.

Resolution No. 19: Burn Pits and Environmental Exposures
Origin: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission
Submitted By: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

WHEREAS, Since 2001, the United States military has used large burn pits during operations in Iraq, Afghanistan and Djibouti to dispose of various forms of waste; and

WHEREAS, Waste includes, but is not limited to: plastics, Styrofoam, metal/aluminum cans, rubber, chemicals (such as paints and solvents), petroleum and lubricants, munitions and other unexploded ordinances, wood waste, medical and human waste and incomplete combustion by-products; and

WHEREAS, According to the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine, the amount of solid waste burned at some of the bases was estimated at about two tons of material per day and increased to several hundred tons per day; and
WHEREAS, Burn pits were deemed to not effectively dispose of the waste and produced smoke that routinely blew over the entirety of the bases where they were located until the pits were eventually replaced by incinerators at some bases; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Defense (DoD) performed air sampling at some bases which detected the following: particulate matter, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, volatile organic compounds and toxic organic halogenated dioxins and furans (dioxins); and

WHEREAS, Currently, the Department of Veterans Affairs is unable to determine what possible adverse synergistic health effects might be caused by a combination of any or all of the four detected substances; and

WHEREAS, Some studies show that some of the detected compounds may affect the respiratory system, skin, eyes, liver, kidney, central nervous system, cardiovascular system, reproductive system, peripheral nervous system and gastrointestinal tract; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 9-10, 2018, That The American Legion urge Congress to enact legislation to require the Department of Veterans Affairs to establish a center of excellence in prevention, diagnosis, mitigation, treatment and rehabilitation of health conditions for veterans relating to exposure to burn pits and other environmental exposures.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN KILE: This resolution has the approval of the VA&R Commission, your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I recommend its approval. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It’s moved and seconded to approve Resolution No. 19 titled "Burn Pits and Environmental Exposures." Are there any questions? All those in favor of Resolution No. 19, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried.

Resolution No. 20: Suicide Prevention Program
Origin: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission
Submitted By: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

WHEREAS, According to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) an average of 20 veterans died by suicide each day in 2014, and veterans accounted for 18 percent of all deaths by suicide among U.S. adults and constituted 8.5 percent of the U.S. adult population; and

WHEREAS, In March 2013, the Pentagon reported more soldiers were dying overseas by committing suicide than from combat wounds, about one a day; and

WHEREAS, In 2012, there was one suicide every 17 hours among all active duty, reserve and National Guard members, according to figures gathered from each branch; and

WHEREAS, According to the Congressional Research Service, there have been over 128,000 deployed veterans diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) between 2000-2014; and

WHEREAS, Fewer than half of veterans who report symptoms of combat-related PTSD receive the care they need, and of those who do start treatment, between 20-50 percent do not finish; and

WHEREAS, The Vietnam experience demonstrates that the price of not treating PTSD is paid in suicide, substance abuse, homelessness, unemployment, divorce, and domestic violence; and

WHEREAS, The Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention Act of 2014 was passed into law for the purpose of increasing access to mental health services through peer support and
community outreach, and to boost the accountability of mental health care by requiring an annual evaluation of VA mental health and suicide-prevention programs; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion uses System Worth Saving (SWS) site visits to cross-pollinate best practices, identify gaps of care, and evaluate overall performance of the Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Health Administration Medical Centers and Veterans Benefits Administration Regional Offices; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 9-10, 2018, That The American Legion establish a Suicide Prevention Program and align the program under the TBI/PTSD Committee; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the program be charged with examining recent trends of veteran suicide as it relates to traumatic brain injury, post-traumatic stress disorder, military sexual trauma, etc. and analyzing best practices in veteran suicide prevention not currently used by the Department of Defense or the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for the purpose of encouraging aforementioned government agencies to adopt them; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion will conduct a biannual mental health survey in an effort to more accurately assess the veteran experience with traditional and non-traditional mental health resources; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the System Worth Saving Mail Out Questionnaire include an assessment of each site’s emergency and non-emergency mental health processes; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the TBI/PTSD Committee submit an annual report to the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission, and the National Executive Committee meeting in October, highlighting the results of the mental health survey and other initiatives towards suicide awareness at the VA and within Legion departments.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN KILE: This resolution has been approved by your VA&R Commission, your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded to adopt Resolution No. 20, Suicide Prevention Program. Are there any questions? All those in favor of Resolution No. 20, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried.

Resolution No. 21: Rescinding Resolutions from the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission
Origin: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission
Submitted By: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

WHEREAS, The Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission has conducted a review of National Executive Committee and National Convention resolutions; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 9-10, 2018, That the following resolution(s) be rescinded for one of the following reasons: being obsolete, accomplishment of purpose, being superseded by later resolutions, being in conflict with later resolutions, being duplicated by later resolutions, having no further value because of later changes in program, or other reasons.

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<th>No.</th>
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<td>51</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Convention</td>
<td>The American Legion Develop a Suicide Prevention Program</td>
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RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN KILE: This resolution has the approval of the VA&R Commission, your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: Resolution No. 21 titled "Rescinding Resolutions from the VA&R Commission" has been moved and second for adoption. Are there any questions? All those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried.
Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I now call on Chairman Randy Goodman from Georgia for a report on Membership & Post Activities Committee.

Oral Report: Membership & Post Activities Committee
Randy Goodman, Georgia, Chairman

Good morning. National Commander Rohan, members of the National Executive Committee, national officers and guests. Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to address you this morning.

You have a copy of my report in front of you. You will find updated information on membership renewals, district revitalizations and post cancellations included in this report.

Let me start by congratulating the Departments of West Virginia and France on exceeding their membership goal. Currently, they are the only two departments above the 100 percent mark of their goal. Let's give them a big round of applause.

Now with that being said, we have more work to do if we are going to show growth in this year. How do we go about encouraging a culture of growth within our organization? The strategic plan states retention must be the first priority to increase our membership. What does this mean to us as individuals? It means each of us has to personally contact members who have let their membership expire and try to encourage them to stay on board.

Remember, National Commander Rohan made retention as one of her top priorities to increase membership. The organization's current retention rate is 84.96 percent. In 2017, our retention rate stood at 86.87 percent. We have to increase this year's rate if we're going to begin growing.

The other way to increase membership is to recruit more members. We have to be able to engage veterans and ask them to join. Right now, we are on pace to recruit the same amount of veterans as we did last year, 65,080, to be exact. We have to recruit more members if we are to grow. We have to identify areas where we can start new posts. Over the past five years, we have canceled 890 posts and only chartered 117. If we cancel a post, there should be a plan in place to add a new one. Post development is one of those long-term commitments to continued growth.

We need to engage our military, whether it's a National Guard armory, reserve base, or an active duty military installation. Our brand needs to be frequently seen by the military and we need to educate them on what we do for them and their families and their communities.

Social media is a growing trend for veterans, especially younger veterans. It is important for us to trend in that direction as a means of communication with this group. There are almost six million veterans between the ages of 40 and 60 years old, of which only 153,000 are members of the American Legion.

We need to identify these veterans and recruit them into our organization. This all sounds easy, but many Legionnaires may not feel comfortable recruiting new members,
talking to existing members about their dues or connecting with today’s military. That is where training comes in place. We have to use any and all chances to teach Legionnaires on some of the basic items we may take for granted. We want them to feel at ease and know how to sell the American Legion.

Commander, thank you for allowing me to take this time to address this distinguished group. That concludes my report.

Report: Membership & Post Activities Committee
May 9, 2018

Randy Goodman, Georgia, Chairman

We are nearing the end of the 2018 membership campaign. We have seen several departments at the top of the membership standing that traditionally have not been there.

The 95% target date was April 11, 2018. Five departments (Montana, Idaho, France, Oklahoma and Mexico), 2018 membership was more than their previous year’s membership – in 2017 there were only four departments. Two departments,

West Virginia and France, have exceeded 100% of their 2018 membership goal. Eight departments exceeded the 95% target. The next target is the 100% target date on May 9th and we hope to have several other departments over 100% of their assigned goal.

The membership strategic plan is in its fifth year and continues to yield successful membership campaigns within the departments. We are now turning our attention to refining those plans in the upcoming months for the 2019 membership campaign. Much of what is being discussed and decided by the 21st Century Ad Hoc Committee will be used to update the current strategic plan.

District Revitalization has been a big part of the membership plan since 2008. Its primary purpose is to focus on DMS transfers, retention, training and development and post operations. It has a secondary purpose of signing up new members. During the past ten years, there has been a surge in the number of transfers. To date, there has been approximately 727,000 transfers.

Departments now have immediate access to all acquired DMS members. It’s too early to tell the total impact the change will have on transfers. We will know more by the end of the year.

DMS is a valuable tool to the membership program. Those members acquired each year are a great resource for posts’ to use in growing their membership and increasing the members’ chances to renew. There is now an added incentive, members who transfer into a local post as part of a revitalization effort count toward the department’s membership goal. The overall intent has always been to get these members into a local post.

The final two updates are online renewals and DMS. The online renewal program continues to prove it was a smart idea to begin allowing our members to renew online. To date, 254,381 have renewed online – 15,518 more than this same time last year. The 2018 goal for DMS is 120,000 and the current total is 119,596 – we should easily make the 2018 goal.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, a motion to receive and file the report of the Membership & Post Activities Committee. We have no resolutions and no addendums. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded to receive the committee report for Membership & Post Activities Committee. There are no addendums or resolutions. Are there any questions? All those in favor of receiving and filing the Membership & Post Activities Committee report, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Thank you, Mr. Goodman. Mr. Adjutant, do you have any announcements?
Announcements

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: Yes, Commander. Past National Commander John P. "Jake" Comer has requested that the following people meet with him in front of the NEC room. Meet with him on the dais: national chaplain, national historian, national vice commanders, and the sergeant-at-arms, immediately following the recess of this body.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: There's going to be one slight other adjustment to the agenda. We will be coming back from lunch and reconvening at 1:00, 1 p.m., or 1300. At this time, the colors of our nation in place. Hand salute. Two. We are now in recess until 1:00 o'clock.

...At 11:06 a.m., the National Executive Committee of the American Legion stood in recess.
Wednesday, May 9, 2018 Afternoon Session

... At 1:15 p.m. the National Executive Committee was called to order by National Commander Rohan.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: With the colors of our nation in place, hand salute. Two. Please be seated and we'll get back to business. Our national adjutant has an announcement for everybody.

Announcements

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: I know you will find this hard to believe, but I made a mistake this morning. Dinner this evening will be at its usual time at 7:00 in the Meridian Ballroom, reception will be at 6:00 in Circle Suites, and those of you who were invited to a head table reception, that starts at 5:30 as always in the usual place. Mea culpa.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: Any questions? No. At this time I'll call on Chairman Randall Fisher from the Department of Kentucky for the Veterans Employment & Education Commission report.

Oral Report: Veterans Employment & Education Commission

Randall Fisher, Kentucky, Chairman

Good afternoon. Commander, head table, past national commanders, NEC staff and guests. First of all, I would like to thank the commander for moving my report up. I have a granddaughter graduating from nursing school this afternoon. I really appreciate that. I have four granddaughters and I'm so proud of them, the scholarship Hanna got this year, as a freshman, she finished with a 3.76 GPA. She's not going into her sophomore year, she's a junior in the honors program. The 15-year-old finished third in the state last year for the oratorical and the girl that beat her won the nationals. And then, of course, I have an 11-year-old she's in the honors program. Just so proud of them. So going on to education. Short report. Our commission met in Washington, D.C. February 25, we looked at five resolutions. We hosted a financial literacy and résumé workshop along with the career fair. There were 55 employers there and 150 attendees participated in the workshop designed to help veteran servicemembers and their spouses to get a leg up going out and putting in for these jobs in the workforce and transitioning.

Today with executive order by our president that they would be hiring more military spouses in the federal government. I think that's a plus for us. Helping these veterans out when they are deployed and hiring their spouses at home.

In addition, the commission hosted the small business workshop, boots to business reboot, and this is designed for servicemembers, spouses, veterans, who own their own business, small businesses, and commission continue to work closely with business leaders and government authorities to help these veteran owned small businesses with contracting opportunities with the federal government.

Along with the other education and homeless programs, the commission is advocating for the creation of a new division within the VA. The VA has three divisions, they have a BVA, which is the regional offices, the VHA which is the hospitals, and the cemeteries. We're asking for a separate division that deals with education and employment, the GI Bill and businesses. Right now that's housed out of the BVA, it's housed in the regional office. You know every time they get a little bit behind in the claims and backlog they pull those employees to do something else.

So we need another secretary or someone in charge that can take responsibility of this program: that is one of the resolutions in your packet. I really think we ought to push on
Proceedings of Wednesday, May 9, 2018

I notice we say VA has done very well in those three divisions, well it's times for a change. We need to concentrate on these young men transitioning out. I know the career fairs we do at Fort Campbell it's 900 and more every year. There are 200,000 transitioned out every year. So right now the job scene looks pretty good. You've got the same amount going out with your new jobs accumulating.

Lastly, the commission is planning on hosting a third credentialing summit this fall. The problems always remain the same. Military members gain valuable on-the-job training and certificates during service that can align with civilian job qualifications. But experience difficulty to transition that from government to civilian licenses and certifications. We're doing everything in our power to eliminate these barriers for transitioning servicesmembers.

We appreciate all your assistance on the NEC and all the veterans that's been helping veterans and their families obtain gainful employment and transition into civilian life. We look forward to your continued support and involvement.

Commander, I would like to thank you for this appointment. This finishes my report.

Advance Report: Veterans Employment & Education Commission
February 26, 2018
Paul E. Dillard, Texas, Chairman

Members and guests of the National Veterans Employment & Education Commission and its two standing committees on Employment and Veterans' Preference and Veterans Education, Other Benefits and Homelessness met at the Washington Hilton Hotel in Washington, D.C., on Monday, February 26, 2018. Those meetings were held in conjunction with the Fifty-Eighth Annual Washington Conference.

In addition, a Career Fair hosted with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce was conducted on Friday, February 23, along with a Financial Literacy, Resume Workshop and Networking Luncheon, to discuss the Commission's ongoing initiative to assist veterans with a successful transition from active-duty to gainful employment and financial stability. Furthermore, we hosted an Employment Advisory Board meeting on Thursday, February 22, an Advance to Business and Boots to Business Workshops, a DOD Skill-Bridge Profiles in Success Roundtable on Wednesday, February 28, A Future of Veteran and Servicemember Education Symposium, and an Avenir Wellness Workshop on Thursday, March 1. An Awards Selection Subcommittee composed of members of the National Veterans Employment & Education Commission and its two committees met in the evening of Monday, February 26, for the purpose of selecting the national winners and runners-up in the Commission's two national awards programs.

Finally, our commission hosted a two-day Homeless Veterans Summit on Wednesday, February 28 and Thursday, March 1. A synopsis of the meetings follows:

I. CAREER FAIR
The National Veterans Employment & Education Commission of The American Legion collaborated with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce to host a hiring event on Friday, February 23, in the International Terrace, Terrace Level, Washington Hilton Hotel, Washington, DC. This event started with an opening ceremony, which included speakers Eric Eversole, Executive Director, Hiring Our Heroes at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation; Ely Ross, Director, Mayor’s Office of Veterans Affairs, District of Columbia; and Verna Jones, Executive Director, Washington, D.C. Office, The American Legion. There were 55 employers from various industries and 140 attendees that participated in the Career Fair. There were 5 immediate hires at the event.

The American Legion manned a table at this event. The table was manned by Ariel De Jesus, Jr., Assistant Director, National Veterans Employment & Education Division and
Shalene Durham, Assistant Director, Human Resources Division. These Legionnaires discussed how The American Legion assists veterans with reintegrating back to their local communities. Additionally, they answered service members/veterans questions about benefits and described the Legion’s programs as well as explained how to become a member. The employers and participants at this event were pleased with the outcome. The employers stated that the participants were professional and qualified. The participants liked that employers were from different industries and willing to hire veterans.

II. FINANCIAL AND VETERAN RESUME WORKSHOPS

On Friday, February 23, the National Veterans Employment & Education Commission hosted a Financial Literacy and Resume Workshops at the Washington Hilton. The workshops were designed to help veterans, servicemembers, and their spouses find meaningful careers in the civilian workforce, expand their networks and gain the tools necessary to stand out throughout the hiring process. Speakers for these workshops included Rodney Rolland, Director of Human Resources, The American Legion, and Judy Viccellio, Partner, New York Life. Following the morning workshops, attendees were able to mingle with each other and prospective employers during a networking luncheon. The forum speakers included: Adam Rocke, Vice President, Fastport; Heather Tinsley-Fix, Senior Advisor, Financial Resilience, AARP; Mark Escherich, Military and Veteran Programs Manager, U.S. Transportation Security Administration; Nathan Naylor, Vice President, Business Development for Veterans Health, Philips; Ralph Hernandez, Military Senior Program Leader, Amazon; Adam Martinez, Director, Military Talent Programs, Miligistix; Brian Armstrong, Manager of Military Recruitment, Hilton; and Gary Patton, Major General, U.S. Army (Retired), Vice President, Veterans Outreach, CACI.

The new Job Fair/Workshop dynamic that The American Legion and U.S. Chamber created really has stepped outside the box, benefitting frustrated jobseekers. The opportunity to polish and use the skills they have been refining during their job searches seemed to tremendously benefit participants. Jobseekers stated that the workshops along with the Job Fair was very informative and filled with quality job opportunities.

Also, on Thursday, February 22, the National Veterans Employment & Education Commission held its first Employment Advisory Board meeting, otherwise known as the Employment Innovation Task Force. The Task Force exists to: Provide independent surveys and assessments of the efficacy and efficiency of delivering “for life” support to veterans and transitioning servicemembers in the digital era; introduce innovations responsive to the digital age warrior and digital era employer; identify best practices from the best of demonstrated veteran-friendly employers to encourage adoption by all employers; use labor market and labor economic data to guide career goal setting and development of veterans and transitioning servicemembers; introduce the use of digital tools and skill drills to support just-in-time delivery of information, assistance, support, training, and skill development underlying the “for life” concept; ensure all outcomes further the goal of providing a seamless transition from military service to private sector employment; and create feedback loops for continuous improvement of TAP and credentialing programs along with continuous innovation in the method and means by which translation and “for life” support are provided.

The Task Force members include but not limited to: Jerry Chan, Vice President, Cyber/Network Audit, BNY Mellon; Abie Chong, Recruiter, Military Programs, Hilton Worldwide; Rosye Cloud, Senior Advisor, Veterans Employment, Office of Economic Opportunity, VA; Berlyn Cooper-Howard, Senior Program Manager, Office of Personnel Management (OPM); Thomas Dawkins, Director of Workforce Development & Education, Microsoft; Mark Escherich, Military & Veteran Programs Manager, U.S. Transportation Security Administration; Michael Toal, National Veterans’ Employment Manager, DOL; Ralph Hernandez, Senior Military Program Leader, Amazon; Stan Kurtz,
Director, Veterans Business Outreach Center Program, SBA; Chip Meyers, Vice President, Corporate Public Affairs, UPS; Elizabeth Murray-Belcaster, Consultant, International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Building Materials & Construction Trade Division; Gary Patton, Vice President, Veterans Outreach, CACI; Raul Rosas, Commissioner, Maryland Veterans Commission; Max Shuftan, CyberTalent Program Director, SANS Institute; Tony Marlow, Vice President, Field Marketing, Oath: A Verizon Company; and Tamre Newton, Chief, Transition Programs, Transitions to Veterans Programs Office, DOD.

III. NATIONAL VETERANS EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION COMMISSION FORUM

On Monday, February 26, the National Veterans Employment & Education Commission assembled in Jefferson West, Concourse Level, Washington Hilton Hotel, Washington D.C., to address education, employment and small business concerns regarding veterans and their families. The meeting started with an update from Melody Libby, Manager, Therapeutic Area Strategies in Government Affairs, AbbVie Inc., then a briefing on small business opportunities for veteran business owners from Erica Courtney, Chief Executive Officer, 2020vet along with Susan Weinstock, Vice President, Financial Resilience, AARP, discussing their new initiatives for veterans and Elizabeth Murray-Belcaster, Consultant, International Brotherhood of Teamsters updating the commission on their program to assist transitioning service members and culminating with a corporate panel about private sector opportunities for veterans.

Melody Libby, Government Affairs, AbbVie, discussed Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) and its impact on U.S. veterans. Hepatitis C is a contagious liver disease caused by a virus. HCV is spread primarily through contact with the blood of an infected person. Upon infection, some have mild illness lasting a few weeks. In 85 percent of cases, it leads to a serious, lifelong illness that attacks the liver. Chronic HCV is a leading cause of liver transplantation and liver cancer. It was mentioned that half of the people with HCV are unaware they are infected. 4 percent – 17 percent of veterans may have HCV infection. 700,000 veterans in VA care need to be screened. Currently, 65,000 veterans have been treated. The goal is to encourage veterans to visit the VA for a simple HCV blood test. Early treatment improves liver and non-liver related complications and survival.

Additionally, Erica Courtney, Chief Executive Officer, 2020vet, briefed the commission on small business opportunities for veterans. She explained that veteran entrepreneurs are the United States most untapped, highly skilled economic development resource. The presentation included reasons for veterans to go into business: (1) Job placement and mental healthcare not working; (2) Corporate America not always a good fit; (3) Self-driven, technical experts; (4) Provides spouse and a livelihood; (5) Independence; and (6) Challenges finding peer-to-peer mentorship, culturally different, networks and funds. Recent data concerning veteran businesses is the following:

- 40 percent of Post-9/11 veterans are going into business for themselves vs. 10 percent in the Vietnam era
- 10 percent of small businesses are owned by veterans
- $1.2 trillion in annual sales receipts with 6 million employees
- 78 percent veteran-owned firms have sales over $100,000
- 38 percent registered over $500,000 in sales

Other relevant data on the veteran population:

- 75 percent of veterans are 55 or over
- 200,000 service members are transitioning out per year
- 43 percent recently discharged veterans reported service related disabilities

Total of Veteran-Owned Businesses:
California = 252,377
Texas = 213,590

Georgia = 96,787
Ohio = 91,316
Florida = 185,756    Illinois = 89,110  
New York = 137,532    North Carolina = 86,571  
Pennsylvania = 97,969    Virginia = 76,434

Concentration of Veteran-Owned Businesses:
South Carolina = 13%    West Virginia = 11.28%  
New Hampshire = 12.24%    Maine = 11.24%  
Virginia = 11.70%    Alabama = 11.21%  
Alaska = 11.69%    Arkansas = 11.17%  
Mississippi = 11.38%    Oklahoma = 11.08%

Furthermore, Susan Weinstock, Vice President, Financial Resilience, AARP, discussed their focus on assisting experienced (older) workers with employment opportunities. AARP has created a website and job board to steer jobseekers to openings in different industries. The website helps make the job search easier and the experience worker more competitive by advising them on resume writing, interviewing and networking.

Finally, Elizabeth Murray-Belcaster, Consultant, International Brotherhood of Teamsters, updated the commission on the Teamsters Military Assistance Program (TMAP), which assists active-duty military that are transitioning, veterans and military spouses with job opportunities with responsible employers. Currently, TMAP is partnering with two employers: ABF Freight in the freight trucking industry and FirstGroup in the passenger transport industry. TMAP, in association with Helmets to Hardhats, offers the following courses to veteran, Reserve and National Guard communities at no cost to the candidate:

- 200-hour Teamster/Military CDL Licensing Program;
- Teamster Construction Apprenticeship Program;
- 40-hour Basic Hazardous Waste Worker Course;
- 8-hour Hazardous Waste Refresher Course;
- 8-hour Hazardous Materials Transportation Awareness Course;
- 16-hour Emergency Responder – Operations Level Course;
- 10-hour Construction Safety and Health Outreach Course; and,
- 10-hour General Industry Safety and Health Outreach Course.

The Commission meeting ended with a corporate panel discussing opportunities in the private sector and how transitioning servicemembers and veterans can prepare themselves for these positions. The forum speakers included: James Cunningham, Graduate, Harvard School of Business; Thomas Dawkins, Workforce Development & Education Director, Microsoft Corporation; Ralph Hernandez, Military Senior Program Leader, Amazon; David Wallace, Military Relations Project Manager, Lockheed Martin Corporation; Vivian Greentree, Senior Vice President, First Data; and Rod Markham, National Director for Federal Government, Hemsley Fraser.

**IV. AWARDS SELECTION SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING**

Prior to the Washington Conference, the Chairman of the National Veterans Employment & Education Commission appointed an awards selection subcommittee to review all the nominations that had been received during 2017 in the Employer of the Year awards program, and in the Employment Service awards program. This subcommittee met on Monday, February 26, in Jefferson West in the Washington Hilton Hotel, Washington, D.C., to select winners in the small, medium and large employer, LVER and DVOP categories, as well as Employment Service Local Office of the Year, Employer of Disabled, and Older Workers categories. During 2017, Departments submitted 50 nominations for employers and employment services. 7 were for small companies (1-50 employees), 7 were for medium size companies (51-200 employees), and 9 were for large companies (201+employees). 3 were for Employer of Older Workers, 1 was for Enhancing the Lives
of the Disabled. Departments also submitted 5 nominations for Local Veterans Employment Representatives (LVERs), 12 for Disabled Veterans Outreach Program (DVOP) Specialists and 6 for Local Employment Service (ES) Offices. Those appointed to the subcommittee were James Fratolillo (MA) - Chairman, Joseph R. Magee (FL), James Brehio (MA), Dennis Tipsword (IL), Eric Measles (CA), David Eagan (TX) and Frederick Nelson (SD).

The winners and runners-up in the Employer of the Year categories will be reviewed by the Department of Labor for pending safety and health or fair labor practices violations before the announcement is made.

**SMALL EMPLOYER**

Allied Universal Security Services (Raytheon Account)
McKinney, Texas

**MEDIUM SIZE EMPLOYER**

Gallery Furniture-Houston
Houston, Texas

**LARGE EMPLOYER**

Southwest Airlines
Dallas, Texas

**EMPLOYER OF OLDER WORKERS**

ESW, Inc.
Crown Point, Indiana

**LVER OF THE YEAR**

Spencer Horton
Atlanta, Georgia

**DVOP OF THE YEAR**

Samuel L. Denson
Pensacola, Florida

**ES LOCAL OFFICE OF THE YEAR**

IDES Sterling Office
Sterling, Illinois

V. SMALL BUSINESS

The National Veterans Employment & Education Commission conducted a Veterans Small Business Workshop on Wednesday, February 28, at the Washington Hilton Hotel, Washington, D.C. Approximately 30 veterans to include Reserve, National Guard and military spouses participated in this event. The workshop, “Boots to Business”, was specifically designed for service members, veterans, and spouses who own their own businesses or thinking of starting one. The intensive entrepreneurship course was created by The American Legion in collaboration with local small businesses such as Vets GSA LLC, Goldschmitt & Associates LLC, and the National Veterans Small Business Coalition.

The workshop featured informative sessions presented by Charles McCaffrey, Director, Veterans Business Outreach Center (VBOC), National Capital Region and the Washington, DC’s Small Business Development Center. Topics at the workshop included: Introduction to Business Ownership; Basics of Opportunity Recognition; Understanding Markets and Competition; Small Business Economics; Picking the Right Legal Entity for your Business; Financing your Business; Introduction to Business Planning; and Business Resources. The American Legion has been a partner with the Small Business Administration (SBA) to pilot the Boots to Business: Reboot Workshop. In the program’s third year, we are still assisting the SBA in hosting and outreach for these events. At the end of the course, the SBA provided all attendees with a certificate of completion which allows them to take an 8-week course online offered by the SBA.

Recognizing the need for curriculum that goes beyond starting a business, The American Legion partnered with Insight CFO and Habits of Profitability to host the Small Business Advanced Course. This was not a class for the nascent business owner, this course was focused on helping existing businesses with at least 8 quarters of demonstrable positive revenue, scale up. The course was taught by instructors from Georgetown University and the University of Maryland. The 12 business owners in attendance received personal
counseling from certified financial officers of local companies and walked away with a personalized 5-part plan of action for expanding their business.

Following the informational sessions, participants were invited to a networking luncheon where they interacted with federal and private sector representatives. Our commission understands that for many veterans, entrepreneurship is a viable option, especially for those veterans who may find the job market tough to navigate. Consequently, The American Legion recognizes how important it is that we assist and advocate on behalf for our veterans who are self-employed. This is why The American Legion is one of the few Veterans Service Organizations that have invested in tangible programs and services for veteran entrepreneurs.

The American Legion's Small Business Task Force is a consortium of accomplished veteran business owners who have volunteered to advise the Legion on legislative matters that pertain to veteran businesses. The group of 30 members shares their experiences -- ranging from the public and private sectors -- to help inform the National Veterans Employment & Education Division on matters relating to federal contracting for veterans, procurement and other areas that affect veteran business owners.

VI. VETERAN HOMELESSNESS

On Wednesday and Thursday, February 28-March 1, the National Veterans Employment & Education Commission hosted a two-day homeless veteran’s summit in Washington, DC. The Summit was a chance to pull expertise from different organizations and work toward a consensus on addressing issues facing homeless veterans. The group recognized that it would be best served to modify existing programs rather than proposing new programs. Those programs include HUD-VASH, which combines HUD housing vouchers with VA supportive services; Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF), which provides case management and supportive services for very low-income veterans; and the Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem (GPD) Program, through which the VA funds some 600 agencies providing over 14,000 beds for eligible veterans.

The document the group is working toward will address the VA’s homeless programs along with programmatic and policy recommendations. Additionally, the Summit provided the Legion an opportunity to brief House and Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee personnel about the current state of veteran homelessness and our continued support of addressing this important issue. The information shared at the Summit will permit us to make meaningful recommendations so that VA and other stakeholders can be more effective in combating and ultimately ending veteran homelessness. The group included representatives from The American Legion, National Coalition for Homeless Veterans (NCHV), National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH), American Bar Association, National League of Cities, Community Solutions, Atlas Research, and Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW).

VA and HUD reported roughly 40,000 homeless veterans on a single night in January 2017 (2017 Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress). VA has taken decisive action toward its goal of ending homelessness among our nation’s veterans. To achieve this goal, VA has developed a plan to assist every homeless veteran willing to accept services retain or acquire: a safe housing; needed treatment services; opportunities to retain or return to employment; and benefits assistance. Also, VA has implemented a prevention initiative - the Supportive Services for Veterans and Families (SSVF), which is VA’s primary prevention program designed to help veterans and their families rapidly exit homelessness, or avoid entering homelessness.

The American Legion continues to place special priority on the issue of veteran homelessness. With veterans making up approximately 11 percent of our nation’s total adult homeless population, there is plenty of reason to give the cause special attention. Along with various community partners, The American Legion remains committed to
seeing VA’s goal of ending veteran homelessness come to fruition. Our goal is to ensure that every community across America has programs and services in place to get homeless veterans in housing (along with necessary healthcare/treatment) while connecting those at-risk veterans with the local services and resources they need.

VII. EDUCATION

On February 28, the National Veterans Employment & Education Commission convened the DOD SkillBridge Profiles in Success roundtable. The roundtable was convened to review successful applications of the DOD’s SkillBridge authority, and introduce new stakeholders to opportunities to better collaborate with DOD. The roundtable was attended by 44 stakeholders, and featured presentations from Fort Bragg’s transition services, Microsoft, Amazon, DOD Voluntary Education, ABF Freight, and the International Brotherhood of Teamsters. The DOD SkillBridge initiative promotes the civilian job training authority available for transitioning servicemembers. Service members meeting certain qualifications can participate in civilian job and employment training, including apprenticeships and internships. Such training can take place starting up to six months prior to servicemember’s separation. Additionally, the training must offer a high probability of employment and be provided to the servicemember at little or no cost. Through DOD SkillBridge, tremendous potential exists for servicemembers, companies, trade unions, and others for leveraging this new DOD authority.

On March 1, the National Veterans Employment & Education Division organized an Avenir Life Coaching Mind Fit Workshop. The objective of the event was to offer veterans and family members’ techniques to enhance natural responses to stress, thus improving cognitive and psychological capacities and health. In addition, participants learned research-based nutritional information and exercises to encourage self-regulation and mindfulness. The workshop was attended by 30 participants. The commission also convened the Future of Veteran and Servicemember Higher Education Symposium. The symposium was convened to review legislative proposals related to a reauthorization of the Higher Education Act and their potential implication on veteran and military students. The symposium was attended by 47 stakeholders, and featured presentations from The American Council on Education, Student Veterans of America, the Center for American Progress, Career Education Colleges and Universities and The American Legion. As a direct result of the symposium, The American Legion was able to rally VSOs to opposition against the Promoting Real Opportunity, Success and Prosperity through Education Reform (Prosper) Act, resulting in coverage in the Military Times and Inside Higher Ed.

In addition to overhauling student loan forgiveness, the PROSPER Act would roll back rules cracking down on for-profit colleges, including a requirement applied primarily to for-profit schools requiring them to demonstrate that their graduates get jobs. It would also eliminate a requirement that for-profit colleges get at least 10 percent of their funds from sources other than federal financial aid. Veterans groups not only support keeping that so-called 90-10 rule in place, they also have long pushed for stricter versions of it. The Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions is working on comparable legislation to the PROSPER Act that lawmakers hope to push out this spring with bipartisan support, a spokesman for committee chairman Senator Lamar Alexander (TN), told Military Times. He did not say whether the Senate bill will also propose an end to public service loan forgiveness, as it has not yet been finalized.

Report: Veterans Employment & Education Commission
May 9, 2018
Randall Fisher, Kentucky, Chairman

The National Veterans Employment & Education Commission met via teleconference on
May 4, 2018, for the purpose of considering those matters that had previously been referred for study and to discuss a range of other current matters.

Also in attendance were:

The staff member present was Joseph C. Sharpe, Jr. (DC), Director, for the National Veterans Employment & Education Division, James Fratolillo (MA), Chairman, Employment & Veterans Preference Committee, John Sampson (NY), Chairman, Veterans Education, Other Benefits & Homelessness Committee, and Dennis Tipsword (IL), Vice Chairman, Veterans Employment & Education Commission.

**MATTERS RECEIVED, CONSIDERED AND ACTED UPON BY THE COMMISSION:**

**RESOLUTIONS**

Your Subcommittee considered five (5) resolutions from the Veterans Employment & Education Commission which have been forwarded to the National Executive Committee for approval. The Commission then discussed the following issues:

**A. EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION COMMISSION FORUM**

On Monday, February 26, the National Veterans Employment & Education Commission assembled in Jefferson West, Concourse Level, Washington Hilton Hotel, Washington D.C., to address education, employment and small business concerns regarding veterans and their families. The meeting started with Melody Libby, Manager, Therapeutic Area Strategies in Government Affairs, AbbVie, Inc., who discussed Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) and its impact on U.S. veterans. Hepatitis C is a contagious liver disease caused by a virus. HCV is spread primarily through contact with the blood of an infected person. Upon infection, some have mild illness lasting a few weeks. In 85 percent of cases, it leads to a serious, lifelong illness that attacks the liver. Chronic HCV is a leading cause of liver transplantation and liver cancer. It was mentioned that half of the people with HCV are unaware they are infected. 4 percent – 17 percent of veterans may have HCV infection. 700,000 veterans in VA care need to be screened. Currently, 65,000 veterans have been treated. The goal is to encourage veterans to visit the VA for a simple HCV blood test. Early treatment improves liver and non-liver related complications and survival.

Additionally, Erica Courtney, Chief Executive Officer, 2020vet, briefed the commission on small business opportunities for veterans. She explained that veteran entrepreneurs are the United States most untapped, highly skilled economic development resources. The presentation included reasons for veterans to go into business: (1) Job placement and mental healthcare not working; (2) Corporate America not always a good fit; (3) Self-driven, technical experts; (4) Provides spouse with a livelihood; (5) Independence; and (6) Challenges finding peer-to-peer mentorship, culturally different, networks and funds. Recent data concerning veteran businesses is the following:

- 40% of Post-9/11 veterans are going into business for themselves vs. 10 percent in the Vietnam era.
- 10% of small businesses are owned by veterans
- $1.2 trillion in annual sales receipts with 6 million employees
- 78% veteran-owned firms have sales over $100,000
- 38% registered over $500,000 in sales

Other relevant data on the veteran population:

- 75% of veterans are 55 and over
- 200,000 servicemembers are transitioning out per year
- 43% recently discharged veterans reported service related disabilities

Total of Veteran-Owned Businesses:
Proceedings of Wednesday, May 9, 2018

California = 252,377   Georgia = 96,787
Texas =213,590   Ohio = 91,316
Florida =185,756   Illinois = 89,110
New York = 137,532   North Carolina = 86,571
Pennsylvania = 97,969   Virginia = 76,434

Concentration of Veteran-Owned Businesses:
South Carolina = 13%   West Virginia = 11.28%
New Hampshire = 12.24%   Maine = 11.24%
Virginia = 11.70%   Alabama = 11.21%
Alaska = 11.69%   Arkansas = 11.08%
Mississippi = 11.38%   Oklahoma = 11.08%

Furthermore, Susan Weinstock, Vice President, Financial Resilience, AARP, discussed their focus on assisting experienced (older) workers with employment opportunities. AARP has created a website and job board to steer jobseekers to openings in different industries. The website helps make the job search easier and the experienced worker more competitive by advising them on resume writing, interviewing and networking.

Finally, Elizabeth Murray-Belcaster, Consultant, International Brotherhood of Teamsters, updated the commission on the Teamsters Military Assistance Program (TMAP), which assists active-duty military that are transitioning, veterans and military spouses with job opportunities with responsible employers. Currently, TMAP is partnering with two employers: ABF Freight in the freighting trucking industry and FirstGroup in the passenger transport industry. TMAP, in association with Helmets to Hardhats, offers the following courses to veterans, Reserve and National Guard communities at no cost to the candidate:

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B. EMPLOYMENT AND CAREER FAIRS

The National Veterans Employment & Education Commission of The American Legion collaborated with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce to host a hiring event on Friday, February 23, in the International Terrace, Terrace Level, Washington Hilton Hotel, Washington, D.C. This event started with an opening ceremony, which included speakers Eric Eversole, Executive Director, Hiring Our Heroes, U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation; Ely Ross, Director, Mayor’s Office of Veterans Affairs, District of Columbia; Verna Jones, Executive Director, Washington, D.C. Office; The American Legion. There were 55 employers from various industries and 150 attendees that participated in the Career Fair. There were 5 immediate hires at the event. In addition, the smaller roundtables (at the Career Fair) gave prospective employers opportunities to engage job seekers in a more
personal manner, creating a relaxed atmosphere where veterans felt comfortable practicing their pitches and seeking job opportunities.

The American Legion manned a table at this event. The table was manned by Ariel De Jesus, Jr., Assistant Director, National Veterans Employment & Education Division and Shalene Durham, Assistant Director, Human Resources Division. These Legionnaires discussed how The American Legion assists veterans with reintegrating back to their local communities. Additionally, they answered service members/veterans’ questions about benefits and described the Legion’s programs as well as explained how to become a member. The employers and participants at this event were pleased with the outcome. The employers stated that the participants were professional and qualified. The participants liked that employers were from different industries and willing to hire veterans.

Additionally, on Friday, February 23, the National Veterans Employment & Education Commission hosted a Financial Literacy and Resume Workshops at the Washington Hilton. The workshops were designed to help veterans, service members, and their spouses find meaningful careers in the civilian workforce, expand their networks and gain the tools necessary to stand out throughout the hiring process. Speakers for these workshops included Rodney Rolland, Human Resources Director, The American Legion, and Judy Viccellio, Partner, New York Life. Following the morning workshops, attendees were able to mingle with each other and prospective employers during a networking luncheon. The forum speakers included: Adam Rocke, Vice President, Fastport; Heather Tinley-Fix, Senior Advisor, Financial Resilience, AARP; Mark Escherich, Military and Veteran Programs Manager, U.S. Transportation Security Administration; Nathan Taylor, Vice President, Business Development for Veterans Health, Philips; Ralph Hernandez, Military Senior Program Leader, Amazon; Adam Martinez, Director, Military Talent Programs, Miligistix; Brian Armstrong, Manager of Military Recruitment, Hilton; and Gary Patton, Major General, U.S. Army (Retired), Vice President, Veterans Outreach, CACI.

The new Job Fair/Workshop dynamic that The American Legion and U.S. Chamber of Commerce created really has stepped outside the box, benefitting frustrated job seekers. The opportunity to polish and use the skills they have been refining during their job searches seemed to tremendously benefit participants. Jobseekers stated that the workshops along with the Job Fair was very informative and filled with quality job opportunities.

The American Legion’s National Veterans Employment & Education Division, through its relationships, continues to play a vital role in assisting American Legion Posts to produce successful Job Fairs, small business development workshops, and employment training services throughout America. In addition, the staff of the National Veterans Employment & Education Division is also involved in a number of advisory committees. Director Joseph Sharpe Jr. is a member of the Small Business Administration's Advisory Committee, Deputy Director Mark Walker is a member of the Department of Veterans Affairs Homeless Veterans Advisory Committee, and Assistant Director Ariel De Jesus is a member of the Department of Labor’s Advisory Committee Veterans’ Employment, Training and Employer Outreach (ACVETEO).

Aside from advisory committees, The American Legion is also a stakeholder and active participant in numerous government agencies and private businesses’ veteran initiatives, where our input into their programs is highly valued. The American Legion has a representative on the Interagency Task Force on Veterans Small Business Development. Lastly, The American Legion participates in the Veterans Entrepreneurship Task Force (VET-Force) business forums and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau’s Service Member’s Affairs meetings.

In addition, the National Veterans Employment & Education Division has participated in numerous Career Fairs throughout the nation, allowing The American Legion to get in
front of more than 10,000 veterans and their families. The American Legion has been invited to participate in over 15 Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program (YRRP) Events. The YRRP is a Department of Defense (DOD) effort to promote the well-being of National Guard and Reserve members, their families and communities, by connecting them with resources throughout the deployment cycle. The American Legion is the only Veterans Service Organization that participates in these events. Locations for the YRRP included but were not limited to Florida, California, Maryland, Virginia, District of Columbia, and Hawaii.

**EMPLOYMENT TASK FORCE MEETING**

On November 1, 2017, the National Veterans Employment & Education Division created The American Legion Employment Innovation Task Force. The Task Force is formed to combine the talents, expertise, and innovations of government, nongovernment organizations, and private sector organizations in bringing solutions forward for the Legion to champion with its federal agency partners for the purpose of improving the employment and quality employment of veterans and transitioning servicemembers. This includes introducing both service delivery, business process, and technology innovations in support of the Transition Assistance Program (TAP) and credentialing of servicemembers. This includes examining all aspects of TAP and credentialing from résumé writing, financial planning, goal setting, job search, interviewing, networking, peer-to-peer support, family transition support, higher education, individual career development plans, entrepreneurship, VA benefits, and other elements of holistic support of veterans “for life” and transitioning servicemembers. The primary objective is to provide for a seamless transition from military service to the private sector.

The final outcomes of the Task Force should provide a compelling set of innovations that will, if adopted by DOD and other related agencies, improve the quality, timeliness of services, and relevance and usefulness of the TAP and credentialing programs that support transitioning servicemembers and veterans. The outcomes should demonstrate increased scalability, efficiency, and reduced costs to deliver these services while, at the same time, substantially improving the quality of the “for life” support of veterans. The value added should improve membership in the Legion by digital era veterans and their family members.

The taskforce has held one meeting during the Washington Conference on February 22, 2018, and two conference calls. It was suggested that a survey and assessment of the efficacy and efficiency of delivering “for life” support to veterans and transitioning servicemembers in the digital era; innovations responsive to the digital age warrior and digital era employer in TAP.

The Task Force members include but are not limited to: Jerry Chan, Vice President, Cyber/Network Audit, BNY Mellon; Abie Chong, Recruiter, Military Programs, Hilton Worldwide; Rosye Cloud, Senior Advisor, Veterans Employment, Office of Economic Opportunity, Veterans Affairs (VA); Berlyn Cooper-Howard, Senior Program Manager, Office of Personnel Management (OPM); Thomas Dawkins, Director of Workforce Development & Education, Microsoft; Mark Escherich, Military & Veteran Programs Manager, U.S. Transportation Security Administration; Michael Toal, National Veterans’ Employment Manager, Department of Labor (DOL); Ralph Hernandez, Senior Military Program Leader, Amazon; Stan Kurtz, Director, Veterans Business Outreach Center Program, Small Business Administration (SBA); Chip Meyers, Vice President, Corporate Public Affairs, United Parcel Service (UPS); Elizabeth Murray-Belcaster, Consultant, International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Building Materials & Construction Trade Division; Gary Patton, Vice President, Veterans Outreach, CACI; Raul Rosas, Commissioner, Maryland Veterans Commission; Max Shuftan, CyberTalent Program Director, SANS Institute; Tony Marlow, Vice President, Field Marketing, Oath: A Verizon
Company; and Tamre Newton, Chief, Transition Programs, Transitions to Veterans Programs Office, Department of Defense (DOD).

C. EDUCATION

On Wednesday, February 28, the National Veterans Employment & Education Commission convened the DOD SkillBridge Profiles in Success Roundtable. The roundtable was convened to review successful applications of DOD’s SkillBridge authority, and introduce new stakeholders to opportunities to better collaborate with DOD. The roundtable was attended by 44 stakeholders, and featured presentations from Fort Bragg’s transition services, Microsoft, Amazon, DOD Voluntary Education, ABF Freight, and the International Brotherhood of Teamsters. The DOD SkillBridge initiative promotes the civilian job training authority available for transitioning servicemembers. Servicemembers meeting certain qualifications can participate in civilian job and employment training, including apprenticeships and internships. Such training can take place stating up to six months prior to servicemember’s separation. Additionally, the training must offer a high probability of employment and be provided to the servicemember at little or no cost. Through DOD SkillBridge, tremendous potential exists for servicemembers, companies, trade unions, and others for leveraging this new DOD authority.

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D. NATIONAL EMPLOYER AWARDS

During the Washington Conference, the Commission’s Awards Subcommittee met to select winners in the Employer of Veterans and Employment Service awards categories. Winners include:

SMALL EMPLOYER: Allied Universal Security Services (Raytheon Account)
McKinney, Texas

MEDIUM SIZE EMPLOYER: Gallery Furniture-Houston
Houston, Texas

LARGE EMPLOYER: Southwest Airlines
Dallas, Texas

EMPLOYER OF OLDER WORKERS: ESW, Inc.
Crown Point, Indiana

LVER OF THE YEAR: Spencer Horton
Atlanta, Georgia

DVOP OF THE YEAR: Samuel L. Denson
Pensacola, Florida

ES LOCAL OFFICE OF THE YEAR: IDES Sterling Office
Sterling, Illinois

HOMELESS VET OUTREACH: The Department of New Jersey
Trenton, New Jersey

VETERANS ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The National Veterans Employment & Education Commission conducted a Veterans Small Business Workshop on Wednesday, February 28, and Thursday, March 1, at the Washington Hilton Hotel, Washington, DC. Approximately 30 veterans to include Reserve, National Guard, and military spouses participated in this event. The workshop, “Boots to Business”, was specifically designed for servicemembers, veterans, and spouses who own their own businesses or are thinking of starting one. The intensive entrepreneurship course was created by Small Business Administration (SBA) and was piloted successfully with The American Legion, before it became a permanent program.

The workshop featured information sessions presented by Charles McCaffrey, Director, Veterans Business Outreach Center (VBOC), National Capital Region and the Washington, DC’s Small Business Development center. Topics at the workshop included: Introduction to Business Ownership; Basics of Opportunity Recognition; Understanding Markets and Competition; Small Business Economics; Picking the Right Legal Entity for your Business; Financing your Business; Introduction to Business Planning; and Business Resources. The American Legion has been a partner with the SBA to pilot the Boots to Business: Reboot Workshop. In the program’s third year, we are still assisting the SBA in hosting and outreach for these events. At the end of the course, the SBA provided all attendees with a certificate of completion which allows them to take an 8-week course online offered by the SBA.

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few Veterans Service Organizations that have invested in tangible programs and services for veteran entrepreneurs.

**Government Contracting**

Veterans age 18-24 had an average unemployment rate of 12.7 percent in 2018. And over 40,000 veterans were homeless on a single night in 2017. We cannot accept these statistics. With the wars drawing to a close, Congress must continue to increase economic opportunities for those who served. Agencies across the federal government, including the Department of Transportation, have special ‘set-asides’ for contracts to go to small businesses that are owned and controlled by particular groups of people that have been designated for contracting preferences. Fairness to Veterans Act simply states that if any business is going to get a preference, then veteran-owned small businesses should at least get that same preference.

Today, that simple premise is not the law: Veterans do not always receive the same contracting preferences as other groups. There is no equal preference for veterans when it comes to building our nation’s roads, highways, and critical infrastructure; and that’s not fair to these heroes.

Veteran-owned Small Businesses up to the challenge of rebuilding our nation’s roads and infrastructure:

- More than 180,000 servicemembers are transitioning each year from the military to civilian life.
- One in seven veterans are self-employed or small business owners, and one quarter of veterans say they are interested in starting or buying their own business.
- The Census estimated that, “All in all, businesses where veterans were majority owners or part-owners numbered 3.7 million, representing 13.5% of all businesses nationwide, accounting for more than $1.6 trillion in receipts and employing 8.2 million people.”
- 11.1% of all construction firms are owned by veterans. That’s 380,395 veteran construction firms. 10.5% of manufacturing firms are owned by veterans. That’s 64,542 Veteran manufacturing firms.
- Veteran-owned firms have a big economic impact across the country: California, Texas, Florida, New York and Georgia have the most veteran-owned firms
- Followed by South Carolina, West Virginia, Virginia, Tennessee, and Alabama.
- Based on percentage of sales, Mississippi leads the country, followed closely by Oklahoma, South Carolina, Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont.

Similar Fairness to Veterans amendments passed unanimously as part of Military Construction and Veterans’ Affairs Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2012 & 2013, and as part of the 2015 House NDAA. It even passed the House by voice vote in 2016, but stalled in the Senate. The American Legion has high hopes that 2018 will be the year this bill becomes law.

None of this would be possible without the assistance of our Small Business Taskforce. The American Legion's Small Business Task Force is a consortium of accomplished veteran business owners who have volunteered to advise the Legion on legislative matters that pertain to veteran businesses. The group of 30 members shares their experiences -- ranging from the public and private sectors -- to help inform the National Veterans Employment & Education Division on matters relating to federal contracting for veterans, procurement and other areas that affect veteran business owners.

**VETERAN HOMELESSNESS**

On Wednesday, February 28, and Thursday, March 1, the National Veterans Employment & Education Commission hosted a two-day homeless veterans Summit in
Washington, DC. The Summit was a chance to pull expertise from different organizations and work toward a consensus on addressing issues facing homeless veterans. The group recognized that it would be best served to modify existing programs rather than proposing new programs. Those programs include HUD-VASH, which combines HUD housing vouchers with VA supportive services; Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF), which provides Grant and Per Diem (GPD) program, through which the VA funds some 600 agencies providing over 14,000 beds for eligible veterans.

The document the group is working toward will address the VA’s homeless programs along with programmatic and policy recommendations. Additionally, the Summit provided the Legion an opportunity to brief House and Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee personnel about the current state of veteran homelessness and our continued support of addressing this important issue. The information shared at the Summit will permit us to make meaningful recommendations so that VA and other stakeholders can be more effective in combating and ultimately ending veteran homelessness. The group included representatives from The American Legion, National Coalition for Homeless Veterans (NCHV), National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH), American Bar Association, Nation League of Cities, Community Solutions, Atlas Research, and Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW).

VA and HUD reported roughly 40,000 homeless veterans on a single night in January 2018 (2017 Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress). VA has taken decisive action toward its goal of ending homelessness among our nation’s veterans. To achieve this goal, VA has developed a plan to assist every homeless veteran willing to accept services retain or acquire: a safe housing; needed treatment services; opportunities to retain or return to employment; and benefits assistance. Also, VA has implemented a prevention initiative - the Supportive Services for Veterans and Families (SSVF), which is VA’s primary prevention program designed to help veterans and their families rapidly exit homelessness, or avoid entering homelessness.

The American Legion continues to place special priority on the issue of veteran homelessness. With veterans making up approximately 11 percent of our nation’s total adult homeless population, there is plenty of reason to give the cause special attention. Along with various community partners, The American Legion remains committed to seeing VA’s goal of ending veteran homelessness come to fruition. Our goal is to ensure that every community across America has programs and services in place to get homeless veterans in housing (along with necessary healthcare/treatment) while connecting those at-risk veterans with the local services and resources they need.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

A very important part of the work of the National Veterans Employment & Education Division is the preparation and presentation of congressional testimony as well as letters of support on issues affecting the economic well-being and financial stability of America’s veterans. Since January 2018, the National Veterans Employment & Education Division has been involved with one (1) congressional testimony and have written five (5) letters of support.

The following is a synopsis of the congressional hearings and correspondence held from January to May 1, 2018, on matters pertaining to the National Veterans Employment & Education Commission:

The American Legion worked with Representatives Brian Fitzpatrick (PA) and Kyrsten Sinema (AZ) to reintroduce legislation to the 115th Congress to ensure veterans play a critical role in rebuilding America’s infrastructure. The Fairness to Veterans for Infrastructure Investment Act [H.R. 4319] levels the playing field in federal contracting for veteran-owned businesses by providing veterans access to existing preferences authorized
for transportation projects. The American Legion supports this bill and has been fighting for its passage since 2012 as a key piece to increase access to jobs for veterans.

On January 18, Staff submit a statement for the record before the Subcommittee on Health and Economic Opportunity, House Committee on Veterans Affairs on “VA, HUD, and DOL Efforts to reduce Veteran Homelessness.” The causes of homelessness can be grouped into three categories: economic hardships, health issues, and lack of affordable housing. Although these issues affect all homeless individuals, veterans face additional challenges in overcoming these obstacles, including: prolonged separation from additional support systems such as family and close friends; highly stressful training and occupational demands, which can affect personality, self-esteem and the ability to communicate upon discharge; and non-transferability of some military occupational specialties into the civilian world are at greatest risk of becoming homeless, but that veterans from more recent wars and conflicts are also affected. Veterans return from deployments in Afghanistan and Iraq often face invisible wounds of war, including traumatic brain injury and post-traumatic stress disorder, both of which correlate with homelessness.

The HUD-VASH program combines Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) rental assistance for veterans experience homelessness provided by HUD with case management and clinical services provided by VA. At the local level, the HUD-VASH program operates as a collaborative effort between VA Medical Centers (VAMCs) and local Public Housing Agencies (PHAs). The VAMC identifies veterans who are eligible for the program and refers them to the PHA to receive a HUD-VASH voucher. The PHA provides the rental subsidy, and the VAMC provides case management and clinical services.

On February 7, Staff testified before the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs on “Pending and Draft Legislation” S. 624 To allow servicemembers to terminate their cable, satellite television, and Internet access service contracts while deployed:

S. 1072: Homeless Veterans Prevention Act of 2017: The American Legion maintains a sustained focus on the prevention of veteran homelessness (“get them before they get on the street”). We offer support to at-risk and/or homeless veterans and their families in the forms of informal advice and counseling, assistance with obtaining VA healthcare and benefits, temporary financial assistance (TFA), aid from the Child Welfare Foundation (CWF), and assistance with employment through our Career Fairs and Veteran-Owned and Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business Development Workshops (educational forums). This kind of assistance is available from the Post Level up to The American Legion’s national organization.

S. 2097: State Veterans Home Program Improvement Act of 2017: To amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the administration of State homes furnishing care to veterans under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 2294 Securing Electronic Records for Veterans’ Ease Act of 2017: To amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure that individuals may access documentation verifying the monthly housing stipend paid to the individual under the Post-9/11 Educational Assistance Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs

S. 2304: Protecting Veterans from Predatory Lending Act of 2018: To amend title 38, United States Code, to protect veterans from predator lending and for other purposes

On February 10, the staff wrote a letter of support to Representative Michael Coffman (CO) for H.R. 4099, an amendment of Title 38, United States Code, to ensure that children of homeless veterans are included in the calculation of the amounts of certain per diem grants. On January 24, the staff wrote a letter of support to Senator Richard Burr (NC) for S. 1072, “The Homeless Veterans Prevention Act”, which would allow the VA to enter into partnerships with other entities to expand the legal services available for veterans experiencing homelessness.
On January 24, the staff wrote a letter of support to Representative Gus Bilirakis (FL) for “The Servicemembers Improved Transition through Reforms for Ensuring Progress (SIT-REP) Act”, which would modify the newly enacted P.L. 115-48, the Harry W. Colmery GI Bill Act. If enacted, this bill would allow more veterans and servicemembers to take advantage of their newly-earned education benefit.

On March 7, staff testified before the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs on “Pending Legislation” Draft Bill: To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out the Medical Surgical Prime Vendor program using multiple prime vendors.

On March 14, the staff wrote a letter of support to Representative Steve Knight (CA) for H.R. 5177, “Encouraging Veteran Employment Act of 2018” an amendment of Title 10, United States Code, to Authorize the Secretary of Defense in awarding a contract for the procurement of goods or services, to give a preference to offerors that employ veterans.

On March 15, staff testified before the Subcommittees on Economic Opportunity and Disability and Memorial Affairs, House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs on “The Fiscal Year 2019 Budget Submission of the Department of Veterans Affairs” Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment: The Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) Program provides comprehensive services and assistance enabling veterans with service-connected disabilities and employment handicaps to achieve maximum independence in daily living, become employable, and maintain suitable employment. After a veteran is found to be entitled to VR&E, a vocational rehabilitation counselor helps the veteran identify a suitable employment goal and determines the appropriate services necessary to achieve their goal.

Enhance and Expand Access to Post-9/11 G.I. Bill Education Benefits: The president’s proposed budget states, “the Budget complements and supports continued implementation of the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017 (the “Forever GI Bill’) which represents one of the most sweeping changes to the Post-9/11 GI Bill since its inception, expanding access to veterans and eligible dependents. In addition to the benefit payments, requested funding would also fund IT investments to effectively implement all provisions of the new law.” The American Legion is pleased that the Trump Administration shared the same concern of the possibility that $30 million would not be sufficient to fully and effectively implement the Colmery G.I. Bill and requests additional funding for IT at VBA.

On March 15, staff testified before the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs on “Department of Veterans Affairs Fiscal Year 2019 Budget Submission for Medical Programs and Construction” Veteran Homelessness: In context of eradicating homelessness within the veteran community, the president proposed budget states, “The Budget supports VA’s commitment to ending veteran homeless by sustaining funding levels and providing opportunities to improve the targeting of intervention for veterans impacted by homelessness. Specifically, the Budget requests $1.8 billion for veteran homelessness programs including Supportive Services for Veteran Families and VA’s component of the Department of Housing and Urban Development-VA Supportive Housing Program. These programs provide critical wrap-around care to help address and prevent veteran homelessness.”

On March 20, staff testified before the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity, House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs “Pending and Draft Legislation.” The testimony was in regards to eight bills focusing on education, home loans, homelessness, small business and TAP. Notably, the oral testimony affirmed The American Legion’s position on creating a 4th administration within the VA focused exclusively on economic opportunity.

CONCLUSION
The National Veterans Employment & Education Commission is fully aware that it would
be impossible to carry out its mandates without the active involvement of Posts, Districts, Counties, Departments and individual Legionnaires. We deeply appreciate their continued support and involvement. Chairman Fisher would also like to thank the National Commander, the National Adjutant, the National Executive Committee, and the staff of both the Washington and Indianapolis offices for the outstanding support and cooperation they have provided during the past year.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, a motion to receive and file the report of the Veterans Employment & Education Commission with the exception of five resolutions. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded to receive and file the report of the Veterans Employment & Education Commission with the exception of five resolutions. Are there any questions? All those in favor of accepting the report, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried.

Resolution No. 11: Support Veteran and Reserve Servicemember Financial Protections
Origin: Veterans Employment & Education Commission
Submitted By: Veterans Employment & Education Commission

WHEREAS, The Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection issued its final rule relating to “Payday, Vehicle Title, and Certain High-Cost Installment Loans” [Docket No. CFPB-2016-0025] on November 17, 2017, which protects reservist servicemembers and veterans from predatory lending by requiring lenders to establish a borrower’s ability to repay before making a loan; and

WHEREAS, Congress enacted the Military Lending Act of 2006 to prevent lenders from taking advantage of military families by capping the effective interest rate at 36 percent, however, only three credit products were covered: closed-end payday loans for $2,000 or less and with terms of no more than 91 days; closed-end auto title loans with terms of no more than 181 days; and closed-end tax advance loans against a refund; and

WHEREAS, Payday loans can carry annual percentage rates (APRs) ranging from 391 percent to 521 percent, while car title loans average 300 percent APR; and

WHEREAS, Our nation’s reservist servicemembers and veterans are not protected by the Military Lending Act and do not have comparable safeguards, or have comparable protections to that act; and

WHEREAS, Recent studies reveal that veterans continue to be targeted by payday lenders at twice the rate that they target civilians, where in Texas 82 percent of the zip codes that have a veteran’s facility also have at least one payday or auto title storefront and nearly half have five or more payday loan storefronts, with startlingly high rates of 1 in 5 veterans reporting payday loan use; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 9-10, 2018, That The American Legion support the function and implementation of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's rule on “Payday, Vehicle Title, and Certain High-Cost Installment Loans”; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion support sound financial protections for veterans and reserve servicemembers against unscrupulous and predatory lenders.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER PISA: Resolution No. 11 has the approval of the Veterans Employment & Education Commission and your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I would move for its approval. ...Second.
NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It has been moved and seconded that Resolution No. 11 be approved, and the resolution is titled "Support Veteran and Reserve Servicemember Financial Protections." Are there questions? All those in favor of Resolution 11, please signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried.

Resolution No. 12: Accountability and Enhancements of Transition Assistance Program; Outcomes and Delivery for Today’s Digital Transitioning Servicemembers

Origin: Veterans Employment & Education Commission

Submitted By: Veterans Employment & Education Commission

WHEREAS, Public Law 101-510, codified in sections 1141-1150 of Title 10, United States Code, authorized comprehensive transition assistance benefits and services for separating servicemembers and their spouses and required that Transition Assistance Program (TAP) employment workshops be established and maintained; and

WHEREAS, TAP employment workshops are mandatory for all servicemembers prior to separating from active-duty; and

WHEREAS, The new and improved TAP curriculum includes additional career-specific capstone courses in (1) an Education track; (2) a Technical and Skills Training track; and (3) an Entrepreneurship track; and

WHEREAS, The Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, U.S. House of Representatives, 115th Congress Oversight Plan on the Effectiveness of the Transition Assistance Program continues to be concerned about the effectiveness of the TAP program and continues to conduct oversight hearings involving Government Accountability Office (GAO), Department of Defense (DoD), Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Labor to evaluate outcomes and future enhancements; and

WHEREAS, The GAO review of the most recent iteration of TAP, at the request of the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, U.S. House of Representatives, resulted in six recommendations, including that DoD improve transparency in reporting TAP participation and career readiness rates and monitor certain key areas of TAP implementation; and

WHEREAS, DoD and its services have identified “for life” programs that provide sustaining support for former military and their families; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion, whose goal is to ensure that America's veterans have the opportunity to provide, with honor and dignity, the economic necessities of life for themselves and their families, has established the Employment Innovation Task Force to look specifically at employment issues and identify, recommend, and help pilot innovative employment solutions for transitioning servicemembers and veterans; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, by the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting, assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 9-10, 2018, That The American Legion urges Congress to mandate federal agencies to conduct a survey and assessment of the efficacy and efficiency of delivering “for life” support to veterans and transitioning servicemembers in the digital era; innovations responsive to the digital age warrior and digital era employer in the Transition Assistance Program (TAP); and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion urges Congress to establish services in support of veterans; identifying the best practices of the best veteran-friendly employers; using labor market and labor economic data to guide career goal setting for transitioning servicemembers; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion urges Congress to introduce the use of digital tools and skill drills to support just-in-time delivery of information, assistance,
support, training, and skill development underlying the “for life” concept as well as TAP; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion urges Congress to ensure all outcomes to further the goal of providing a seamless transition from military service to private sector employment; and creating feedback loops for continuous improvement of TAP and credentialing programs along with continuous innovation in the method and means by which transition and “for life” support are provided to veterans and their families.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER PISA: Resolution No. 12 has the approval of your Veterans Employment & Education Commission and your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its approval. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and second that we approve Resolution No. 12, "Accountability and Enhancements of Transition Assistance Program; Outcomes and Delivery for Today's Digital Transitioning Servicemembers." Are there any questions on Resolution No. 12? All those in favor of approving Resolution 12, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried.

Resolution No. 13: Designation Of The Week Of June 18 through June 24, 2018, as “National GI Bill Commemoration Week”

Origin: Veterans Employment & Education Commission
Submitted By: Veterans Employment & Education Commission

WHEREAS, On June 22, 1944, in demonstration of America's full support of servicemembers' transition, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed into law the Serviceman’s Readjustment Act of 1944, more commonly known as the "GI Bill"; and

WHEREAS, The GI Bill made available to 16 million veterans of World War II immediate financial support and transformational education and home loan programs; and

WHEREAS, The GI Bill contributed to 450,000 engineers, 240,000 accountants, 238,000 teachers, 91,000 scientists, 67,000 doctors, 122,000 dentists, 17,000 writers and editors, and thousands of other professionals to the American workforce; and

WHEREAS, This combination of opportunities changed the social and economic fabric of America, with a 1988 report from the Congressional Subcommittee on Education and Health of the Joint Economic Committee concluding that for every one dollar the United States invested in the 1944 GI Bill, $6.90 was returned in growth to its economy; and

WHEREAS, The original GI Bill expressed the duty, responsibility, and desire of a grateful nation to see to it that those who served actively in the armed services are afforded every opportunity to become disciplined forces for American prosperity and progress, through economic opportunity and investment; and

WHEREAS, Congress enacted subsequent versions of the GI Bill since 1944 - including the Korean Conflict GI Bill in 1952, Vietnam Era GI Bill in 1966, Montgomery GI Bill in 1985, Post-9/11 GI Bill and the “Forever GI Bill” Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017 - to provide educational benefits to new generations of America’s veterans; and

WHEREAS, The week of June 18 through June 24, 2018, is an appropriate week to designate as National GI Bill Celebration Week; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 9-10, 2018, That The American Legion supports the designation of June 18 through June 24, 2018, as ‘National GI Bill Commemoration Week’ to honor the achievements of the Serviceman’s Readjustment Act of 1944 in democratizing higher education,
establishing greater citizenship through economic empowerment, and empowering a
generation that would serve for decades to guide America's transformation into a
global force for good; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That we affirm Congress' responsibility to be faithful stewards of
today's GI Bill to ensure that it endures as an honorable investment of public dollars.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER PISA: Resolution No. 13 has the
approval of the Veterans Employment & Education Commission and your Subcommittee
on Resolutions, and I move for its approval. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded to approve
Resolution No. 13, "Designation Of The Week Of June 18 through June 24, 2018, as
'National GI Bill Commemoration Week.'' Are there any questions? All those in favor of
Resolution 13, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried.

Resolution No. 14: Oppose the Cessation of the Department of Defense Hiring Heroes
Program
Origin: Veterans Employment & Education Commission
Submitted By: Veterans Employment & Education Commission

WHEREAS, The Department of Defense (DoD) Hiring Heroes Program provides
continuing outreach, recruitment assistance products and services to wounded, ill, injured
and transitioning servicemembers, veterans, spouses and primary caregivers through
organizing and conducting specialized career fairs to increase awareness of job
opportunities; and

WHEREAS, On November 9, 2009, President Obama signed the “Employment of
Veterans in the Federal Government,” Executive Order 13518 making hiring veterans a
top priority in all federal agencies; and

WHEREAS, The career fairs bring DoD Agencies, other federal agencies and private
sector corporations together to market and offer career opportunities; and

WHEREAS, DoD's Hiring Heroes Program provides veterans with multiple avenues
to ask questions and discuss employment with a career advisor; and

WHEREAS, The DoD Hiring Heroes Program manages nationally-recognized Hiring
Heroes career networking events specifically designed to help severely injured
servicemembers transition to federal and private sector careers; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The National Executive Committee of The American Legion in
regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 9-10, 2018, That The
American Legion support legislation on the continuation of Department of Defense
(DoD) Hiring Heroes Career Fairs, through which DoD Hiring Heroes organizes and
conducts career fairs throughout the U.S. and provides career guidance, resume
writing workshops, and interviewing skills training; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion support legislation that will allow DoD
Hiring Heroes staff members to provide briefings about DoD career opportunities to
separating active duty servicemembers and their families during Transition
Assistance Program classes at various military installations.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER PISA: Resolution No. 14 has the
approval of the Veterans Employment & Education Commission and your Subcommittee
on Resolutions, and I move for its approval. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded to approval
Resolution 14, "Oppose the Cessation of the Department of Defense Hiring Heroes
Program." Are there any questions on Resolution 14? All those in favor, please signify by
saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried.
Resolution No. 15: Support for Creation of Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Economic Opportunity Administration

Origin: Veterans Employment & Education Commission
Submitted By: Veterans Employment & Education Commission

WHEREAS, Title 38, U.S.C. established three separate administrations with-in the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA): the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) to manage healthcare related facilities and programs; the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) to manage all benefits programs; and the National Cemetery Administration (NCA) to manage over 131 national cemeteries and other burial-related facilities and programs; and

WHEREAS, VBA overseas disability compensation, education services, home loans, and the vocational rehabilitation and employment program, the disability compensation budget dwarfs the other programs as is the largest financial outlay in the entire VA; and

WHEREAS, The number of full-time equivalent employees (FTEE) requested for disability compensation and pension has ballooned by 8,160, or 91 percent since FY 2005, while over this same time period, the FTEE for other programs at VBA has not grown at the same rate, even as casework for education and vocational rehabilitation has increased by 93 percent, indicating the prioritization of compensation services; and

WHEREAS, The focus on disability compensation and pension results in a lack of attention given to the lengthy waits for benefits from the education, vocational rehabilitation, and loan guaranty programs; therefore undermining the potential for veterans to improve their lives through programs that increase economic opportunities, and

WHEREAS, VBA's continued neglect will put these VA programs with documented histories of successful outcomes at risk; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 9-10, 2018, That The American Legion support the founding of a fourth Department of Veterans Affairs administration, the Veterans Economic Opportunity Administration, overseeing, but not limited to, the Offices of Education Service, Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Service, Loan Guaranty Service, Transition Assistance, and Reformed Office of Employment and Economic Impact; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion urge Congress to support the creation of a new Assistant Secretary position that will highlight within the fourth administration these critical issues all while having someone to hold accountable.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER PISA: Resolution No. 15 has the approval of the Veterans Employment & Education Commission and your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its approval. ...Second

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded that Resolution 15, "Support for Creation of Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Economic Opportunity Administration" be approved. Are there any questions? Hearing none, all those in favor of Resolution 15, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I now call on the chairman of the TBI/PTSD Committee, Past National Commander Bill Detweiler from Louisiana.

Oral Report: TBI/PTSD Committee
Past National Commander William M. Detweiler, Louisiana, Chairman

Somebody told me the other day, I know there's an effort to drain the swamp in
Washington, D.C., but if you drain the swamp in Louisiana, we'd just disappear.

(Laughter)

The committee on TBI/PTSD met on Sunday morning here in the building beginning at nine and to go over a number of things. And since we have a lot of new NECs over the years, we just read the mission of what the post-traumatic stress and TBI committee is charged with.

The American Legion's TBI/PTSD mission is to understand, evaluate, expand awareness and advance research into effective therapies of post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, and the effects of military sexual trauma. It is this mission that spans across prevention, screening, diagnosis, treatment and family support for military veterans and their families who confront PTSD, TBI, and MST, again, which is military sexual crime. That's the mission. We've been in business about five or six years. And the meeting on Sunday morning everyone was present except Dr. Poropatich who is one of our consultants who was unable to attend.

The meeting opened with a discussion with Jeff Stoffer. We're in the process of trying to update the old publication that we put out some years ago, "The War Within." That publication, as you remember, was a compilation of articles that had been appeared in The American Legion magazines and it was the stories of various veterans who had been interviewed by editors and writers for the magazine over a period of months. So now we are approaching this from a little different approach.

First of all, we're changing the name of the magazine. Looking at "The Road Home." It's more positive. Gives us an opportunity to talk about all of the new developments and changes, new therapies and so forth which are coming online. So we had a very lengthy discussion along those lines. We also discussed a meeting that we're planning in Minneapolis of the committee to meet at the Brain Science Center at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center. Commander Ludwig, as some of you may know or remember, when he was the commander of the Department of Minnesota, he raised about a million dollars to endow an American Legion chair in brain sciences at the VA and it's that particular facility plus the physicians that head up that facility that we will be meeting with.

To me, the purpose of the meeting at the brain center would be to hear the leading scientists on emerging technology and treatments for post-traumatic stress and pain management, hear from VA experts on the current initiatives and programs on suicide prevention and the treatments of PTSD and TBI, as well as the efforts of the VA to curb the use of opioids to treat these injuries, and to assist the editor and the magazine staff in making available veterans who await their past and current treatments for these are used to determine if the current treatments are effective and determine if there have been any changes in these men and women. And also, to determine if the administration, Congress, the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs are integrating complementary and alternative medical treatments and therapies for veterans and servicemembers suffering from these injuries. If so, how these treatments and therapies are being used as well as their availability throughout these agencies.

We found over the years that the VA out of Washington will prescribe a certain method of treatment and the doctors in the field who are on the ground and foot soldiers, they decide then how they want to treat the individuals. And it's not, you know, there's no cookie cutter thing here. One treatment doesn't fit all. So it's a one-on-one basis and we'll be looking at that to see how that is expanded across the system. The committee and the staff is working with the magazine and the editors, as I said, to update that publication.

Recent advancements in medical science at the request of the VA and our director, the TBI and PTSD coordinator has prepared a white paper on veteran suicide. The objectives of the paper are to examine veteran suicide, the causes and recommended steps to address
the crisis. The paper is still in draft form. As soon as the paper has been fully reviewed by the committee and staff, a copy will be made available.

A general discussion followed on the past actions of the committee and what priorities the committee should consider in the future. There was no further business to come before the committee and the meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m. That's our report, commander. Thank you.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, I make a motion to receive and file the report of the TBI/PTSD Committee. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded to receive and file the report of the TBI/PTSD Committee. Are there any questions? All those in favor of receiving the report, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried. I now call on Chairman Robert Newman from Indiana for the Internal Affairs Commission report.

**Oral Report: Internal Affairs Commission**

*Robert E. Newman, Indiana, Chairman*

Madam Commander, thank you for the opportunity to serve as your chairman. Members of the National Executive Committee, fellow Legionnaires and ladies and gentlemen. You have my report on our actions and deliberations before you.

I draw your attention to the great work the Sons of The American Legion have accomplished, and I commend every department for supporting this great program. In 2016, the Internal Affairs Commission asked the SAL leadership to develop a strategic plan to take them into the Legion's second 100 years. Their final report was approved by the SAL NEC at their recent meeting and it was forwarded to our commission for approval.

Members of our commission met with the committee chairman and his members as well as the SAL leadership and discussed the plan in detail before it was reviewed and voted on by the commission. The plan was approved and we extend our thanks and congratulations to all involved. In delivering a very detailed and comprehensive path to the future, like all plans, we will continue to monitor as the SAL establishes operational plans, tactics, and objectives to achieve their strategic goals.

You all know what the American Legion Riders do for developing awareness within their home communities and for the Legacy Scholarship at the national level. I commend their efforts, documented in their recent report presented for your review. We are looking forward to the 13th year of the Ride, as two rides are conducted this year, centennial ride from North Dakota to Kansas on the upper half of the Legion Highway, U.S. 281, and the annual Legacy Run from Hutchinson, Kansas, to Minneapolis for the convention. Our Riders deserve our appreciation for what the 2,000 national chapters have accomplished back in their communities. We thank the departments and their many volunteers involved with this Legacy Run for their cooperation and support.

Now the one thing we keep hearing in the hallways in the meetings is the word "training." As presented to the Internal Affairs Commission I am definitely impressed by what the staff has developed. A white paper has been placed on your desk for your review to take back to your departments for discussion and action. They accurately assess the training currently being provided in the Legion and compared our system to models being used by or military. More importantly, we have painted a long-term vision on where we should drive training if we are interested in leader development, engaging our members, improving retention, and growing the impact of the organization within our communities. Major emphasis is placed on train-the-trainer to deliver our messages to levels where we most desperately need it. Not only will this assist our domestic departments, but it will also be available to remote locations such as those found in our foreign departments. This
training will be valuable to both The American Legion and the SAL. We need to engage, educate, and empower our members. This training can accomplish that, but only if we commit to implement it and the plan at all levels.

My next topic is the National Emergency Fund. This spring storms are just starting and we are positioned to provide our members and their families with immediate assistance. Thank you again for your support of this very critical program.

Lastly, we have two easels up front, and in a few minutes the national commander will remove the draping from the two prints you are about to see. First, I will read a letter from Matt Hall, the artist commissioned to do the paintings, one for the global war on terror and the other for The American Legion Centennial.

"May 2, 2018, Distinguished Representatives of the American Legion, although I am unable to attend your gathering this May, I want to say a few remarks to the representatives of this fine organization and express my great appreciation for the opportunity to create two new symbolic works of art.

"When Holly Soria first mentioned the idea of commissioning the projects, I was thrilled, not only because I have worked with the magazine over the past decade, but also because The American Legion and its four pillars have a personal meaning for me. I have seen firsthand the members of Post 290 in Dripping Springs, Texas, actively involved in my community over the years. My sons have played ball on American Legion baseball fields, joined our locally sponsored air rifle team and talked to many veterans who host memorial services and programs designated to educate, support and encourage the citizens of our little town. The four pillars are well represented here I can assure you. So it is a great honor for me to be asked to create these two paintings.

"The first painting was commissioned to represent symbolically the war on terror. It shows a female American soldier leading a child toward the viewer and away from the battle zone. Helicopters in the background depict our national forces who have defended us and serves as guardians for our nation and freedom around the globe. The challenge with this is that we are still engaged in this conflict, so the color pallet is meant to be hopeful in mood.

"The second painting is The American Legion Centennial piece. It is a very simple but formal design. It depicts a soldier from World War I and a soldier from 2018 standing guard yesterday, today, and into the future. The sunrise and the official emblem represent the timeless traditions and principles that will continue into our future.

So it is with highest regards that I present these paintings to the official headquarters of The American Legion. Sincerely Yours, Matt Hall."

Commander, at this point will you step down here. We also ask permission for Past National Commander Rehbein to come down and help with the unveiling.

...National Vice Commander Flannigan assumed the chair.
...The unveiling of the artwork. (Applause)
...National Commander Rohan resumed the chair.

CHAIRMAN NEWMAN: Commander, I submit my report and our resolutions for action to the National Executive Committee. My deepest respect and appreciation for the support and encouragement we enjoy from this body. Thank you. (Applause)
Conference Room, National Headquarters, Indianapolis, Indiana. The following areas were discussed:

**NATIONAL EMERGENCY FUND (NEF)**

Since its creation in 1989, the National Emergency Fund (NEF) has awarded just over $9.3M to American Legion and Sons of The American Legion members and posts. Up to $3,000 is available to members, and up to $10,000 is available for posts that, as a result of natural disaster, temporarily lose the ability to maintain existing Four Pillar programs within the community.

In 2017 we approved 348 grants (331 individual grants and 17 post grants) totaling $367,375. The majority of the grants were distributed in the last quarter of 2017 for Hurricanes Harvey (Texas), Irma (Florida), and Maria (Puerto Rico and the U. S. Virgin Islands).

2017 Individual Grants (331) $264,875.00 (Average individual grant $800.23)
2017 Post Grants (20) $128,900.00 (Average post grant $6,445.00)

So far in 2018, the NEF has provided grants to 46 members and 12 posts within the departments of California, Connecticut, Florida, Kentucky, Puerto Rico, and Texas for a total of $144,270.00 (compared to $23,300 on this date in 2017). 2018 NEF donations (Jan 1 to April 30) total $98,032.61.

IA Staff is revising and editing the NEF application form so that members (and posts) will submit more detailed information about short-term emergency-related expenses (not insurable losses). Members and posts will have separate applications. Our intent is to make the forms more understandable and easier to complete, and capture more information necessary for the department NEF managers to render grant recommendations.

The Department of Texas has nominated three (3) American Legion posts for National Emergency Fund Post Excellence Awards for service provided to their communities during and after Hurricane Harvey.

**PAID UP FOR LIFE (PUFL)**

The campaign for new PUFL members this year consists of a series of four targeted email drops in April, May, and June with a new member goal for 2018 of 8,000. The April email campaign has mailed and results are still coming in. As of May 1, 2018, we have acquired 2,139 new members.

**WORLD WAR I CENTENNIAL COMMISSION**

The Internal Affairs Commission reviewed the May 3, 2018 report to the National Commander by Jack Monahan (CT) who is the American Legion’s representative to the United States World War One Centennial Commission in Washington, DC. Significant items from his report:

- The Federal Budget Omnibus approved $7 million for the Commission. The Commission, acting through their Executive Committee, is now expanding activities, particularly in education, in accordance with its budget submission and the monies appropriated. Their attention and efforts on the education mission is to draw the attention of educators, students and the general public on the significance that WWI played in our American history.
- In May 2017, The American Legion contributed $50,000 to this effort before the Commission had any budget to conduct their proposed education plan. This was important to us because it helps set the stage for our 100th Anniversary as the “war” and the “Doughboy Spirit” shaped The American Legion and our values.
- World War I Memorial at Pershing Park. The design is approved. Groundbreaking was held on November 9, 2017. The American Legion pledged a donation of $300,000 at this Ceremony for the
construction of the Memorial. Plans for construction to begin this year with dedication for November 11, 2019.

- The 100 Cities/100 Memorials program was created by the WWI Centennial Commission and the Pritzker Military and Library in Chicago in coordination with The American Legion and other service organizations to draw attention to WWI Memorials throughout the country. Matching funds were allocated to organizations who developed a plan to restore memorials. In the first submission ended in September 2017. They had 50 memorials and they received $2,000 each for their restoration plans. The second submission period ended in January 2018 with the other 50 memorials. American Legion posts were a significant percentage of the approved funds.

- The WWI Commission has several WWI overseas events planned this year to commemorate the 100th Anniversary as they build up to the events next year.

GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR AND 100TH ANNIVERSARY PAINTINGS

The American Legion commissioned Matt Hall Studios located in Dripping Springs, TX to produce two paintings for the National Executive Committee room. Both paintings will be unveiled during this meeting by the National Commander. The first is the Global War on Terror and represents that era in our Nation’s history as our military remains engaged around the world. The second painting is in recognition of The American Legion Centennial which depicts a soldier from World War I and a soldier from 2018 standing guard yesterday, today and into the future. The two soldiers are looking into each other’s eyes as if to pass on the legacy and tradition. A letter from the artist, Matt Hall, and copies of each painting, is included in the packet for each member of the National Executive Committee on their desk.

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION (ANNUAL SPRING MEETINGS REPORT)
Submitted by Danny J. Smith (NE), National Commander, Sons of The American Legion

We are on track towards another all-time high in membership. As of May 3, 2018, we have a total reported membership of 341,047. This is 92.21% of our 100% target and 85.3% of our membership goal for 2018 of 400,000 members.

Our members from around the country have been actively supporting the programs and ideals of our parent organization, The American Legion. The Sons of The American Legion will continue to work for the benefit of our veterans who helped make this country great. Our work in assisting veterans in the local VA medical centers and hospitals continues to grow and will remain the top priority of the S.A.L.

The following is a summary of our recent meetings:

- One hundred seventy four National Executive Committeemen, Alternates, Commission and Committee members attended the 2018 Spring National Executive Committee meeting representing forty-six detachments. There were forty one guests in attendance.

- PNC William Sparwasser (MD) made the Sons of The American Legion Strategic Planning Ad Hoc Committee final report which was tasked by the Chairman, Internal Affairs Commission of The American Legion in March 2016. The report was passed by the National Executive Committee and forwarded to the Internal Affairs Commission of The American Legion for action and direction.
• Our Child Welfare Foundation fundraising is now at $172,267.78 as of April 27, 2018 but during the National Executive Committee meeting this past weekend, an additional amount of $82,281.50 was donated to the Foundation. The total, after the donations this weekend, is over $248,839, which is nearly 60% of our goal of $425,340.

• The SAL is also focused on assisting The American Legion through donations to the National Emergency Fund. During the National Executive Committee meeting this past weekend $7,314 was donated to the NEF Fund.

• We also received the following donations: The Endowment Fund $4,600 and Operation Comfort Warriors $750. The donations received this weekend, without the resolutions, totaled $94,654.00.

• Ten resolutions were presented to the National Executive Committee for consideration. Four were recommended for adoption, one was rejected, and five were received and filed.

• The Member Training and Development Committee continued training our members with the National Management Institute (N.M.I.). We have trained 333 Sons of The American Legion in all three phases of this management training. During this session we graduated 19 during this 17th Anniversary session. All graduates receive a Certificate of Graduation. The N.M.I. is a three-course seminar that encompasses Communication Skills and Public Appearances, Time Management and Personal Administration, Building Action Plans for results, Driving for Results, Develop Oneself, Acting with Integrity and Thinking Strategically.

In summary, through the use of our in-house training courses and the mentoring from our current leaders, our members will continue to enhance our dedication to the purposes and programs of The American Legion. We will continue to develop in-depth programs so that the Sons of The American Legion will become even more of an asset to The American Legion Family.

This part of the report consists of the following sections: Standing Committee Reports (Section I); Subcommittee Reports (Section II); and Actions on Assigned Resolutions (Section III).

I. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

III. CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS COMMITTEE

The Constitution and By-Laws Committee met in Indianapolis, Indiana at 8:30 A.M. on May 7, 2018. Present was Hon. Vincent M. Gaughan (IL), Chairman and Past National Judge Advocate Philip B. Onderdonk, Jr. (MD).

The following four resolutions were discussed because of the involvement and development of the resolutions by the National Judge Advocate.

1) Changes to the Uniform Code of Procedure for the Revocation, Cancellation or Suspension of Department Charters of The American Legion

2) Changes to the Uniform Code of Procedure for the Revocation, Cancellation or Suspension of Post Charters of The American Legion

3) Officer and Chairman Certification of Service

4) Rules and Regulations Governing Use of the Name and Emblems of The American Legion

There being no business to come before the Committee, the Committee adjourned.
IV. MEMBERSHIP & POST ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

Randy Goodman (GA), Chairman of the Membership and Post Activities Committee reported on status of membership programs and results of their annual planning session held in January 2018. Chairman Goodman presented the written recommendations from the January Annual Membership Planning Session to the Commission for acceptance, which is attached.

2018 M&PA COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

RESOLUTIONS:
The following resolutions were discussed by the committee and the actions that were taken are as followed:

Resolution No. 36 (Convention 2017): RECOMMEND APPROVAL
“Payment of Membership Dues for Multiple Years”

2018 MEMBERSHIP DISCUSSION:
The following topics were briefed and discussed:
1. Focus on our 4 Pillars and its value, on-boarding, brand awareness, communication and our membership retention and strategy
2. We need to figure out what works, willingness to take chances, encourage stakeholders to participate, use the Centennial year to make it special and expand our media
3. Women & Minority Veterans Outreach
4. Marketing Focus on Elements that Support The Membership Plans
5. Membership Retention Awards
6. 100th Anniversary Observance Committee Updates
7. MyLegion – Find Members/Post to National Dues Payment – online transmittals
8. Resolution No. 36 – Payment of Membership Dues for Multiple Years
9. Membership Retention Award Criteria:
   II. A motion was made to create a Post level Membership Retention Award at three levels starting with the 2019 Membership Year.
   III. 1st Level – 100% Retention – Plaque
   IV. 2nd Level – 95% Retention – Streamer or Guide-On
   V. 3rd Level – 90% Retention – Certificate
   VI. This is for posts that meet the departments minimum number of members to maintain a

THE AMERICAN LEGION STRATEGIC PLAN REVIEW:
No changes were made to The American Legion Strategic Plan for Sustained Membership Growth.

DATES FOR 2018 - 2023:
2018 Membership Workshop – August 7-11, 2018
2019 January Planning Session – January 11-12, 2019
2019 Membership Workshop – August 6-10, 2019
2020 January Planning Session – January 10-11, 2020
2020 Membership Workshop – August 4-8, 2020
2021 January Planning Session – January 8-9, 2021
2022 January Planning Session – January 7-8, 2022
2022 Membership Workshop – July 26-30, 2022
2023 January Planning Session – January 6-7, 2023
2023 Membership Workshop – July 25-29, 2023
The American Legion 100th Anniversary Observance Committee continues to work toward the fulfillment of its five-year strategic plan to commemorate the organization’s centennial in communities, states, the nation and around the world. The 100th National Convention in Minneapolis opens this window of recognition in August. Activities, events, media presentations, a membership campaign and more will roll out from that point in time through Nov. 11, 2019.

The committee and support staff continue to divide their efforts into six categories of work:

- Organizational (coordination with posts and departments, committees and commissions, American Legion Family groups, to include the 100th Anniversary Honorary Committee and various centennial committees and historians)
- Post and Department Activities (development of tools, opportunities, guidance and provision of support for posts and departments planning their centennial activities)
- Media & Communications (development of print, digital, video and graphic materials, as well as media-outreach promotions to draw attention to the centennial, share The American Legion story and promote membership)
- Special Events (national conventions, Legacy Runs, American Legion anniversary dates, exhibits and forums)
- Museum & Library Outreach (management, promotion and display of American Legion historical exhibit materials, prominently the “Greatest Legislation” traveling exhibit honoring the GI Bill and other opportunities)
- Merchandising (development and marketing of saleable products to help celebrate The American Legion’s centennial and to provide affordable promotional materials for local and department use)

Under each category, multiple tactics and operations are undertaken by nearly every division in the organization, from Veterans Employment and Education in support of the GI Bill display at the Student Veterans of America national convention to Emblem Sales and its catalog of 100th anniversary apparel. Departments and posts have multiplied the committee’s efforts by conducting workshops and developing strategic plans to celebrate the centennial at the local and department levels. Local Legionnaires have been vital to the committee’s efforts, including volunteering their time and labor to help staff set up and break down the GI Bill display, and to promote the centennial in their communities.

Importantly, this work is built around driving a message of membership and second-century vision. The committee’s mantra from the beginning has been “Legacy and Vision,” and much of the forthcoming centennial thrust will be built around the “Team 100” message. This campaign is designed to rally local and department Legion membership teams to use the “second-century” message in recruitment efforts. Incentives and acknowledgements in development for a summer roll-out are photo and video membership promotions, media recognition of the first 100 posts of the new century, news releases and a social media blitz that will highlight 100 good reasons to join The American Legion, and to stay a member.

A new public-facing American Legion centennial web platform is also divided into two areas: Legacy and Vision. The Legacy side of the site will be an ever-growing repository of historical materials, film, text, chronology, photos, stories and links to archival materials. The Vision side of the site will also be ever-growing, a web presentation to highlight posts that are innovating for the second century, members who are charting the
direction forward for the organization and key priorities of the 21st Century Ad Hoc Committee.

The 100th Anniversary Observance Committee’s updated five-year plan is available for a deeper exploration of activities and initiatives to date and in planning.

A summary of activities conducted or under way since the committee’s last report to Internal Affairs in October is as follows:

- “The Greatest Legislation: An American Legion Centennial Salute to the GI Bill” traveling exhibit continues its cross-country trek. It completed a six-month stay at the National World War II Museum in New Orleans last December, went on to the Student Veterans of America National Convention in San Antonio, Bob Hope Patriotic Hall in Los Angeles, the Montana Military Museum in Helena, and is now at the Iowa Gold Star Museum at Camp Dodge. New venues are now being negotiated, with plans to bring it to the 100th National Convention in Minneapolis.

- A centennial poster titled “100 Years of Service to Community, State and Nation” is now in market, to be downloaded, printed or ordered from Emblem Sales. These are also in line to become part of the centennial catalog of Fathead wall clings, which will also include the GI Bill story, decade-by-decade chronologies and a very special Four Pillars design.

- National staff members have been traveling to department conferences and workshops to spread the word about the centennial, promote media materials and to assist in the development of local post profiles on the centennial website, which now has 2,890 entries. Ohio, Maine and Alaska have recently taken advantage of this opportunity, and Florida is on the schedule for July.

- The new public-facing centennial website will also be the new home of the Memorials Database, which has generated nearly 2,000 submissions so far, and growing every week. Also on the site will be a catalog of PNC Perspectives videos, historical footage, links to interesting archival materials, photos, text, chronologies and more.

- The committee’s relationship with the US World War One Centennial Commission and Pritzker Military Library and Museum remains strong. The 100 Cities/100 Memorials grant program is completed, and 20 American Legion-affiliated projects received $2,000 grants each for their restorations. The US World War One Centennial Commission is also asking posts named for World War I figures to submit their names and stories in a campaign for the World War I Centennial Memorial in Washington.

- A new American Legion history video is now in the final stages of shooting. This video will be multi-purposed and is developed in chapters so it can replace outdated video in the Basic Training module. It will also be packaged as a set of video shorts that can easily move through social media and be used for specific purposes and presentations at the local level. The video will also be edited into one film for those who would like to follow the entire journey, from The American Legion’s prehistory through such pillars and services as Americanism, Defense, community service, disaster relief and children and youth. The video is on schedule to debut at the National Convention.

- In addition to these efforts and initiatives, the 100th Anniversary Observance Committee is working in support of multiple other activities related to the centennial, including:
A special centennial pre-ride along American Legion Memorial Highway 281 ahead of the Legacy Run

A 100th National Convention in Minneapolis that will be built around the centennial, with a number of fun and interesting features, including re-enactors, a World War I quilt show, an unforgettable opening session, a film festival and much more.

A 15-month *American Legion Magazine* series dedicated to the centennial and a 100th anniversary “bookazine” scheduled for March 2019.

Daily moments in American Legion history for social media and potentially a page-a-day calendar.

Ceremonial observances in France in March for the actual 100th birthday of The American Legion at the actual birthplace of the organization.

As the 101st American Legion National Convention draws near, and in the months that follow, attention will turn from legacy to vision and highlight the direction future veterans plan to take the organization in its second century. In the development of this messaging, we will want to share in our media and promotions the reasons for new post charters, new members and the “why” of The American Legion in an effort to reinvigorate understanding of the organization for future generations.

VI. **AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

The American Legion Riders Advisory Committee met on May 6, 2018 from Noon to 5pm in the Michigan Room, Sheraton Hotel. Chairman Robert B. Sussan (VA), six committee members and one consultant were present.

Internal Affairs Commission Chairman Robert Newman greeted the committee and relayed thanks for the Riders good works and stressed the importance of the Riders to always be Legion First and to strive to integrate into their respective Posts, Squadrons and Units. Briefings on the Legacy Scholarship were delivered by Americanism Commission Chairman Anderson, Americanism Director Druskis and a newly hired Deputy Director, Jeff Hendricks from Americanism. Assistant Director Bruce Drake briefed the Committee on the four OCW grants to be presented on this year’s Legacy Run. Additionally, Director Jeff Stoffer attended the meeting and PNC Spanogle attended and addressed the Committee on the impact of the Riders on the local community and The American Legion in general.

2018 Legacy Run (13th Annual Legacy Run) – A five day ride from Post 68, Hutchinson, KS to the Grand Finale at Post 102, Anoka, MN. All lunch stops and dinner stops are at American Legion Post chartered in 1919 with the exception of one which was chartered in 1921. Five days, five Departments and multiple community events. Numerous historical sites will be visited, graves of charter members of posts visited and honored, and significant community landmarks visited. In Anoka, the National Commander will dedicate the Veterans Memorial near Anoka City Hall. Overnight stops will be Independence, MO, Spencer, IA, Austin, MN and Onalaska, WI. The goal of the annual Legacy Run is to raise awareness and funds for the Legacy Scholarship Fund while providing a safe and incident free ride through communities and Posts throughout the country. The ride is focused on veteran-centric activities and engages the posts and local communities at all stops.

2018 and 2019 there will be a Centennial Ride on The American Legion Highway, US-281. The Highway runs from The International Peace Garden in Dunseth, North Dakota to the Mexican Border. Both years, the ride will start at the border and ride to Great Bend, Kansas the approximate center where there happens to be a large American Legion Post. This ride will be comprised of riders from each of the Departments the Highway traverses and run as a collaborative effort of the departments involved. Any other riders
desiring to participate can do so. The expectation is that as the riders pass through each Department they will be presented a Gubernatorial Proclamation that will be delivered to the National Commander at the start of the Legacy Run. The Committee also agreed to work on the following topics with regular electronic communications:

- Update Rider information on the National website.
- Suggest clarifications to the National Adjutants advisory email to Department Adjutants specifically regarding the specification of Supporters or Volunteers. Once the wording has been agreed upon by the Committee the finished document will be staffed prior to being delivered to the National Adjutant for distribution.
- A discussion on implementation of content marketing.
- A discussion on the need for a continuation of the policy on ROMPS. No National Romp and no National presence or sanctioning of regional or Department ROMPS.
- Discussions were held and will be ongoing on fund raising ideas and events.
- It was agreed that the Committee will commence on a plan with end result being self-funding the Legacy Run.

A significant amount of material was covered and much more needs to be done and we have a clear understanding of the topics we will all be working on and how we will attempt to continue to grow and move the riders forward.

VII. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

A. INTERNAL AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT ON THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION (SAL)

The Sons of The American Legion Subcommittee of Internal Affairs met at 10:54 a.m. on May 7, 2018. Members present were George V. West (NH), Chairman; Larry D. Sheets (FL), member; James F. Army (MA), member; Herbert W. O’Dell (TX), member; William O. Moore Jr (KY), member; Robert Morrill (NY), member; Mike Seaton (CA), Consultant; and Paul Brown (CA), Headquarters Staff.

The Chairman, Mr. George V. West (NH) opened this meeting thanking this committee for all the fine work they do and what the Sons are accomplishing.

National Commander Smith gave further comments to augment the report presented to the full Internal Affairs Commission. He and the other SAL members present were asked their opinions regarding the resolutions coming before the subcommittee from the Sons of The American Legion.

Past National Commander Sparwasser made brief additional comments regarding the Strategic Ad-Hoc Committee report.

Past National Commander Bible briefed the subcommittee on the Commanders Advisory Committee’s selection for leading national commander candidate to follow Clint Bolt.

Ten resolutions came before the subcommittee requiring action from the Internal Affairs Commission and the National Executive Committee of The American Legion. Their disposition is reported on the addendum at the end of this report.

The report of the Strategic Ad-Hoc Committee is below containing the mission statement, vision statement, core values, strategic goals, and outline for the operational plans to be developed by the SAL Committees and Commissions designated in the document, was reviewed by the committee. Each part of the operational plan to be developed will be passed through the SAL NEC prior to being presented to the SAL Subcommittee of the Internal Affairs Commission of The American Legion. Upon approval of the strategic plan by Internal Affairs Commission, Staff Liaison Brown will
encourage and note the status of the progress of the operational plans as they develop and report back to the Internal Affairs Commission if any issues develop.

A report of the SAL Committee on Committees designating the recommended appointees to the SAL Committees and Commissions for the 2018-2019 membership year was presented, received, and filed. The recommendations of the Sons of The American Legion Subcommittee were approved by the Internal Affairs Commission to include the actions taken on resolutions. See Addendum B

**SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION (STRATEGIC PLANNING AD-HOC COMMITTEE)**

**MISSION STATEMENT:** The mission of the Sons of The American Legion National Organization is to provide leadership and service to all members by advancing our vision in support of our Nation’s veterans, their families, and the programs of The American Legion

**VISION STATEMENT:** Improve the viability of the national organization in service to our membership

**CORE VALUES:** Innovation; Transparency; Professionalism; Veteran Support; Positive Branding; Membership Support

**STRATEGIC GOALS**

1. **Foster a culture of transparency in national processes and procedures**

   **Strategic Plan**

   A) Inform leading national commander candidate of appointments to committees/commissions in advance of official announcement at National Convention
   
   B) Inform chairman of committee/commission of changes on their committee/commission in advance of official announcement at National Convention
   
   C) Establish committee/commission role selection process
   
   D) Establish metrics for evaluation/selection of national commander candidates
   
   E) Establish basic qualifications for vice commander candidates
   
   F) Provide detailed budgetary information to committees/commissions
   
   G) Increase National Officers access to reports on mysal.org
   
   H) Develop criteria for appointments on each committee/commission
   
   I) Develop role expectations and requirements for committees/commissions
   
   J) Establish process to remove members from committee/commission
   
   K) Establish process to remove chairman from committee/commission
   
   L) Evaluate the function of each committee/commission and relevance to the national organization
   
   M) Develop National Adjutants operations manual*
   
   N) Improve National Adjutant organizational communication
   
   O) Re-establish SAL commission/committee liaison to TAL counterparts*

2. **Provide effective service to our members**

   **Strategic Plan**

   A) Develop on-line renewal option*
   
   B) Develop on-line join option*
   
   C) Review on-line renewal notification options*
   
   D) Review SAL Paid Up For Life options*
   
   E) Update Squadron Handbook publication*
   
   F) Update Administrative Manual publication*
   
   G) Establish Mid-Winter Leadership Meeting at Washington Conference*
H) Establish a per capita reflecting ongoing support and service needs
I) Update Consolidated Squadron Report
J) Build the responsibility/accountability of National Vice Commander role

3. **Educate, Engage, and Empower our members**

   **Strategic Plan**
   - A) Develop national committee/commission member training
   - B) Update National Vice Commander training content and timing
   - C) Provide National Management Institute concepts to squadron members* 
   - D) Update national training to focus on facilitation and problem solving*
   - E) Update Youth Handbook publication*

4. **Create a strong, positive program brand**

   **Strategic Plan**
   - A) Develop a marketing approach for SAL to attract corporate donations*
   - B) Develop campaign to recruit and retain younger members (12-35)*
   - C) Develop campaign to promote SAL program to American Legion family*
   - D) Develop SAL promotional videos*
   - E) Develop videos to support SAL fundraising efforts*

*Notes strategic plan items with a national headquarters financial support component

Internal Affairs Commission passed three motions pertaining to the SAL Strategic Planning Ad Hoc Committee Report:

- That the Sons of The American Legion Strategic Plan be approved for implementation by the established organization of the Sons of The American Legion with the assistance of the Internal Affairs Staff Liaison to their program as needed with oversight from this Commission.
- That the Sons of The American Legion Strategic Planning Ad Hoc Committee, which was directed by this Commission on March 9, 2016, now be dissolved for completion of their mission.
- That our Commission’s sincere appreciation be given to Chairman Bill Sparwasser (MD) and his committee members for developing the Sons of The American Legion Strategic Plan which was long overdue for this program and it will set them on a path to carry their success into the American Legion’s second 100 years.

**B. TRAINING SUBCOMMITTEE**

The Internal Affairs Division approved a detailed report on the status of the following training initiatives and their development:

- National American Legion College (NALC)
- Department American Legion College (DALC)
- Department Training Cadre
- District Training In A Box
- Post Training In A Box
- American Legion Education Institute (ALEI)
- Training Newsletter
- Short “How-To” Videos

The report outlining the participation needed by departments and districts to make the initiatives successful is included in the packet on the desk of National Executive Committeemen.
The recommendations of the Training Subcommittee were approved by the Internal Affairs Commission.

C. TROPHIES, AWARDS & CEREMONIALS [TAC] SUBCOMMITTEE

The Trophies, Awards & Ceremonials Subcommittee was called to order by Chairman James Bojanowski (NY) on Monday, May 7, 2018, at National Headquarters, to receive the 2016 and 2017 Official and Unofficial Awards and review the Spring 2018 Trophies, Awards and Ceremonials (TAC) Manual and other business of the TAC Subcommittee. The subcommittee was briefed on changes and additions to the TAC manual and considered nominations for the American Legion Canadian Friendship Award, The American Legion International Amity Award, and the NEF Post Excellence Award.

Recommendations

The Trophies, Awards, and Ceremonials Subcommittee recommends that the Internal Affairs Commission approve the incorporation of changes to the Air Force Academy Awards Sponsorship Resolution, and the deletion of the National Commander’s Media & Communications Award from the next edition of the TAC Manual.

The subcommittee further recommends that the Internal Affairs Commission endorse and support the meritorious nominations for the Canadian Friendship Award as having been properly submitted according to the procedures established by the Internal Affairs Commission, that these twenty (20) nominations be approved, and that the names of the awardees be added to the next edition of the Trophies, Awards, and Ceremonials Manual.

The subcommittee further recommends that the IA Commission commend the Department of Texas and its Posts 72, 490, and 658 for actions supporting their members and communities during Hurricane Harvey and recommends Internal Affairs staff preparation of Post Excellence Awards for their devotion to mutual helpfulness and service to the community, state, and nation.

Finally, the Trophies, Awards, and Ceremonials Subcommittee notes the underutilization of certain awards such as the Arch M. Cantrall Trophy, the National Commander’s Blood Donor Award, and the American Legion International Amity Award (which itself has had only one nomination over the last 12 years). The subcommittee finds that promotional efforts may be deficient, and recommends to the Internal Affairs Commission that national staff be directed to study the feasibility of making available a complete and consolidated list of all available awards administered by the national organization, including such forms or instructions as may be necessary, for publication online and to promote in training products or other appropriate media.

OFFICIAL AWARDS APPROVED FOR 2017:

The American Legion Distinguished Service Medal Award: Awarded annually to an individual(s) or organization for their outstanding service to the nation and to the programs of The American Legion by nomination by department action or by the National Commander.

RECIPIENT: Dr. Apostolos P. Georgopoulos

American Legion Baseball Graduate of The Year Award: Presented to the major league baseball player who played American Legion Baseball as a teenager and best exemplifies the principles and purposes of the program in sportsmanship, citizenship, general good conduct, integrity and playing ability.

RECIPIENT: Brian Dozier, Minnesota Twins
Bob Feller American Legion Pitching Award: Awarded annually to that American Legion Baseball player recording the greatest number of strikeouts during the regional tournaments and World Series of American Legion Baseball.
RECIPIENT: Jordan Patty, Post 165, Midland, MI (19 strikeouts)

Commissioner of Baseball Trophy: Awarded annually at the Major League World Series to that baseball team which becomes the National Champion as a result of playing in The American Legion World Series.
RECIPIENT: Henderson Post 40, Henderson, NV

Dr. Irvin L. “Click” Cowger Memorial R.B.I. Award: Awarded annually to The American Legion Baseball player who is credited with the most runs batted in by the official score keepers of the respective regional tournaments and World Series of American Legion Baseball.
RECIPIENT: Zach Luckey, Post 1, Omaha, NE

Ford C. Frick Trophy: Awarded annually to that Department having within its jurisdiction the runner-up team in the National Finals of The American Legion Baseball program.
RECIPIENT: Omaha Post 1, Omaha, NE

The Frank N. Belgrano, Jr. Trophy: Awarded annually to that Department which has rendered the most outstanding service during the year to the program of the Boy Scouts of America.
RECIPIENT: Department of Missouri

George W. Rulon Baseball Player of the Year: A Plaque is presented to recipient by appropriate official upon conclusion of The American Legion Baseball World Series. Citation is presented to recipient at a special Hall of Fame ceremony at Cooperstown, NY, the following summer.
RECIPIENT: Shane Spencer, Post 40, Henderson, NV

The Howard P. Savage, Jr. Trophy: Awarded annually to that Department having the baseball team which becomes the Champion as a result of playing in The American Legion World Series.
RECIPIENT: Henderson, Post 40, Henderson, NV

Jack Williams Memorial Leadership Award: Awarded annually to the manager and coach of the national championship team, as representative of the adult leadership Jack Williams stressed during his lifetime.
RECIPIENT(s): Manager: Scott Baker, Post 40, Henderson, NV
Coaches: Tyler Baker, Essex Burton, Shawn Dickson & Roberto Persona

James F. Daniel, Jr. Memorial Sportsmanship Award: Awarded to The American Legion Baseball player participating in the World Series that represents the principle of good sportsmanship emphasized by the program.
RECIPIENT: Will Hanafan, Post 1, Omaha, NE

American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Trophy: Awarded annually in four categories to the top performing Individual and Team in the Sporter and Precision categories competing in the annual USA Shooting National Junior Olympic Air Rifle Championship.
who are members of clubs and teams affiliated with The American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Program.

**RECIPIENT(s): Precision Team:** Arlington Optimist Acorns CJRC - Gold (Virginia)
Post 177, The American Legion of Virginia  Rebecca Lamb, Amity Emarth, Elena Kim, Niya Burney

**Precision Individual:** Sarah Osborn
Patriot Shooting Club of Virginia (Virginia)

**Sporter Team:** Nation Ford HS MCJROTC (South Carolina)
Post 31, The American Legion of South Carolina
Marcus Stallings, Levi Carlson, Preston Jaeger, Donte Hayes

**Sporter Individual:** Hailey Smith
Zion Benton Team Gold (Illinois)
Post 865, The American Legion of Illinois

**The American Legion Baseball “Sluggers” Trophy:** Plaque is presented to recipient, or designated representative, by appropriate official upon the conclusion of The American Legion Baseball World Series.

**RECIPIENT:** Jordan Patty, Post 165, Midland, MI (.529 batting average)

**Ralph T. O’Neil Education Trophy:** Awarded annually to that Department within the continental limits in the United States showing the greatest Americanism activity in use of The American Legion School Medal Awards.

**RECIPIENT:** Department of Delaware

**The American Legion Baseball “Big Stick” Award:** Awarded annually to that American Legion Baseball player having the highest total number of bases as determined by the official score keepers of the respective regional tournaments and World Series of American Legion Baseball.

**RECIPIENT:** Jack Thomas Wold, Post 40, Henderson, NV (29 total bases)

**Spafford National Trophy:** Awarded annually to that Department of The American Legion having within its jurisdiction the winner of the National High School Oratorical Contest.

**RECIPIENT:** Department of Massachusetts

**Francis M. Redington Sportsmanship Award:** Awarded annually to the athlete competing in The American Legion Junior Air Rifle National Championship who best exemplifies good sportsmanship and fair play.

**RECIPIENT:** Grace Taschuk, Post 334, American Legion Post 334 Junior Rifle Club, Andover, Maryland

**Daniel J. O’Connor Award:** Awarded annually to that Department attaining the greatest number of percentage points compiled from information contained in the Consolidated Post Reports and supporting Department narrative. (Originally named the William Randolph Hearst Trophy)

**RECIPIENT:** Department of Virginia

**The American Legion and Scouting “Square Knot” Award:** This award is designed to recognize American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary or Sons of The American Legion members who are actively involved in the Scouting program. This award is not meant to
be a selective or limited award, but one that is available to any American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary or Sons of The American Legion member who completes the requirements for the award. The Award is meant to recognize dedication and work required by an American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, or Sons of The American Legion member to assist in furthering the Scouting program in The American Legion.


**The American Legion National Education Award:** Awarded annually to an individual, group or organization that has promoted the education programs of The American Legion, including the promotion of “Need A Lift?” correspond to the goals of The American Legion or has promoted or advanced education programs at the national level.

**RECIPIENT:** Mr. David Azerrad, The Heritage Foundation

**The American Legion Canadian Friendship Award:** Awarded by the National Commander with the advice and consent of the National Executive Committee at such times and places as may be consistent and appropriate. It shall be awarded to specific individuals who shall be war veterans within the accepted meaning of the term and members of authentic veterans' organization in Canada. It shall be awarded to such individuals in recognition of outstanding service in the field of veterans' affairs and in the development and perpetuation of the spirit of international good will and comradeship between the United States and Canada and between their veterans' organization and The American Legion.

**RECIPIENT(S):** ANAVICUS – None Awarded.

**INDIVIDUAL - None Awarded**

**Department Award for 100% Post Children & Youth Reporting:** Awarded annually to those Departments which achieve 100% of Posts indicating Children & Youth activity on Consolidated Post Reports.

**RECIPIENT:** Departments of Delaware, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, Oklahoma, Virginia and Wisconsin

**National Employer of Veterans Award Recipient(s):** Awarded to an employer in recognition of outstanding achievement in the employment and retraining of veterans.

**RECIPIENT(s):** Category I Precision Moulding & Woodworks, Inc., New Bern, NC

2016 Winners

**Category II** Lowe’s Home Improvement Center, Inc., Rapid City, SD

**Category III** Sansone Auto Mall, Avenel, NJ

*Note: The 2017 National Employer of Veterans Award Recipient(s) will not be announced until 2018 National Convention.*

**National Employment Service Award Recipient(s):** Awarded in three categories: Local Veterans Employment Representative (LVER) of the Year; Disabled Veterans Outreach Program Specialist (DVOP) of the Year; Employment Service (ES) Office of the Year.

**RECIPIENT(s):**

**LVER of the Year:** Reginald Parker, Houston, TX

2016 Winners
DVOP of the Year: Bradley J. Aune, Fargo, ND
ES Office of the Year: Eau Claire Job Center, Eau Claire, WI

*Note: The 2017 National Employment Service Award Recipient(s) will not be announced until 2018 National Convention.*

Enhance the Lives of Disabled Persons Award Recipient: The program is a joint project between the National Organization & the AETNA Company, to award those Posts that enhance the lives of disable persons by providing opportunities for their participation in community activities.

**RECIPIENT(s):** Lone Survivor Foundation, Houston, TX 2016 Winner

*Note: The 2017 Enhance the Lives of Disabled Persons Award Recipient will not be announced until 2018 National Convention.*

National Employer of Older Worker Award Recipient: The program provides an Employer of Older Worker Award for a company that consistently hires older workers, especially veterans and serves as an inspirational recognition of a company with a record of support and commitment to the hiring of America’s older workers.

**RECIPIENT(s):** Ken’s Super Fair Foods & Shell Express, Aberdeen, SD 2016 Winner

*Note: The 2017 National Employer of Older Worker Award Recipient will not be announced until 2018 National Convention.*

National Department History Contest Awards: Awarded annually at the Fall Meeting of the National Executive Committee to those contestants entered in the National Department History Contest having submitted the One-Year History Narrative or Yearbook of the Department which best meets the standards established for that particular competition.

**RECIPIENT(s):**
- North Carolina (One-Year Narrative History)
- Nebraska (One-Year Yearbook History)

National Post History Contest Awards: Awarded annually to those contestants entered in the National Post History Contest deemed by a duly authorized panel of judges to have submitted the One-Year History of the Post which best meets the standards established for the competitions.

**RECIPIENT(s):**
- Pony Express Post 359, Saint Joseph, MO (One-Year Narrative History)
- Mukwonage Community Post 375, Mukwonago, WI (One-Year Yearbook History)

International Amity Award: Awarded by the National Commander with the advice and consent of the National Executive Committee at such times and places as may be consistent and appropriate. It shall be awarded to specific individuals who shall be war veterans within the accepted meaning of the term and members of an authentic veteran organization established in the territory of any of the nations associated as war-time allies of the United States of America. It shall be awarded to such individuals in recognition of outstanding service in the field of veterans affairs and for service and contributions made in the development of international good will and comradeship between their organization and The American Legion.

**RECIPIENT(s):** None awarded for 2017
Distinguished Public Service Award: Awarded annually by the National Commander with the advice and consent of the Commander’s Advisory Committee at the time of the annual Washington Conference. It may be awarded to one or more person(s) of the United States Congress.

RECIPIENT(s): Honorable John McCain, United States Senate (AZ)

The Arthur D. Houghton Sons of The American Legion Trophy: Awarded annually to that Detachment of Sons of The American Legion in each of five membership categories (I – 200-1,000 members; II - 1,001-3,000 members; III - 3,001-6000 members; IV – 6001-12,000 members; V – 12,001 or more), each of said Detachments attaining the greatest percentage of increase over previous year’s membership when compared with all Detachments in its category.

RECIPIENT(s): Category I Detachment of Nevada
Category II Detachment of North Carolina
Category III Detachment of Missouri
Category IV Detachment of New Jersey
Category V Detachment of Michigan

General Henri Gouraud Trophy: Awarded annually to that Department in each of six categories established by the National Membership and Post Activities Committee, each of said Department having been the first in its respective category to attain or exceed its nationally assigned membership quota (effective 1986).

RECIPIENT(s): Category I None qualified
Category II None qualified
Category III None qualified
Category IV None qualified
Category V None qualified
Category VI Department of Idaho

General John J. Pershing Honor Award: Awarded annually to that Department having the greatest percentage of its posts receiving the Honor Ribbon for having 100 percent or more, of the post’s previous year’s membership enrolled for the coming year by December 31, and having reported such achievement to National Headquarters by not later than January 31.

RECIPIENT: Department of Kentucky

Henry D. Lindsley Trophy: Awarded annually to the Department attaining the highest percentage of membership over its preceding year's membership by March 31.

RECIPIENT: None awarded for 2017

The American Legion National Recruiter of the Year: Awarded annually to the individual certified with the highest number of new members recruited from among all of the departments.

RECIPIENT: Patricia E. Liddell, Department of Georgia

Jerry L. Hedrick Membership Award: Awarded annually to the Department, not included among the several state Departments or the Department of the District of Columbia, attaining the highest percentage of membership as of March 31, over its preceding year’s membership.

RECIPIENT: None awarded for 2017
O. L. Bodenhamer Trophy: Awarded annually to that Department designated to lead the parade at the time of the ensuing National Convention.

RECIPIENT: Department of Montana

The American Legion Air Force Academy Award: Awarded annually to that cadet of the graduating class at the Air Force Academy who demonstrates the highest proficiency in all academic subjects.

RECIPIENT: Cadet Young Wu

The American Legion Coast Guard Academy Award: Awarded annually to that cadet of the graduating class of the United States Coast Guard Academy who is considered to have personally excelled in athletics.

RECIPIENT: Ensign Nikole Bareuther Barnes

The American Legion Merchant Marine Academy Award: Awarded annually to that graduating midshipman of the Merchant Marine Academy, enrolled in the Pre-Commissioning Seminar Course, and selected by the Academy Faculty, as achieving the highest grade pertaining to a 1,000-word composition dealing with the subject of National Security.

RECIPIENT: Midshipman Zachary Charles Dy

The American Legion Military Academy Award: Awarded annually to cadet of the graduating class at the United States Military Academy with the highest standing in Chemistry.

RECIPIENT: Cadet Edmund P. Mullins, III

The American Legion Naval Academy Award: Awarded annually to that graduating midshipman of the United States Naval Academy who stands highest in those English, History and Government courses taken to complete a Foreign Affairs major.

RECIPIENT: Ensign Jacob Wirz

National Commander’s Blood Donor Awards: Presented to departments in different sized categories for participating in The American Legion’s Blood Donor Program.

RECIPIENT(s):

Category I
Post Participation: No Submission
Individual Participation: No Submission

Category II
Post Participation: Department of Minnesota
Individual Participation: Department of Minnesota

Category III
Post Participation: Department of Maryland
Individual Participation: Department of Maryland

Category IV
Post Participation: No Submission
Individual Participation: No Submission

Category V
Post Participation: Department of Montana
Individual Participation: Department of Montana

Category VI
Post Participation: No Submission
Individual Participation: No Submission
The American Legion National Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award: To recognize an outstanding law enforcement officer as selected from Department law enforcement officer winners for distinguished on-and off-duty service. The accomplishments for which the award is presented shall have been in accordance with, or in furtherance of, established American Legion policies or programs and it shall have contributed to the preservation of law and order as well as the American way of life.
RECIPIENT: Sgt. Joe Rowley, Michigan State Police Tri-City Post, Gladwin, MI

The American Legion National Firefighter of the Year Award: To recognize an outstanding firefighter as selected from Department for distinguished on-and off-duty service. The accomplishments for which the award is presented shall have been in accordance with, or in furtherance of, established American Legion policies or programs and it shall have contributed to the preservation of law and order as well as the American way of life.
RECIPIENT: Asst. Fire Chief Darren O. Ware, Prince George’s Fire/EMS Department, Waldorf, MD

Paul H. Griffith ROTC Trophy: Awarded annually to that Department giving the highest degree of support to the ROTC program within its jurisdiction, based on criteria drawn up by the National Security Commission.
RECIPIENT(s): Departments of Alaska, Connecticut, Colorado, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Montana and North Dakota

The American Legion Fourth Estate Award: Awarded to press, radio, TV, or other communications media; to associations of same, to owners, executive heads or staff members; such award to be in recognition of outstanding service to community, state, or nation, which service shall have been in accordance with or the furtherance of established American Legion policies and programs.

The American Legion National Commander’s Media and Communications Award: Awarded to an outstanding individual and/or organization for distinguished public service in the field of communications.
RECIPIENT: Mike Rowe, New York, NY

The American Legion Patriot Award: Awarded to an outstanding citizen who has demonstrated a profound and exceptional commitment to military personnel and their families.
RECIPIENT(s): Honorable Robert Gates

The American Legion Spirit of Service Award: Awarded annually by the Department of Defense and the six military departments that have identified the most outstanding men and women that have received press coverage in Armed Service News dispatches, the Pentagon Channel, their military base newspapers and their hometown publications.
RECIPIENT(s): Army: Virginia Constable Navy: Robin Stephens Marine Corps: Justin Ahasteen Air Force: Kalyynn Mitchell Coast Guard: Jordan Suchon
Air National Guard: Allanesha Smith

Arch M. Cantrall Trophy: Awarded annually to that American Legion Band winning first prize in competition with all other American Legion bands during the annual National Convention of The American Legion.
RECIPIENT: N/A

Glen R. Hillis Trophy: Awarded annually to that Color Guard winning first prize in competition with all other Color Guards during the annual National Convention of The American Legion.
RECIPIENT: Newport Beach Harbor, Post 291, Newport Beach, CA

The Lemuel Bolles Trophy: Awarded annually to that band winning first prize in competition with all other bands during the annual National Convention.
RECIPIENT: N/A

William F. Lenker National Service Trophy: Awarded annually to that State Department of The American Legion excelling in welfare work for war veterans, providing the membership of that Department shall be no less than 80% of the membership of the preceding year.
RECIPIENT: Department of Montana

2018 OFFICIAL MEMBERSHIP AWARDS
General Henri Gouraud Trophy: Awarded annually to that department in each of six categories established by the National Membership and Post Activities Committee, each of said departments having been the first in its respective category to attain or exceed its nationally assigned membership quota (effective 1986).
RECIPIENT(s):
Category I  Not yet determined
Category II  Not yet determined
Category III Not yet determined
Category IV  Not yet determined
Category V  Department of West Virginia
Category VI  Department of France

General John J. Pershing Honor Award: Awarded annually to that department having the greatest percentage of its posts receiving the honor ribbon for having 100 percent or more, of the post’s previous year’s membership enrolled for the coming year by December 31, and having reported such achievement to National Headquarters by not later than January 31.
RECIPIENT: Department of District of Columbia

The Henry D. Lindsley Trophy: Awarded annually to the department attaining the highest percentage of membership over its preceding year's membership by March 31.
RECIPIENT: None qualified for 2018

The Jerry L. Hedrick Membership Award: Awarded annually to the department, not included among the several state departments or the department of the District of
Columbia, attaining the highest percentage of membership as of March 31, over its preceding year’s membership.

**RECIPIENT:** None qualified for 2018

**The O. L. Bodenhamer Trophy:** Awarded annually to that department designated to lead the parade at the time of the ensuing national convention.

**RECIPIENT:** Not yet determined

**2018 UNOFFICIAL MEMBERSHIP AWARDS**

 Contained within this extensive program are a wide variety of prizes ranging from simple certificates and ribbons to valuable gifts and travel. The awards are designed to reward the membership success of dedicated Legionnaires at all levels of the organization and to encourage continued growth. By getting active in membership recruiting, and by asking a veteran to join our ranks, one or more of the many prizes and awards listed below can be earned. The department membership chairman can be contacted for more information.


**FALL MEETINGS - OCTOBER 12, 2017:** Fifty Departments qualified for the 55% target date they are: Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, France, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mexico, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming.

**VETERANS DAY – NOVEMBER 15, 2017:** Fifty Departments qualified for the 65% target date they are: Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, France, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mexico, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming.

**PEARL HARBOR DAY – DECEMBER 13, 2017:** Thirty-six Departments qualified for the 75% target date they are: Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, France, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mexico, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South
Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming.

**MID WINTER – JANUARY 18, 2018:** Fifty Departments qualified for the 80% target date they are: Alabama, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, France, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mexico, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming.

**PRESIDENT’S DAY – FEBRUARY 14, 2018:** Forty-eight Departments qualified for the 85% target date they are: Alabama, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, France, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mexico, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming.

**LEGION BIRTHDAY – MARCH 14, 2018:** Twenty-nine Departments qualified for the 90% target date they are: Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, France, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Idaho, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mexico, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Jersey, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin.

**“BIG TWELVE” COMPETITION WINNERS:**
- Category I: Florida, Pennsylvania
- Category II: Minnesota, Illinois
- Category III: Wisconsin, New Jersey
- Category IV: Massachusetts
- Category V: South Dakota, South Carolina
- Category VI: France, Delaware

**CHILDREN & YOUTH – APRIL 11, 2018:** Nine departments qualified for the 95% target date: France, Idaho, Mexico, Minnesota, Mexico, New Jersey, South Carolina, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.

**ARMED FORCES DAY – MAY 9, 2018:** Not yet determined.
By achieving 100% of the department's 2018 membership goal, the department will receive a plaque recognizing this achievement. The plaque will be presented at the National Convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

**DELEGATE STRENGTH – JULY 30, 2018:** Delegate strength is determined by the membership in the hands of the National Treasurer 30 days prior to the National Convention. Total number of delegates for each department is based on five delegates at large, one delegate for each 1,000 members or major fraction thereof, and the members of the National Executive Committee.
DEPARTMENT COMMANDER OF THE YEAR: Any department commander, who met or exceeds his/her 100% goal for 2018 by May 9, 2018, will receive a plaque recognizing his/her achievement. The plaque will be presented at the National Convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

GOLD BRIGADE RECRUITER AWARD: A Legionnaire who recruits 50 or more NEW members by May 9, 2018, will qualify for enrollment in the elite GOLD BRIGADE of The American Legion.

POST HONOR RIBBONS: Post Honor Ribbons were shipped to 1,311 posts whose 2018 membership as of December 31, 2017 exceeded their final 2017 membership.

CERTIFICATE OF MERITORIOUS SERVICE: These certificates were awarded for 119 posts for attaining a new All-Time-High membership for 2018 by December 31, 2017.

FIVE CONSECUTIVE YEARS ALL-TIME-HIGH: These citations are awarded to Posts with five or more consecutive years of all-time high membership in 2018.

DISTRICT COMMANDERS "RACE TO THE TOP":
District commanders are the lynchpin of The American Legion's chain of command, serving as the vital link between the national and department organizations and all posts. As we are all aware, the local post is where the "rubber meets the road." If it doesn't happen at the post level -- it doesn't happen at all. District Commanders are the people charged with ensuring all posts in their district maintain their vitality. Consequently, this unique award was created to provide a meaningful incentive for the five top district commanders in each category and reward their successful membership efforts. The winning district commanders and guests receive:

- Distinguished guests of the National Commander at National Convention.
- 1st class hotel accommodations for four nights at convention location.
- Legion cap that signifies they are Race-To-The-Top winners.

The following provides more specific information on how you can win.

Competition is divided into five categories based on the membership of the district without regard to geographic locations. District commanders will compete in each of the following categories based on the final 2017 totals, and a top district commander for the national award will be selected from each of the five categories. Second and third place awards will also be presented in each category.

- **Category I** Districts of: 15 to 1,499 members
- **Category II** Districts of: 1,500 to 2,999 members
- **Category III** Districts of: 3,000 to 4,999 members
- **Category IV** Districts of: 5,000 to 7,499 members
- **Category V** Districts of: 7,500 and above members

Trip to National Convention will be presented to the top district commander and spouse in each category whose district membership on March 31st represents the greatest percentage over the final previous year membership of that district. Cannot be less than 100% to qualify. First place award entitles you and your guest to attend the 100th National Convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Second Place Awards will be presented to the district commander in each category whose district membership on March 31st represents the second highest percentage over the final previous year membership of that district. Cannot be less than 100% to qualify. Winners will receive a $500 check.

Third Place Awards will be presented to the district commander in each category whose district membership on March 31st represents the third highest percentage over the
final previous year membership of that district. Cannot be less than 100% to qualify. Winners will receive a $375 check.

This year’s winners are:

**FIRST PLACE WINNERS: (TRIP TO NATIONAL CONVENTION – MINNEAPOLIS, MN):**

**Category I** Gregory A. Spight         Michigan        121.45%       District 1
**Category II** Ron Bradstreet         Alabama 102.04%       District 21
**Category III** Jimmy L. Mitchell         Texas 111.61%       District 22
**Category IV** No Submissions
**Category V** Holly Lewis                    Ohio  100.73%  District 10

**SECOND PLACE WINNERS ($500 CHECK):**

**Category I** Robin D. Rucker South Carolina 117.71%   District 20
**Category II** Stephen C. Souza Massachusetts 101.12%   District 9
**Category III** Donna M. Artola Florida  103.44%   District 11
**Category IV** No Submissions
**Category V** No submissions

**THIRD PLACE WINNERS ($375 CHECK):**

**Category I** Dennis Norris Georgia  108.33%   District 8
**Category II** No submissions
**Category III** No submissions
**Category IV** No submissions
**Category V** No submissions

**DISTRICT COMMANDER NEW POST ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENTS:**
District Commanders, who achieve the goal of creating new American Legion Posts in their respective District and have the new Post's Temporary Charter Application on file at National Headquarters by May 9, 2018, qualify for a special recognition framed certificate.

**DISTRICT COMMANDER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD W/DISTRICT HONOR RIBBON:** All district commanders whose May Target Date membership exceeds the previous year’s membership by at least the number of posts in that district will be awarded the District Commander Achievement framed certificate. In addition, the district will receive a District Honor Ribbon for its district colors.

**DEPARTMENT RECRUITER OF THE YEAR:** Each American Legion post will have the opportunity to submit the name of the "Top Recruiter" for that post who has signed up the highest number of new members for the 2018 membership year by May 9, 2018. Department adjutants will determine the top new member recruiter for their respective department and certify their "Department Recruiter" to National Headquarters on or before May 31, 2018. The "Department Recruiter" properly certified from each department, will be awarded a plaque with his/her accomplishment inscribed thereon.

**NATIONAL RECRUITER OF THE YEAR:** The individual certified with the highest number of new members recruited from among all the departments will be declared "National Recruiter of the Year". The winner of this award receives an all-expense paid trip to the 100th National Convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

The Internal Affairs Commission approved the recommendations of the Trophies, Awards and Ceremonials Subcommittee.
VII. RESOLUTIONS

Approved and forwarded to Subcommittee on Resolutions

Resolution No. 2 Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial
Resolution No. 3 Coin Commemorating the 75th Anniversary of the End of WWII
Resolution No. 4 Payment of Membership Dues for Multiple Years
Resolution No. 5 Officer and Chairman Certification of Service
Resolution No. 6 Retire the National Commander’s Media and Communications Award

Approved and forwarded to the Finance Commission

Resolution No. 24 Establishment of a Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission Executive Committee
Resolution No. 25 Air Force Academy Awards Sponsorship
Resolution No. 26 National Sergeants-At-Arms Association
Resolution No. 27 Past National Vice Commander’s Club

Disposition of all other resolutions is addressed in Addendum A.

CONCLUSION

Thank you for your assistance and for giving us the opportunity to appear before you. Our commission is “Still Serving America.”

Addendum A

Report To Subcommittee On Resolutions

The Internal Affairs Commission recommends the indicated action on the listed resolutions, which are presently before this body for disposition.

Received and Recorded

Register Resolution No. 2754 (AR) Endorsement of Mary Erdman of National Vice Commander

Rejected

Resolution No. 4 (2017 National Convention) Reexamination of the Paid Up For Life Program

Addendum B

Disposition of Action of Sons of The American Legion

In compliance with Resolution 21 “entitled”, “Establish Procedure for Handling Matters Originating from SAL National Conventions and SAL National Executive Committees”, adopted by the National Executive Committee of The American Legion at its meeting April 30-May 1, 1973, this is to report disposition made by the Internal Affairs Commission of SAL actions taken at the SAL National Executive Committee May 5 – 6, 2018.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SOURCE</th>
<th>TITLE</th>
<th>ACTION</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SAL Res 4 – Pre-Convention NEC 2017</td>
<td>National Convention travel reimbursement for National Executive Committeemen of the Sons of The American Legion</td>
<td>Reject</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAL Res 1 - Spring 2018</td>
<td>NEC Meeting Call-In Revision</td>
<td>Recommend Approval</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resolution</td>
<td>Title</td>
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<tr>
<td>SAL Res 2 - Spring 2018</td>
<td>Endorsement of Steven Gower (VA) for National Vice Commander</td>
<td>Receive and File</td>
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<tr>
<td>SAL Res 3 - Spring 2018</td>
<td>Endorsement of Matthew Christie (IL) for National Vice Commander</td>
<td>Receive and File</td>
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<tr>
<td>SAL Res 4 - Spring 2018</td>
<td>Judging Criteria for National Awards</td>
<td>Recommend Approval</td>
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<tr>
<td>SAL Res 5 - Spring 2018</td>
<td>CSR Form Revision</td>
<td>Recommend Approval</td>
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<tr>
<td>SAL Res 6 - Spring 2018</td>
<td>Endorsement of Chris Cook (OK) for National Vice Commander</td>
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<td>SAL Res 7 - Spring 2018</td>
<td>Endorsement of Clint Bolt (VA) for National Commander</td>
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<tr>
<td>SAL Res 8 - Spring 2018</td>
<td>Endorsement of Thomas Skelly (TX) for National Vice Commander</td>
<td>Receive and File</td>
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<tr>
<td>SAL Res 9 - Spring 2018</td>
<td>Child Welfare Foundation Donation of $5,000 from the 2018 Budget</td>
<td>Recommend Approval</td>
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The above recommendations for the SAL National Executive Committee were reviewed and approved by The American Legion Internal Affairs SAL Subcommittee and the Internal Affairs Commission.

No. SAL Res 4 – Pre-Convention NEC2017
Title: National Convention Travel Reimbursement for National Executive Committeemen of The Sons of The American Legion

Origin: Detachment of Mississippi

WHEREAS, the National Officers, PNC’s and National staff of the Sons of The American Legion currently receive a travel reimbursement for travel to the National Convention, and

WHEREAS, the Sons of The American Legion National Executive Committee are expected to attend both the Pre-Convention and the Post-Convention National Executive Committee meetings at the National Convention; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion in regular session in Reno, Nevada, August 18, 2017 that a travel expense reimbursement equal to the current one for National Officers, PNC’s and National staff be established for the Sons of The American Legion National Executive Committee to the National Convention; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that this call in take effect with the 2018 National Convention.

No. S.A.L. Resolution 1 – Spring 2018
Title: NEC Meeting Call-In Revision

Origin: Finance Commission

WHEREAS, the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion is the governing body of the organization between conventions; and

WHEREAS, the current monetary call-in rate structure for the Sons of The American Legion National Executive Committee meetings was revised in 2016; and

WHEREAS, that resolution reduced the call-in structure for the Fall NEC meeting; and

WHEREAS, the allowed call-in structure has been revised to include the Fall NEC; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, by the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, May 5-6, 2018, that the Sons
of The American Legion adopt the following monetary call-in allowance for the National Executive Committeeman (or the Alternate National Executive Committeeman), Past National Commanders, National Officers (elected and appointed), National Commission and Committee members attending the annual Spring and Fall National Executive Committee meetings:

1) The cost of an airline ticket (Coach Class), purchased twenty-one (21) days in advance of the meeting.
   a. In case of a cancellation, the individual must notify the National Headquarters prior to the day of departure so that the airline ticket can be used within one year of the date specified. Any cost of a subsequent change fee will be paid provided proper notification of cancellation was made as indicated above.
   b. If a National Executive Committeeman cancels his trip subsequent to the airline ticket being purchased, the Alternate National Executive Committeeman will receive per diem and baggage fees only. No travel or mileage will be allowed.

2) Baggage fees if applicable. Receipt required.

3) Mileage, at the current American Legion rate, to and from home to the airport.

4) Parking fees at the airport are not applicable.

5) Transportation from the Indianapolis International Airport will be reimbursed up to the allowance as determined by The American Legion.

6) Individuals that drive to the meeting will receive a mileage allowance based on the rate per mile as used by The American Legion. The maximum allowable reimbursement shall be the same as the rate set forth by The American Legion. Parking at the meeting hotel will be covered up to the maximum allowances as determined by The American Legion.

7) Per Diem for two days, plus the travel per diem, at the rate allowed for meetings in Indianapolis unless otherwise authorized by the Legion’s Internal Affairs.

8) The National Commander, National Adjutant, Commission/Committee Chairmen and any other Officer that has obligations to attend Legion meetings on Sunday or Monday will be allowed additional per diem as determined by the National Adjutant and The American Legion Internal Affairs Commission.

9) If any person entitled to air transportation needs to cancel their flight, the S.A.L. Liaison must be notified in advance of the flight. The ticket will need to be re-issued prior to the one-year expiration period. If the ticket is not used and the National Organization is billed for the flight, the host Detachment will be responsible for the cost of the ticket to the National Organization of The American Legion.

10) The call-ins for the annual Spring and Fall National Executive Committee meetings will include all National Officers, National Executive Committeemen, Past National Commanders and Commission/Committee members. No more than six members will be called in for any Commission.

11) Call-ins for the Washington Conference and National Convention remain unchanged; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this resolution become effective with the Fall, 2018 National Executive Committee meeting of the Sons of The American Legion.

No.  S.A.L. Resolution 2 – Spring, 2018
Title: Endorsement of Steve A. Gower (VA) for National Vice Commander
Origin: Internal Affairs Commission
WHEREAS, the Sons of The American Legion is a program of The American Legion comprised of descendants of Veterans; and
WHEREAS, the National Executive Committee meetings of the Sons of The American Legion requires that candidates for national elective office in the Sons of The American Legion be presented to the National body by resolution; and

WHEREAS, Steve A. Gower has distinguished himself as capable and willing to represent the Detachment of Virginia as an elected national officer by his dedication and sacrifice for the good of The American Legion Family; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, by the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, May 5-6, 2018, that the Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Virginia hereby endorses Steve A. Gower for the high office of National Vice Commander at such future time and year as may become available; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the above resolution was endorsed by the Detachment of Virginia and the Department of Virginia with indicated National action submitted for the local resolving clause. The signatures of the Detachment Commander, Willie Morgan, and Department Adjutant, Dale Chapman, are on the submitted resolution.

No. S.A.L. Resolution 3 – Spring, 2018
Title: Endorsement of Matthew T. Christie (IL) for National Vice Commander
Origin: Internal Affairs Commission

WHEREAS, the Sons of The American Legion is a program of The American Legion comprised of descendants of Veterans; and

WHEREAS, the National Executive Committee meetings of the Sons of The American Legion requires that candidates for national elective office in the Sons of The American Legion be presented to the National body by resolution; and

WHEREAS, Matthew T. Christie has distinguished himself as capable and willing to represent the Detachment of Illinois as an elected national officer by his dedication and sacrifice for the good of The American Legion Family; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, by the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, May 5-6, 2018, that the Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Illinois hereby endorses Matthew T. Christie for the high office of National Vice Commander at such future time and year as may become available; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the above resolution was endorsed by the Detachment of Illinois and the Department of Illinois with indicated National action submitted for the local resolving clause. The signatures of the Detachment Commander, Paul Hayse, and Department Adjutant, Marty Conatser, are on the submitted resolution.

No. S.A.L. Resolution 4 – Spring, 2018
Title: Judging Criteria for VA&R, Americanism and Children and Youth National Awards
Origin: Children & Youth Committee, Americanism Commission, and Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

WHEREAS, the National organization of the Sons of The American Legion presents annual awards to Detachments, Districts and Squadrons that perform outstanding service to the Sons of The American Legion programs; and

WHEREAS, the Children & Youth Committee, the Americanism and Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commissions, annually present the awards to Squadrons, Districts and Detachments; and

WHEREAS, the selection of these recipients is based on the information submitted on the Consolidated Squadron Report form as submitted by the various Squadrons, Districts and Detachments; and
WHEREAS, the selection of these recipients is based on the information submitted on the Consolidated Squadron Report form as submitted by the various Squadrons; based on per-capita for each category calculated by the current year membership divided by the number in each reporting category, then points values are given based on the placement of the per-capita: 40 points for first place down to 1 point for having any per-capita, then the points added and the winners will be the one with the most cumulative total points; and

WHEREAS, there are currently no adopted guidelines to determine a District or Detachment report; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, to qualify for a Squadron, District or Detachment award, a Consolidated Squadron Report must be physically submitted, then reviewed and selections made based on a process which will be impartial and objective with Districts and Detachments being an additional line under each category for hours and money donated directly by a District or Detachment, but not included on any Consolidated Squadron Report, only the additional monies/hours directly from the District/Detachment will be reported on the District/Detachment Report; the District/Detachment will be marked as such, the Detachment Report will be submitted as Detachment “XYZ #9999”; and be it further

RESOLVED, by the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, May 5-6, 2018, that the guidelines for selection of awards herein contained be the standard for the VA&R, Americanism and Children & Youth Commissions until amended by the National Executive Committee; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the selection be based upon a well-rounded report that contains service in the majority of standing listed programs of The American Legion; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the criteria be calculated on per capita, of membership as recorded by the National organization, for dollars invested and hours of service for each column heading, reflecting such, in the respective sections of the consolidated report form; and be it further

RESOLVED, that a point value be assigned to the top 40 per capita reports, with the top report receiving 40 points and descending in order to the 40th report receiving 1 point, with any one showing any service receiving 1 point, with the exception of those that have recorded no service receiving no points; and be it further

RESOLVED, that these point values are then totaled after all columns have been calculated, to determine a Squadron, District and Detachment with a highest grand total point value; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that in the event of a tie only the two that have the same highest total point value be subjected to further review and selection made by a simple majority vote of those members present at the respective convention committee meeting held immediately prior to the convention at which the award is to be presented.

No. S.A.L. Resolution 5 – Spring, 2018
Title: Consolidated Squadron Report (CSR) Form Revision – Americanism, Children and Youth, and Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Sections
Origin: Internal Affairs Commission

WHEREAS, the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion adopted guidelines/rules, by resolution, during the Spring 2018 NEC meeting regarding the selection process of annual National award recipients; and

WHEREAS, the guidelines/rules only take into account hours of service and costs associated with the various programs; and
proceedings of Wednesday, May 9, 2018

WHEREAS, the current Sons of The American Legion Consolidated Squadron Report Form Americanism, Children and Youth, and Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation sections contain information blocks that do not relate to the new section criteria guidelines, therefore making this information unnecessary and redundant; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, by the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, May 5-6, 2018, that the Americanism, Children and Youth, and Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation sections of the Consolidated Squadron Report Form be restructured as presented and approved by the National Internal Affairs Commission of the Sons of The American Legion; and be it further

RESOLVED, that all associated Americanism, Children and Youth, and Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation information contained on the Sons of The American Legion Consolidated Squadron Report Form be amended to reflect the adopted changes; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that these changes be expedited so as to be included in the 2018-2019 year Consolidated Squadron Report Form.

No. S.A.L. Resolution 6 – Spring, 2018
Title: Endorsement of Christopher L. Cook (OK) for National Vice Commander
Origin: Internal Affairs Commission

WHEREAS, the Sons of The American Legion is a program of The American Legion comprised of descendants of Veterans; and

WHEREAS, the National Executive Committee meetings of the Sons of The American Legion requires that candidates for national elective office in the Sons of The American Legion be presented to the National body by resolution; and

WHEREAS, Christopher L. Cook has distinguished himself as capable and willing to represent the Detachment of Oklahoma as an elected national officer by his dedication and sacrifice for the good of The American Legion Family; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, by the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, May 5-6, 2018, that the Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Oklahoma hereby endorses Christopher L. Cook for the high office of National Vice Commander at such future time and year as may become available; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the above resolution was endorsed by the Detachment of Oklahoma and the Department of Oklahoma with indicated National action submitted for the local resolving clause. The signatures of the Detachment Commander, Sam McPherson, and Department Commander, John Bloxom, are on the submitted resolution.

No. S.A.L. Resolution 7 - Spring, 2018
Title: Endorsement of Clint D. Bolt (VA) for National Commander
Origin: Internal Affairs Commission

WHEREAS, the Sons of The American Legion is a program of The American Legion comprised of descendants of Veterans; and

WHEREAS, the National Executive Committee meetings of the Sons of The American Legion requires that candidates for national elective office in the Sons of The American Legion be presented to the National body by resolution; and

WHEREAS, Clint D. Bolt has distinguished himself as capable and willing to represent the Detachment of Virginia as an elected national officer by his dedication and sacrifice for the good of The American Legion Family; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, by the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, May 5-6, 2018, that the Sons
of The American Legion Detachment of Virginia hereby endorses Clint D. Bolt for the high office of National Commander at such future time and year as may become available; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the above resolution was endorsed by the Detachment of Virginia and the Department of Virginia with indicated National action submitted for the local resolving clause. The signatures of the Detachment Commander, Willie Morgan, and Department Adjutant, Dale Chapman, are on the submitted resolution.

No. S.A.L. Resolution 8 - Spring, 2018
Title: Endorsement of Thomas P. Skelly (TX) for National Vice Commander
Origin: Internal Affairs Commission

WHEREAS, the Sons of The American Legion is a program of The American Legion comprised of descendants of Veterans; and
WHEREAS, the National Executive Committee meetings of the Sons of The American Legion requires that candidates for national elective office in the Sons of The American Legion be presented to the National body by resolution; and
WHEREAS, Thomas P. Skelly has distinguished himself as capable and willing to represent the Detachment of Texas as an elected national officer by his dedication and sacrifice for the good of The American Legion Family; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, by the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, May 5-6, 2018, that the Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Texas hereby endorses Thomas P. Skelly for the high office of National Vice Commander at such future time and year as may become available; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the above resolution was endorsed by the Detachment of Texas and the Department of Texas with indicated National action submitted for the local resolving clause. The signatures of the Detachment Commander, Henry Creech, and Department Adjutant, William West, are on the submitted resolution.

No. S.A.L. Resolution 9 - Spring, 2018
Title: Child Welfare Foundation Donation of $5,000 from the 2018 Budget
Origin: Child Welfare Foundation Committee

WHEREAS, The Child Welfare Foundation is a vital part of the Sons of The American Legion since its inception in 1987; and
WHEREAS, There is a constant and vital need for funding of many programs and grants that can assist children in need; and
WHEREAS, Donations by the Sons of The American Legion have provided greatly needed assistance to these children in our country; and
WHEREAS, The support and recognition provided by The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation has further established our organization as a true partner in the goals and principles of the “Legion Family;” now therefore be it

RESOLVED, by the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion in regular Meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, May 5-6, 2018 that a donation in the amount of Five Thousand Dollars ($5,000) be made to The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the funds be taken from the 2018 Child Welfare Foundation Donation budget line.
RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, motion to receive and file the report of the Internal Affairs Commission with the exception of six resolutions, we have addendum A and Addendum B. ....Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded to receive and file the report of the Internal Affairs Commission with the exception of six resolutions and Addendum A and B. Are there any questions? All those in favor of receiving and filing the report, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Thank you, carried.

Resolution No. 2: National Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial
Origin: Internal Affairs Commission
Submitted By: Internal Affairs Commission

WHEREAS, One of the founding principles of The American Legion is, “To preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the great wars”; and

WHEREAS, Former Supreme Commander Allied Expeditionary Force, former Supreme Allied Commander-Europe, and the 34th President of the United States Dwight D. Eisenhower deserves a prominent and permanent national memorial in Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, General Eisenhower was a lifetime member of American Legion Post 39 in Abilene, Kansas, and besides being a veteran himself, he vigorously supported veterans, notably creating Veterans Day, and he supported programs such as The American Legion’s “Back to God” campaign; and

WHEREAS, In honor of his dedicated service to veterans, The American Legion awarded him its highest honor, the Distinguished Service Medal, in 1945; and

WHEREAS, Each day 372 World War II veterans who fought under General Eisenhower pass away, and there are only about 450,000 World War II are veterans still alive, and these veterans want to in their lifetimes pay their respects to their fallen comrades and to the supreme commander of Allied Expeditionary Forces in Europe who liberated Western Europe and protected democracy from the oppressive tyrannies of fascism, and to their commander-in-chief who waged peace during the Cold War and ended the Korean War, created the interstate highway system, launched our space program, and advanced and defended civil rights; and

WHEREAS, The Eisenhower Memorial Commission was created by P.L. 106-79 by two World War II-decorated veterans and Legionnaires, the late Senators Ted Stevens of Alaska and Dan Inouye of Hawaii and is currently led by the enthusiastic dedication of veteran and Legionnaire, Brig. Gen. Carl W. Reddel; with the mission to complete a national memorial to honor Dwight Eisenhower to inspire future generations with his devotion to public service, leadership, integrity, life-long work ethic, and total devotion to the values and practices of democracy; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Commission of Fine Arts and the National Capital Planning Commission have given final approval to the design of the Eisenhower Memorial; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion’s policy on naming American Legion posts is to obtain the approval of the family if a post is to be named after an individual and thus the same policy should be followed by obtaining the Eisenhower family approval of the design before Congress appropriates any money for this memorial; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 97, approved by the 97th American Legion National Convention, Baltimore, Maryland, September 1-3, 2015, endorsed and supported construction of the National Eisenhower Memorial with government, private, and corporate funding, but only if the design is found acceptable by the Eisenhower family; and

WHEREAS, On January 26, 2017, Susan Eisenhower, representing the Eisenhower family and the Eisenhower Institute at Gettysburg College, expressed the wholehearted
support of the Eisenhower family for the revised design concept for the National Eisenhower Memorial, which pays special tribute to the World War II and Cold War veterans who, under Eisenhower’s leadership, fought and won the peace; and

WHEREAS, The United States Congress has already appropriated $45 million for the project, with at least $25 million in donations from the private sector and voluntary individual donations; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 9-10, 2018, That The American Legion endorses and supports the completion of the National Eisenhower Memorial as a lasting tribute to not only General and President Eisenhower, but also to the bravery and sacrifices of the troops who fought under him, and recommends that Congress continue to appropriate necessary funding for construction so as to expedite the memorial’s completion by the goal date of 2019, the 75th anniversary of D-Day, and to ensure that our remaining World War II and Korean War veterans can visit the memorial in their lifetimes; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion, the nation’s largest wartime veterans service organization, supports the use of government, corporate and private funds for final construction of the memorial on the National Mall, which includes being maintained by the National Park Service as a national monument and without any financial obligation on the part of The American Legion.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER HAAS: Commander, this resolution has the approval of the Internal Affairs Commission and your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move that this be approved. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: Resolution No. 2 entitled "National Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial" has been moved and second for approval. Are there any questions? All those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried.

Resolution No. 3: Coin Commemorating the 75th Anniversary of the End of World War II
Origin: Register Resolution No. 2757 (LA) Department Executive Committee
Submitted By: Internal Affairs Commission
WHEREAS, The National World War II Museum was designated as “America’s National World War II Museum" by the United States Congress in 2004; and

WHEREAS, The mission of The National World War II Museum is to tell the story of the American experience in the war that changed the world - why it was fought, how it was won, and what it means today - so that all generations will understand the price of freedom and be inspired by what they learn; and

WHEREAS, The United States entered World War II as a result of the surprise Japanese attack against our fleet at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, on December 7, 1941, which killed 2,403 people of the United States; and

WHEREAS, The United States joined the wartime Allied cause against the militarist, fascist, and racist dictatorships of Germany, Japan, and Italy (the Axis), fighting for President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s “Four Freedoms” (freedom of speech, of worship, from want, and from fear); and

WHEREAS, The United States placed 16,000,000 of its citizens into uniform in the course of the struggle, enduring a string of early defeats, recovering to conduct a total war on land, sea, and air, and eventually establishing total dominance over its enemies; and

WHEREAS, The war took the lives of 405,399 United States military personnel, fellow citizens who made the supreme sacrifice in a perilous moment in the history of the United States, giving their lives for the cause of democracy and peace; and
WHEREAS, The conflict led to a comprehensive transformation of the home front from a civilian economy dedicated to peacetime production into the mightiest engine of military might in human history (labeled the “Arsenal of Democracy”), demanding the participation of the entire citizenry and thus leading to increased opportunities for racial minorities and women; and

WHEREAS, The war ended on September 2, 1945, after the unconditional surrender of Nazi Germany, Fascist Italy, and Imperial Japan, amounting to a total victory for the United States and the Allies; and

WHEREAS, The generation of United States citizens who fought World War II is passing away with the march of time, and that therefore the urgent need to give honor to those who served is all the more critical; and

WHEREAS, The period from May 8, 2020, to September 2, 2020, will mark the 75th anniversary of the end of the involvement of the United States in World War II and the surrender of Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan, respectively; and

WHEREAS, The commemoration of the end of World War II is not only an appropriate time to mark the achievement of the World War II generation, but to further the mission of The National World War II Museum in telling the story of the American experience in the war that changed the world - why it was fought, how it was won, and what it means today - so that all generations will understand the price of freedom and be inspired by what they learn; and

WHEREAS, In recent years, commemorative coin programs have been successfully conducted for other worthy causes related to veterans and the military; and

WHEREAS, The United States Mint, in compliance with the Commemorative Coin Reform Act of 1996 (“CCRA of 1996”), Public Law 104-208, conducts commemorative coin programs to honor a person, place or event; and

WHEREAS, Consistent with the CCRA of 1996, The National World War II Museum has demonstrated the ability to raise funds from private sources, “in an amount that is equal to or greater than the total amount of the proceeds of such surcharge derived from the sale of such numismatic item”; and

WHEREAS, The proceeds from the sale of this 75th anniversary of the end of World War II commemorative coin will benefit the educational mission of The National WWII Museum to tell the story of the American experience in the war that changed the world - why it was fought, how it was won, and what it means today - so that all generations will understand the price of freedom and be inspired by what they learn; and

WHEREAS, The Commemorative Coin Program provides for surcharge payments to be made from proceeds received from the sale of commemorative coins; and

WHEREAS, Consistent with the CCRA of 1996, The National World War II Museum must submit an audited financial statement and submit the results of the annual audits to demonstrate, to the satisfaction of the secretary of Treasury, that it has qualified for surcharge proceeds and is properly expending them; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 9-10, 2018, That The American Legion provides the necessary legislative support to include activating the Legislative Council members to contact their members of Congress to support The National World War II Museum legislation to mint coins commemorating the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II by the United States Mint; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the proposed legislation meet the requirements of the Commemorative Coin Reform Act of 1996, Public Law 104-208, for both the gold and silver coin and with the understanding that the surcharge payment will be earmarked to benefit the educational mission of The National World War II Museum.
RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER HAAS: Commander, Resolution No. 3 has the approval of the Internal Affairs Commission and your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I recommend its adoption. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded to approve Resolution No. 3, "Coin Commemorating the 75th Anniversary of the End of World War II." Are there any questions? All those in favor of Resolution 3, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried.

Resolution No. 4: Payment of Membership Dues for Multiple Years
Origin: Resolution No. 36 (CO) 2017 National Convention
Submitted By: Internal Affairs Commission

WHEREAS, The National American Legion Constitution Article IV, Section 2, reads there shall be no form or class of membership except an active membership and dues shall be paid annually or for life; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion membership is declining; and

WHEREAS, Current expenses of annual renewal notifications have become a financial burden on the national organization; and

WHEREAS, Many veterans are unable to afford the Paid Up For Life Program; and

WHEREAS, Many veterans would prefer paying for multiple year memberships; and

WHEREAS, Allowing multiple year memberships would provide monetary relief of burdens for National American Legion Organization; and

WHEREAS, Allowing multiple year memberships would afford those veterans an ease in their renewal process; and

WHEREAS, Multiple year membership would increase membership; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 9-10, 2018, That the Internal Affairs Commission investigate the possibility of allowing members to pay annual dues for multiple years, i.e. 1, 3, 5, 10 etc. in addition to the existing Paid Up for Life membership plan.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER HAAS: Commander, this was approved by the Membership & Post Activities Committee, the Internal Affairs Commission and the Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its approval. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded that Resolution No. 4, titled "Payment of Membership Dues for Multiple Years" be approved. Are there any questions? All those in favor of Resolution No. 4, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried.

Resolution No. 5: Officer and Chairman Certification of Service
Origin: Internal Affairs Commission
Submitted By: Internal Affairs Commission

WHEREAS, The Certification of Service Record of American Legion Officers has been in effect since October 20, 1931 pursuant to Resolution 591 adopted by the Thirteenth National Convention in 1931; and

WHEREAS, It is advisable to update the recommendations of Resolution No. 591 of 1931; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 9-10, 2018, That it is required that before the induction into office, every officer and national chairman of
The American Legion provide satisfactory evidence of honorable military service proving eligibility for membership in The American Legion as follows:

(a) Eligibility for American Legion membership of post officers will be certified by their post adjutant with notification to their department adjutant;

(b) Eligibility for American Legion membership of department officers will be certified by their respective department adjutants with notification to the national adjutant; and

(c) Eligibility for American Legion membership of national officers, National Executive Committeemen, Alternate National Executive Committeemen, commission chairman and committee chairman, after an initial review by the national judge advocate, will be certified by the national adjutant and reported to the National Executive Committee; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That any member with aspirations of future national leadership in The American Legion may, at any time, submit one’s proof of eligibility for American Legion membership to the office of the national judge advocate; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That Resolution No. 591, Certification of Service Record of American Legion Officers, passed by the Thirteenth National Convention in 1931 is hereby superseded and rescinded.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER HAAS: Commander, Resolution No. 5 has the approval of the Internal Affairs Commission and your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its approval. ...Second

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It’s been moved and seconded to approve Resolution No. 5, titled "Officer and Chairman Certification of Service." Are there any questions? National Vice Commander Callies.

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER CALLIES: What precipitated this?

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: I will pass that to the judge advocate to answer.

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE BARTLETT: This is superseding and rescinding a 1931 resolution that was not being followed as written.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: Any other questions? All those in favor of Resolution No. 5, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried.

Resolution No. 6: Retire the National Commander’s Media and Communications Award

Origin: Media & Communications Commission

Submitted By: Internal Affairs Commission

WHEREAS, The American Legion National Commander’s Media & Communications Award was previously titled the National Commander’s Public Relations Award until it was renamed in accordance with Resolution No. 6, National Executive Committee, May 4-5, 2016; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion National Commander’s Public Relations Award was presented annually during the Public Relations Luncheon at the Washington Conference to recognize individuals, companies or organizations that have garnered exceptional public and national media recognition of the promotion of one or more areas within the Four Pillars of The American Legion; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion authorized The American Legion Patriot Award by Resolution No. 177, 2007 National Convention; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion authorized expanding the recognition from one to three separate annual Fourth Estate Awards by Resolution No. 8, National Executive Committee, October 12-13, 2011; and
WHEREAS, The American Legion Public Relations luncheon is no longer authorized; and
WHEREAS, The authorization of the Patriot Award and expansion of the Fourth Estate Awards have also created opportunities to recognize individuals that previously could have only been recognized through the awarding of the Public Relations and the renamed Media & Communications Awards; and
WHEREAS, An excessive number of American Legion awards diminishes the significance of all awards; and
WHEREAS, The American Legion previously provided roundtrip airfare tickets from the award winner’s home to the National Convention, two nights lodging at the National Convention headquarters hotel, up to two tickets for the National Commander’s Head Table Reception and Banquet, reimbursement of normal and customary expenses as determined by The American Legion, and up to $750 to purchase a shadow box plaque; and
WHEREAS, This resolution has the approval of the Internal Affairs Commission; now, therefore, be it
RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 9-10, 2018, That The American Legion National Commander’s Media & Communication Award is no longer authorized; and, be it finally
RESOLVED, That Resolution No. 6, National Executive Committee, May 4-5, 2016, titled 'Renaming The National Commander’s Public Relations Award To National Commander’s Media And Communications Award' is rescinded as being obsolete.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER HAAS: This was approved by Media & Communications Commission, the Internal Affairs Commission, and your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its approval.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded to approve Resolution No. 6, titled "Retire the National Commander's Media And Communications Award." Are there any questions? All those in favor of Resolution No. 6, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried.

Resolution No. 7: Authorize Issuance of Temporary Charter to a Foreign Post
Origin: Membership & Post Activities Committee
Submitted By: Internal Affairs Commission
WHEREAS, Application for the issuance of a charter to a post outside of the United States has been received, properly endorsed by officers of the department which will accept responsibility for supervision, and all in conformity with Resolution No. 42, adopted by the National Executive Committee at its meeting of April 29-30, May 1, 1959; now, therefore, be it
RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 9-10, 2018, That the national adjutant is authorized to issue a temporary charter to the following post to be affiliated with the named department.

1. Vicenza Post IT02, located Vicenza, Italy, and affiliated with the Department of France.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER HAAS: This has been approved by both the Membership & Post Activities Committee, the Internal Affairs Commission, and your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its approval. ...Second.
NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded to approve Resolution No. No. 7, titled "Authorize Issuance Of Temporary Charter To A Foreign Post." Are there any questions? All those in favor of approving Resolution No. 7, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER HAAS: There are two addendums that are attached, Addendum A and B. I move that the action of the Internal Affairs Commission become the actions of the National Executive Committee. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded regarding Addendum A and B, that the action of the Internal Affairs Commission become the action of the NEC. Are there any questions? All those in favor of Addendum A and B, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried. Are there any donations to the National Emergency Fund? Please line up to the side.

...National Vice Commander Bryant assumed the chair.

NECMAN JOYNER (NC): We have $11,900 for the National Emergency Fund then we had $1,265 for child welfare.

NECMAN GOSA (MS): Madam Commander, child welfare. Will you take this?

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: Sure, we'll take it.

NECMAN GOSA: Okay. In the amount of $8,000. And for the National Emergency Find, another small one $8,000.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: Thank you very much. (Applause)

...National Commander Rohan resumed the chair.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We'll now call on Past National Commander David Rehbein from Iowa, chairman of the 100th Anniversary Observance Committee.

Oral Report: 100th Anniversary Observance Committee
Past National Commander David K. Rehbein, Iowa, Chairman

Thank you, commander. Commander, national officers, members of the NEC, Legionnaires, guests. I want to spend just a moment referring back to that centennial print. You've heard, Matt Hall, the creator, talk about those two warriors as they made eye contact. I know what I see as they look into each other's eyes. I hope you see the same thing. What I see is two warriors looking into each other's eyes seeing each other. Seeing kindred spirits. They share so much. They share the same emotions. They share the same trials. They share the same triumphs. They're separated by a century of time and different uniforms and weapons, but they're the same person.

So what does The American Legion emblem between them signify? They have a connection. They have a connection they could carry the rest of their lives. But the day they take those uniforms off for the last time, that connection could be broken, except that the emblem of The American Legion and the organization exists to maintain that connection. And so as those two warriors take those uniforms off and one day go home, it's up to us, it's up to us to keep a strong organization that helps them maintain that connection. Keep that sharing in their hearts that they feel right now and as they look into each other's eyes. That's our charge.

Part of what we tried to do, the theme we chose for the 100th anniversary, is embodied in that picture. Legacy. They're in that World War I warrior. The vision, as today's warrior exemplifies, standing there waiting to come home to implement that vision. So that's been our theme, Legacy and Vision. Take the legacy, understand it, feel it, appreciate it, and use it to help develop the vision for the next century.

So we've taken a journey, and throughout this journey we've placed a deliberate
emphasis on local and department involvement. We tried to approach this centennial in the community, state, and national levels as the preamble to our constitution states is our individual obligation. Our message, which we believe has been adopted widely, has not so much been to look at what The American Legion did, but to look at what we do. And beyond that, to look at why we do that and where all that identity comes from.

Some of our staff recently paid a visit to Plattsburgh, New York, to work on some of The American Legion's prehistory, predating World War I, because we're building a centennial video project and that prehistory is an important part of that.

Plattsburgh is relevant to the Legion story because in the years before World War I, in Plattsburgh, many of our founders were there voluntarily training in a civilian military training camp, something called the Preparedness Movement, because they thought they could see World War I coming and they did not believe we were prepared. So they individually stepped forward and said, "We're going to do something now to try to get us a little bit more prepared."

Post 20 in Plattsburgh exists and is a good post. In that post there is a very large American Legion 100th anniversary banner stretched across the big bay window of the banquet room. Like thousands of posts around the world, Post 20 – Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., Eric Fisher Wood, Hamilton Fish, Bill Donovan and some of the other founders of The American Legion prepared themselves in Plattsburgh – knows it has a story to tell.

Since the committee's first meeting, the telling of The American Legion story from the local post to the world-changing effects of the GI Bill, we have worked to inspire American Legion Family members everywhere to pry open the boxes and scrapbooks and things that have been put away in the attic and get out those forgotten memories. Visit those sometimes forgotten memorials. Get into the archives, find our story, but not just keep the story inside the post. Share the story with the community so the community understands who we are and the role we've played in the last hundred years.

To that end, The American Legion centennial web platform now has 2,890 post profiles either started or fully loaded with photos, texts, and chronologies and memories. Memories that shouldn't ever be forgotten again. We have produced something called the "Every Department Has a Story" place mat to tell the story of what your department has accomplished over the years. That also has photos and chronologies and interesting stories.

We have about two dozen of those done, and our goal is to have one for every department. We're going to need your help to get that finished for the centennial. We are going to need local leaders in your department helping pull together the items that should go on your department as a story place mat.

Less than two years ago we were given a mission to help local American Legion Family members find, photograph, and upload online memorials and monuments of military service in their communities. That's something this country's never had, a database of veterans memorial and monuments. We have that now. We're just short of 2,000 of them. Not just here in the United States, but some of the memorials and monuments to American veterans overseas in the places they served and in the places they fought. So out of those postings, 20 of them have been selected to receive a $2,000 grant from the Pritzker Military Museum and Library through their 100 Cities/100 Memorials project as a part of the World War I commemoration. Twenty of our posts are seeing to it that veterans memorials are refurbished and upgraded, and found the money there to do that.

So that activity has done more to fulfill our duty to preserve our memories and incidence of our associations of the great wars. We say that every time we do the preamble. We've got to do more than say it. We have to do it. We have to live it.

Local and department Centennial committees have taken shape across the country. Staff members of ours have traveled to midwinter conferences and department conventions all the way from Alaska to Florida to present workshops to train, to educate about what
national is doing, but to spread information about what departments and posts can do.

We have a monthly American Legion centennial e-newsletter. 111,000 opens for distribution and 9,000 forwards; that means our people out there are helping to spread the word. You see the centennial apparel that's come out of Emblem Sales and you've seen it in a lot of places, not just on leaders, but on Legionnaires that are understanding their connection to this centennial. The end of this month we'll send a delegation to Missouri City, Texas, to help dedicate a veterans memorial there, rededicate American Legion Park, and kick off a $1.6 million veterans memorial project that will carry our centennial logo. They are building that veterans memorial to celebrate the centennial of The American Legion, and they're raising a million six to do it. That is a set of energetic, dedicated Legionnaires. I wish we had a million and a half of them.

In November, we'll have a team in Syracuse, New York. They are going there to be part of a veterans expo. The theme of that expo is the centennial of The American Legion. We won't be there long. I'll talk in a little bit about the GI Bill exhibit. They wish we could take that there, but we can't because it's just too short.

That GI Bill exhibit is entitled "The Greatest Legislation: An American Legion Centennial Salute to the GI Bill." It talks about not just the 1944 signing of the bill, because that's not the end of the story of the GI Bill, that's the beginning of the story. That exhibit talks about that GI Bill as it began with the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, as it began with a group of Legionnaires, Harry W. Colmery was the author, but many others saw to the passage. And as it continues today, with the signing of the Forever GI Bill a few months ago, that's an American Legion story that is too little known outside the walls of our posts.

This museum exhibit is a way to tell that story. It's a way to put eyeballs on that story of people that have an interest in military history, that have an interest in history, that have an interest in education. But they're not necessarily our members, but they need to know the story. That exhibit now has been six months at the National World War II Museum in New Orleans. It went from there to the Student Veterans of America Convention in San Antonio, to Patriotic Hall in Los Angeles. Three months in Patriotic Hall. The Montana Military Museum for a month, and we just opened that exhibit in the Gold Star Museum at Camp Dodge in Iowa. It's not going to come to national headquarters and go in the basement and never be seen again because it's becoming popular. Museum directors are hearing about it and calling us to see when they may be able to get it.

Unfortunately, events like the one in Syracuse where they talked about the veterans expo, they'd love to have it, but it can't be done for three days, not unless it's someplace really special. So we have to work on something smaller that we could use. But think about the marketing advantages we gain from that, the bang for the buck. We spent some money to build it, but now we're not having to spend money except for transportation.

I'm going to show you a little bit of the video from that Student Veterans of America convention. We think that we have now had nearly 400,000 people see that exhibit. That's a number. That's an impressive number. That's less than a year and we've had that many people seeing the story of The American Legion and how we impacted this country.

Madam Commander, if you and your team will come down. This is a video that was created in San Antonio while the exhibit was at the Student Veterans of America Convention, because that's another group that we really need to see this. I'm going to ask the commander's team to stay down here because I have another video in a few minutes, and no point in them running back and forth.

...A video was presented to the National Executive Committee.

CHAIRMAN REHBEIN: So that's a little bit of the flavor of that exhibit. But we want to keep that on the road. First Degree has been helping identify and find the places for that exhibit to go. We're needing less and less of their help, as I said, because the network of
museum directors out there, they're always looking for something good, for something new. They're spreading the word that, if you can get this in your museum, it's a good thing. It draws people.

You will see it. It will be in Minneapolis. That's one of the places that it is an absolute must to appear. So it will be there for convention. Very much like to get your impressions of that exhibit because I'll not get into that today, but I think we have some other opportunities to do other things like that.

You've heard a little bit about the Legion Riders and what they plan. They're going to do a special ride this year, actually the next two years. Their Centennial Ride this year will start at the Peace Garden on the border of North Dakota and Manitoba and come south to North and South Dakota, through Nebraska, and wind up down in Great Bend, Kansas. After that, they'll move to Hutchinson, and then they will begin the Legacy Run up to the convention site. So that's what their part of this is going to be.

There's something else coming here that I'm very proud of. I think you will be very proud of. We are creating a documentary on The American Legion. But we're not creating the normal 30- to 45-minute long, "You have to sit down and watch it all documentary or you can't see it and you won't understand it." We decided to break it up into small pieces. Pieces that would be conducive to being on YouTube. Pieces that would be conducive to you showing one or two at your post this month, and then one or two more next month. There will be 13 or 14 of those.

We have a couple of young Legionnaires from the Hollywood Post in California, professional actors, but veterans, American Legionnaires before they took on this project, that in these vignettes are traveling the country discovering not what The American Legion is, but why The American Legion is. You'll see a little bit of that. They are being produced and directed by our staff, but also by a member of one of our national commissions, Mr. Mike Hjelmsstad, who is also very heavily involved in the movie industry in California. We're tapping into that expertise and using it, and you're going to get a great product out of this. This is what's called the trailer. The title here for this documentary is "To Strengthen a Nation, The American Legion Story."

...A video was presented to the National Executive Committee.

CHAIRMAN REHBEIN: That's the trailer. That's the kind of things you're going to see in longer segments. It will be able to be shown in short bits, or it'll be able to be tied together into that long documentary. We've got a lot of work to do, but that's a project we hope to have finished by Minneapolis.

There's an idea kicking around, and we've had lots of ideas, some of them worked, some of them didn't, but there's an idea kicking around about a one-day American Legion film festival in Minneapolis in place of the workshop we normally do, because there are movies from the '30s, there were three or four of them all came out the same year, in about 1938, that had The American Legion as a central theme. We've been able to access some of that, some of those movies. So look forward to that. I hope it'll happen, but like I said, you know how long plans survive after the first shot of the battle.

You will see this day in American Legion history coming up. You're beginning to see it now, those of you that get the daily clippings. Mark Seavey is putting in there a snippet of what happened today sometime in American Legion history. That will continue to happen, will be available digitally. We're trying to decide whether or not it can be done in a printed version. We'll see whether or not that happens, because of the cost.

Jeff Stoffer has worked on a chronology. It's not a history book; it's simply a chronology of events that have happened down through history, beginning in Plattsburgh, and will continue through the convention in Indianapolis. It is now 30,000 words long. Maybe that is the next history of The American Legion. But at least it's getting in one place where we can keep track of it.
So I know that I have used my time and I will get off of here in just a minute. I want to thank you, commander, for the support that you and your predecessors and the national staff have given to the 100th Anniversary Observance Committee. I want to thank the NEC for the support that you have given. I want to thank my predecessor as chairman, Bob Spanogle, for laying the groundwork that we have been able to use as a very strong foundation to build on, and I really want to thank the staff, because you know as well as I do, without the kind of creative and professional staff that we have, things like this just wouldn't happen. We can form them in our heads, but that's step number one.

So thank you. We appreciate it. We have about 18 months to go before our centennial is over. It will start at Minneapolis. We hope to see you all there. We hope you will enjoy the centennial of The American Legion as much as we have putting it all together. Thank you, commander. Commission

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Motion to receive and file the report of the 100th Anniversary Observance Committee. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded to receive and file the report of the 100th Anniversary Observance Committee. Are there any questions? All those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried. Thank you. We are going to deviate just a little from the schedule and I will call on Chairman Richard Anderson from Connecticut for the Americanism Commission report.

Oral Report: Americanism Commission
Richard W. Anderson, Connecticut, Chairman

Thank you, commander. Commander, your theme this year is "Family First." The Americanism Commission is pleased to announce that today you have an Operation Comfort Warriors grant for veterans affairs medical facilities across this nation which will do just that, it will help to put families first. Madame Commander, if you would please join me at the podium.

...National Vice Commander Stephenson assumed the chair.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: As Chairman Anderson just mentioned, my theme, as you all know, is "Family First." And I've had the opportunity to visit many VA medical centers across the nation over the last eight months. During those visits I've had the chance to see some of the women's veterans clinics that are new in some of these facilities.

At this time, representing the VA, the entire VA system during this next presentation, from Roudebush VA Medical Center, is associate director, Laura Ruzick, and the chief of volunteer services, Tabitha Ingram. Would you please join me.

So recently on the Internet, I was just sort of reading all those news clips that we get every day and I noticed that the VA is hosting baby showers for our female veterans, and actually all of our veterans, who are having babies in our VA hospitals. We have so many female VA veterans who don't realize that services are available in those facilities.

So when I heard that these VAs were hosting these national baby showers for Mother's Day season, we wanted to show our solid support for that "Family First" theme. We're offering a grant not only to the VA hospital here in Indianapolis, but we are also offering that grant to 60 VA medical centers across the nation, including 32 states and the District of Columbia, who are participating in the VA baby shower. The grant that we are offering will purchase 1,000 of these baby kits which include diaper bags, toiletries, hair brushes, comb sets, layette blankets, and hats. As a reminder, 100 percent of all donations to Operation Comfort Warriors goes and stays for that cause.

ROUDEBUSH ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR RUZICK: Thank you, commander. It is
with great honor and gratitude that we accept this most generous gift from you. I'm accepting on behalf of the Veterans Health Administration, the 60 medical centers, and the thousands of women, veterans that are with child, and their families who will appreciate this gift in these very challenging times in their lives.

If you recall when you had children, there's a lot of expense associated with those little ones, and if you haven't experienced that recently, you know that that's quite costly these days, with requirements for safety and things like that. So this will really go a long way to helping these young families get a little better start, so we're very grateful.

You know, our female veterans with child have a very special gift for us, it's a gift of a new United States citizen. They have special, special things to pass down to them. Being warriors and patriots, they have a sense of values, sense of service and duty that they will instill in their children, and what a special gift. What a special gift for all of us. So thank you so much.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's my understanding your baby shower is today?

ROUDEBUSH ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR RUZICK: It is tonight.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's tonight. Also my understanding that the Department of Indiana is also going to be making some donations at this evening's shower.

ROUDEBUSH ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR RUZICK: Baby seats and cribs and strollers, I understand, from Mr. Drake. So we're really excited and I know that our families are going to be just thrilled.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: Eleven car seats, five cribs, and some baby strollers. (Applause)

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Comrade Commander, we do so much throughout the country, and now with Operation Comfort Warriors. I'm wondering, do we have a list of the VA hospitals that will be receiving these gifts? Is it possible that we could be so informed when they arrive? Because I believe The American Legion and members in those particular states should be there to present the gifts and get the proper publicity and wherewithal to let me know that we are The American Legion.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: If I could have Bruce Drake, who is the assistant director.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR DRAKE: Yes, ma'am. Commander, we have available the entire listing of all 60 hospitals courtesy of the VA, and we can provide that to every department before the end of the day. It's 32 states and the District of Columbia. There are 60 hospitals across here.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Do we know when they will be arriving and when we can be there to make the presentation?

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR DRAKE: By date, yes, sir.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: I would like to have that list. Thank you.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR DRAKE: Yes, sir, we will get it to you.

...National Commander Rohan resumed the chair.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Madam Commander and members of the National Executive Committee, and esteemed guests, good afternoon. I am privileged to stand before you to report on the actions of your Americanism Commission. Copies of my detailed report have been distributed for your review, so I will only brief you some of the highlights of our meetings over the last few days.

Resolution No. 1 of the National Executive Committee from Spring 2016 titled "American Legion Legacy Scholarship Enhancement," calls for awarding verifiable need-based American Legion Legacy scholarships. Priority consideration is given to eligible children of the fallen and to eligible children of disabled veterans having been
assigned a combined disability rating of 50 percent or greater by the VA.

This year there were 2,109 Legacy Scholarship applications that were opened. Of those, 568 were completed by the deadline. Of those 568, 225 demonstrated verifiable eligibility and financial needs. Of those 225, there were 41 American Legion Legacy scholarships awarded. Seven children of the fallen were awarded, as were 34 children of disabled American veterans. The total amount of scholarships awarded this year is $744,436.18. In accordance with the resolution, there will be $482 returned to the trust fund for continued growth.

The Americanism Commission approved the Committee on Youth Education's recommendation that Dolly Parton be the recipient of The American Legion's 2018 National Education Award for her literacy project called "Imagination Library," a free children's book distribution program for youth for age birth to five and regardless of the family's income.

As many of you may have heard last week, the Boy Scouts of America announced that in 2019 they are changing the name of their flagship program for 11- to 17-years-olds that is currently called "Boy Scouts" to that of "Scout BSA." Last week, the chief Scout executive of the Boy Scouts of America was quoted as saying, "We wanted to land on something that evokes the past but also conveys the inclusive nature of the program going forward. We're trying to find the right way to say we're here for both young men and women."

Beginning with the enrollment of girls next year into the Boy Scouts, young men and women will both have equal availability to all of the same activities, ranks, awards, and the path to Eagle Scout. Girls already began enrolling in the Cub Scouts late last year. The Boy Scouts of America has had multiple membership changes in recent years, and I have called for the Americanism Commission to take time and opportunity to study the rapidly evolving changes of the Boy Scouts of America for further discussion at our fall meeting.

Coming before this body are two resolutions having originated from the Americanism Commission; the first is titled "Reasonable Accommodations for Participating in American Legion Youth Programs at the National Level."

There are increasingly more youths identifying as transgender or nongender conforming who are seeking participation in youth programs. No one single definition exists for what transgender is. Is it completion of reassignment surgery? Is it just hormone therapy? Is it simply just identifying with the opposite gender of which one was born? The overarching goal of American Legion youth programs have always been provide an enjoyable and pleasantly remembered experience for as many youth participants as possible, while also balancing safety, program integrity, risk mitigation and liability to our organization.

This resolution proposes making longstanding practice into formal policy. Gender accommodations have already been observed at the national level for many, many years. In the oratorical and junior shooting programs, for example, those mixed-gender programs have long provided reasonable accommodations, such as separate sleeping and bathing facilities, as necessary. There are Boys State programs in recent years having successfully handled the integration of transgender youth in their programs through reasonable accommodations.

The other resolution emanating from the Americanism Commission is titled "Citizenship, Residency, or Visitor Status for Participation in the American Legion Youth Programs at the National Level."

This resolution calls for youth who are seeking participation in national-level youth programs of The American Legion to be a legal citizen, resident, or visitor of the United States, and provide proof of that status prior to their acceptance for participation. The commission feels this resolution is extremely important in upholding The American
Legion's position on immigration, the principles of its preamble and the integrity of its brand. It is also significant to upholding the laws of our nation.

The commission is in support of affording noncitizen youth from other nations, who have been granted the authorization to be within the United States legally, opportunities to participate alongside U.S. citizens in youth programs of The American Legion. In doing so, it instills respect for America, enhances assimilation to the U.S. culture, and provides an in-depth study and appreciation of American government. The commission hopes this body will agree with the importance of these two resolutions.

Madam Commander and members of this National Executive Committee, the Americanism Commission, again, thanks for your longstanding support, and this completes my report.

Report: Americanism Commission
May 7-8, 2018
Richard W. Anderson, Connecticut, Chairman

The Americanism Commission met at the Sheraton City Centre Hotel, Indianapolis, Indiana on May 7-8, 2018. There were 84 members present, including members of the Americanism Council, American Legion Baseball Committee, Committee on Children & Youth, Committee on Youth Education and Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Committee. We were privileged to have with us National Commander of The American Legion, Denise Rohan (WI), and Past National Commanders John “Jake” Comer (MA), Daniel Ludwig (MN), Daniel Dellinger (VA), Robert Turner (GA), Thomas Bock (CO), Joe Frank (MO) and Dale Barnett (GA). Other distinguished guests included American Legion Auxiliary National President Diane Duscheck (WI), Sons of The American Legion Americanism Chairman Gerald Hammerschmidt (KS), Maggi Van Dyk of S.A. Van Dyk, Inc.; and other honored guests representing The American Legion and affiliated organizations.

COMMITTEE ON YOUTH EDUCATION
Michael Bredeck (MN), Chairman

The Committee on Youth Education met on May 5-6, 2018, at the Sheraton City Centre Hotel in Indianapolis, Indiana. The committee developed the following recommendations for review and consideration by the Americanism Commission:

SNAPSHOT OF THE 2018 AMERICAN LEGION LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS:

Per the funding strategy authorized in Resolution No. 1 NEC May 2016 American Legion Legacy Scholarship Enhancement, a total of $744,919 was made available in 2018 for American Legion Legacy scholarship awards. A total of $744,436.18 was awarded to 41 qualified applicants demonstrating a financial need; 34 are children of disabled veterans and 7 are children of the fallen (Enclosure 1).

- A total of 1,209 applications were opened
- Of those 1,209 there were 568 submitting a complete application
- Of those 568 complete applications, 225 were deemed both eligible and having demonstrated a financial need (7 children of the fallen / 218 children of disabled veterans)
- Of those 225 deemed eligible and demonstrating a financial need, a total of 41 American Legion Legacy scholarships were awarded (7 children of the fallen / 34 children of disabled veterans)
- 184 applications totaling $1,774,905 were unfulfilled
- Monetary awards:
- Total amount awarded: $744,436.18
• 36 awards were $20,000 each
• Two were awarded to children of the fallen
• The remaining five awards ranged from $12,398 to $1,770
• All five were awarded to children of the fallen

In accordance with the governing resolution, there will be $482.82 returned to the trust fund for continued growth.

Also in accordance with the governing resolution, a written draft of a Policy & Procedures Manual for Administration of the American Legion Legacy Scholarship was developed and reviewed by the Committee on Youth Education. The Committee directed edits and administrative changes that will be incorporated into a smooth written document that the Committee will review again at the 2018 Fall meetings.

The committee recommends Dolly Parton as recipient of the 2018 American Legion National Education Award for her literacy program “Imagination Library.” Imagination Library is a free children’s book distribution program. In 1995 Parton launched an initiative to help inspire every child in Sevier County, Tennessee, the area where she was born and raised, to learn to read by designing an infrastructure to mail one free, hand-selected book per month to every child, from birth until age five, regardless of the family’s income. It was an instant success with children, parents and educators, and in 2000, Parton announced that she wanted to make the program available to any community that would partner with her and support it locally. The program has since expanded to local communities in the U.S., Canada, Australia and the United Kingdom. By 2003, Parton’s Imagination Library had mailed one million books, which proved to be only the first of many millions of books sent to children around the United States and the world, drastically improving literacy for the children enrolled in her book program.

**TROOP & FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAMS**

**Bruce Drake (ME), Assistant Director, Americanism Division**

More than 9,000 servicemembers, veterans or their family members were directly impacted by Operation Comfort Warriors (OCW) in 2017, either by participating in an OCW-sponsored event or receiving care at an OCW grant-receiving facility. This was a 20% increase in comparison to the previous calendar year.

In 2017 the OCW program disbursed $156,026 in fulfillment of 28 grants. For this current year to date the program has disbursed $109,397 in 10 grants. In 2017 $612,335 was donated to OCW. In 2018 to date, donations are $65,241.

OCW continues to do crossover grants with other divisions and programs within The American Legion, working with VA&R System Worth Saving Task Force visits; Membership district revitalizations; American Legion Baseball World Series; hosting wounded warriors national convention books and PDCC Luncheon each year; multiple grants along the annual Legacy Run. OCW grants are also piggybacked with various department events, such as LEAD training or department Legion College.

OCW staff also works closely with departments and posts to mobilize local media and provide local representatives to discuss the OCW program within their communities. In 2017 there were 17 articles published in the Legion Magazine and digital Dispatch. OCW was also given visibility in eight American Legion Family Department newsletters last year. OCW continues to use Facebook social media, currently having 2,497 “likes”.

**AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL COMMITTEE**

**Gary Stone (MO), Chairman**

The American Legion Baseball Committee met Monday, May 7, 2018, at the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel.
The American Legion Baseball Committee recommends to the Americanism Commission that it approve the new resolution titled *American Legion Baseball Regional Tournament Sites And Dates for 2019 and 2020*.

The Committee discussed the recent Major League Baseball (MLB) rule adopted during spring training limiting the number of visit to the pitcher’s mound. The intent of the rule is to speed the pace of play during a 9 inning game. As of the 2018 season all national tournaments of The American Legion World Series are 7 inning games and pace of play has not been an issue, therefore, the committee recommends not adopting the new MLB rule.

Concerned with the low number of total regional bids received, including no bids submitted from Regions 2 or 4, a discussion ensued regarding options available to fill the void of the missing two regional bids. The Committee voted to realign those regions necessary to utilize the current bids received to have ability to fulfill all eight 2019-2020 regional sites.

**COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN & YOUTH**

Herbert J. Petit, Jr. (LA), Chairman

The Committee on Children & Youth met at the Sheraton City Centre Hotel, Panorama A, 21st floor in Indianapolis, Indiana, on Monday, May 7, 2018.

The Committee on Children & Youth recommends that the Americanism Commission reject Resolution No. 12, *War On Drugs Poster Contest (AR)* for implementation at the national level; the resolution was referred to the Americanism Commission at the 2017 national convention. The committee charged staff with conducting an interest survey of departments; in response very few departments reported wishing to seek the implementation of a contest. The Committee on Children & Youth commends the Department of Arkansas for the success they have experienced within their department with the contest, and encourages other departments who may become interested in the future to contact the Department of Arkansas.

The American Legion Child Welfare (CWF) Foundation met on Sunday, May 6, 2018, at the Sheraton City Centre Hotel in Indianapolis, Indiana. For the 2017-2018 donation year (1 June, 2017 – 31 May, 2018), the Foundation has received over $353,220. The Sons of The American Legion presented the Foundation with over $82,000 during their 2018 spring meetings.

The American Legion’s Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA) program continues to provide for the basic needs of minor children of current active duty servicemembers or American Legion members through cash grants made possible through the generosity of the American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation. During 2017, TFA assisted 933 children of 433 veterans throughout the United States maintain shelter, utilities, food and clothing with over $588,434 in cash grants. For the first quarter of this year, TFA has provided over $67,308 to 112 children of 52 veterans.

**YOUTH CADET LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE**

Larry Price (SD), Chairman

On May 7, 2018, the Youth Cadet Law Enforcement (YCLE) Committee met at the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel, Library Room.

Meeting topics presented and discussed include: an update from committee members on technical assistance provided to date to departments without a Youth Cadet Law Enforcement program; preparation for the 2018 American Legion National Convention and YCLE committee meeting; an update of the YCLE Strategic Plan; and a discussion on the YCLE Department Suggested Guidelines by Americanism Assistant Director, Shayne Abrahams.
Committee meetings points of emphasis:

- The need for every department to develop a Youth Cadet Law Enforcement program.
- The need for additional Youth Cadet Law Enforcement resources.
- The need for greater Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Program awareness.
- Departments without a program should contact a Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Committee member immediately for start-up technical assistance.

REPORT OF THE YOUTH ACTIVITIES SUBCOMMITTEE

Charles T. Tucker (GA), Chairman

The Youth Activities Subcommittee (YASC) met Monday, May 7, 2018, in Indianapolis, Indiana with Darrell Bishop (OH) serving as acting chairman.

The Youth Activities Subcommittee reviewed the resolutions below, making the following recommendations to the Americanism Commission:

- Resolution No. 233 Convention 2016 (FL), Eagle Scout Lapel Pin Award - reject.
- Resolution No. 10 Convention 2017 (AR), Proposed Change To The Oratorical Contest National Finals – reject
- New resolution, Reasonable Accommodation For Participation In American Legion Youth Programs At The National Level - approve

Junior Shooting Sports Program

The 28th American Legion Junior Three Position Air Rifle National Championship will be held July 24 – 29, 2018 at the USA Shooting range facility located at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colorado; 1,385 athletes entered the individual Postal Match competition and 174 teams entered team Postal Match competition.

American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program

“A Constitutional Speech Contest”

The 81st National Finals Contests were conducted on April 13-15, 2018, at the Wyndham Indianapolis West. The 53 department winners who entered the national competition were all outstanding representatives of today’s youth. The top three national finalists are:

First Place Carlissa Frederich (KY) $19,500
Second Place Emily Parker (MN) $17,500
Third Place Nathan York (CA) $15,500

The Media & Communications Division provided a Facebook live webcast of the National Final Contest with more than 6,800 views and 133 shares. The live webcast is still available for viewing.

Scouting

Americanism Commission Chairman Richard Anderson discussed that the Boy Scouts of America organization announced last week that they are changing the name of their major program for 11- to 17-year olds that’s currently called the “Boy Scouts” program; the name is being changed to “Scout BSA”. At the announcement the Chief Scout Executive of the Boy Scouts of America organization was quoted as saying, “We wanted to land on something that evokes the past but also conveys the inclusive nature of the program going forward. We’re trying to find the right way to say we’re here for both young men and young women.” Beginning next year, girls will be allowed to enroll in the Boy Scouts and have availability to the same activities, ranks, awards and path to Eagle Scout – late last year, girls already began enrolling in Cub Scouts. The Boy Scouts of America organization has had multiple membership changes in recent years, and the Chairman
Anderson announced that the Americanism Commission will take time and opportunity to study the rapidly evolving changes of the Boys Scouts of America organization for further discussion at the 2018 Fall meetings.

Michael Ankner from Denver, Colorado, was selected the 2018 American Legion Eagle Scout of the year and will receive a $10,000 scholarship. Runner-up recipients of the three $2,500 scholarships are: Benjamin Kelley from Cottage Grove, Wisconsin; Koen Weaver from Mount Morris, New York; and Jacob Sykora from Papillion, Nebraska. A total of 34 Eagle Scout of the Year applications were submitted from the departments of: Alaska, Arkansas, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Mississippi, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin and West Virginia.

At the end of 2017, there were 2,439 Scouting units were chartered by American Legion posts, American Legion Auxiliary units, and Sons of The American Legion squadrons, serving 63,054 youth.

The American Legion & Scouting Square Knot award recognizes American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, or Sons of The American Legion members who are actively involved in the Scouting program, their dedication, and work to assist in furthering the Scouting program in The American Legion. This award is not meant to be a selective or limited award, but one that is available to any American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary or Sons of The American Legion member who completes the requirements for the award. In 2017, 24 awards were issued to Legionnaires, American Legion Auxiliary members and Sons of The American Legion members.

American Legion Boys State/Nation

The number of delegates attending American Legion Boys State in 2017 totaled 19,190 nationally. This is a decrease of 431 delegates from the previous year.

REPORT OF THE CITIZENSHIP & NATURALIZATION SUBCOMMITTEE

Joseph Caouette (NH), Chairman

Eight members of the Citizenship and Naturalizations Subcommittee met on Monday, May 7, 2018, in the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel, Panorama B, 21st floor. Discussions of the subcommittee began with a review of its purpose and focus. The Citizenship and Naturalization Subcommittee directs its focus toward promoting an understanding, appreciation, and active involvement in the rights and responsibilities of being an American citizen and American government. The subcommittee endorsed that The American Legion should have a presence at or as a participant in local naturalization ceremonies, and encourages members of the Americanism Council to help encourage posts and districts in their departments to do so.

The Subcommittee reviewed and discussed a new resolution titled Citizenship, Residency Or Visitor Status For Youth Participation In American Legion Youth Programs At The National Level. The Subcommittee feels this resolution is extremely important in upholding the official positions and Preamble of The American Legion, as well as upholding the law; the Subcommittee is supportive of allowing non-citizen youth from other nations, who have been granted authorization to be within the United States legally, opportunity to participate in youth programs of The American Legion alongside U.S. citizens, as it instills a respect for America, supports assimilation into U.S. culture, and provides an in-depth study of American government. The Subcommittee unanimously voted its recommendation for the Americanism Commission to give its approval to the new resolution titled Citizenship, Residency Or Visitor Status For Youth Participation In American Legion Youth Programs At The National Level.
The Subcommittee concluded by discussing preliminary plans on behalf of the Americanism Commission for hosting a naturalization ceremony at the Centennial Year National Convention of The American Legion in Indianapolis in 2019.

RESOLUTIONS

At the meeting of the Americanism Commission at the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel in Indianapolis, Indiana, May 7-8, 2018, a total of six resolutions were considered. The Americanism Commission recommends approval of the following three resolutions:

- *Reasonable Accommodation For Participation In American Legion Youth Programs At The National Level*
- *Citizenship, Residency Or Visitor Status For Youth Participation In American Legion Youth Programs At The National Level*
- *American Legion Baseball Regional Tournament Sites and Dates for 2019 and 2020*

Recommendations for the remaining three resolutions are detailed on Addendum A that is attached. The commission further recommends new dates for Americanism programs and conferences as outlined on Addendum B attached to this report.

Addendum A

Rejected

Resolution No. 233 (FL) (2016 Nat’l Conv.) Eagle Scout Lapel Pin Award
Resolution No. 10 (AR) (2016) Nat’l Conv.) Proposed Change To The Oratorical Contest National Finals
Resolution No. 12 (AR) (2016) Nat’l Conv.) War On Drugs Poster Contest

Addendum B

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meeting Date</th>
<th>Event/Meeting</th>
<th>Conference Dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 9-10, 2018</td>
<td>Scouting Chairman’s Conference</td>
<td>October 26-28, 2018</td>
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<td>October 25-27, 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 9-10, 2018</td>
<td>American Legion Baseball regional tournaments</td>
<td>August 5-9, 2020</td>
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RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, motion to receive and file the report of the Americanism Commission with the exception of three resolutions, Addendum A and Addendum B. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded to receive and file the report of the Americanism Commission with the exception of three resolutions and Addendum A and B. Are there any questions? Past National Commander Spanogle.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER SPANOGLE: National Commander, I would like to commend the Americanism Commission for taking a good look at our sponsorship of the Boy Scouts of America. It's long been a sense of pride. I've long been a life Scout. I've received some of the highest awards in the Boy Scouts of America.

My understanding is that the Latter Day Saints, the Mormon Church, has pulled out of their sponsorship because of this change in Scout eligibility. That's 495,000 Boy Scouts. That's one quarter of the membership of Boy Scouts of America.

We won that case for the Boy Scouts of America, I mentioned that the other night at
Phil Onderdonk's retirement reception. We wanted it so that the Scouts could define their own membership, and we won in the Supreme Court 5 to 4. It was thanks to The American Legion for initiating and helping Boy Scouts of America with that lawsuit.

Seems to me the purpose of Boy Scouts is to help boys become men. The girl scouts, may want to join the Boy Scouts for good and cogent reasons, and I want to commend you for taking a good look at this for the Americanism Commission, and you have my best wishes. Thank you.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Thank you sir. I'll pass that on to the commission.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: Are there any other questions? On the motion to receive and file the report of the Americanism Commission with the exception of three resolutions and Addendum A and B, all those in favor say aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried.

Resolution No. 28: Citizenship, Residency, or Visitor Status for Youth Participation in American Legion Youth Programs at the National Level

Origin: Americanism Commission
Submitted By: Americanism Commission

WHEREAS, The Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion includes a provision “To maintain law and order”; and
WHEREAS, The safety and security of all Americans depends on a civil and law-abiding society; and
WHEREAS, Resolution No. 24 of the National Convention of The American Legion held in Cincinnati, Ohio, August 30, 31, September 1, 2016, titled “Illegal Immigration Policy” states opposition to any person or persons being in this country illegally, regardless of race, sex, creed, color or national origin, and furthermore states the belief that current laws governing immigration should be enforced impartially and equally; and
WHEREAS, Immigration to the United States can be generally categorized as either legal or illegal; and
WHEREAS, Those non-citizens holding a valid passport, NEXUS card or visa have been granted authorization to be within the United States legally; and
WHEREAS, If someone comes into the U.S. without a visa or continues to remain in the United States by overstaying after their visa has expired, that person is breaking the law; and
WHEREAS, It is paramount that The American Legion maintain its responsibility to its members to uphold the constitution of the organization and safeguard The American Legion brand; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 9-10, 2018, That beginning in 2019, The American Legion will require that all youth participating in national-level youth programs of the organization be a legal United States citizen, or possess legal residency or visitor status to be in the United States; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion will require proof of legal citizenship, residency or visitor status from all potential youth participants prior to their acceptance for participation in a national-level youth program of the organization; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the following may be accepted as proof of legal status:
- Records of birth that are an original or a document certified by a State Bureau of Vital Statistics, Department of Health or other governmental agency that’s authorized to certify birth documents (notarized photocopies of birth certificates, hospital
records, baptismal records, school records or certificates will not be accepted)

- A court-certified copy of legal adoption papers showing place and date of birth
- A state-issued driver’s license or state-issued identification (ID) card that is in compliance with the federal REAL ID Act of 2005, Pub. L. 109-13, 119 Stat. 302
- A government-issued passport with proper endorsement for visiting the United States
- A U.S. government-issued military ID card or dependent ID card
- In the case of a foreign birth, a potential participant may present any certificate or document duly issued to the bearer by the U.S. Department of State or the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, such as a NEXUS card
- Other documents as may be reviewed and approved by the national judge advocate; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That potential participants will be denied participation in national-level youth programs of the organization if they do not comply with providing proof of legal citizenship, residency or visitor status in the United States, or who are not a legal citizen, resident or visitor in the United States; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That departments of The American Legion are strongly urged to establish a similar policy for participants of youth programs conducted within their department.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER BOLAND: Commander, this resolution has the approval of the Americanism Commission and your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I recommend its adoption. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded for the approval of Resolution No. 28 entitled "Citizenship, Residency, or Visitor Status For Youth Participation In American Legion Youth Programs At The National Level." Are there any questions? All those in favor of approving Resolution No. 28, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried.

Resolution No. 29: Reasonable Accommodation for Participation in American Legion Youth Programs at the National Level

Origin: Americanism Commission

Submitted By: Americanism Commission

WHEREAS, All youth programs of The American Legion have endeavored to uphold a proud and long-standing tradition of sponsoring youth programs which provides enjoyable, memorable, and safe experiences for its participants; and

WHEREAS, It is paramount that The American Legion maintain its moral and ethical responsibility to parents and guardians by safeguarding their children and their children’s experience when participating in youth programs under The American Legion brand; and

WHEREAS, Department-level youth programs of The American Legion may vary in content and operational priorities and procedures as determined by that department; and

WHEREAS, Clear communication and well-defined policies, instruction, and oversight are all effective elements for youth program planning and management which can help to uphold the safety of youth, the integrity of a program, and mitigate risk and liability to an organization; and
WHEREAS, There are increasingly more national, state and local laws being passed allowing gender identity to be defined through various means other than a birth certificate; and

WHEREAS, No definitive, unified single definition exists for what is transgender, e.g., having undergone either gender reassignment surgery, cross-sex hormone therapy, professional therapy and name change, or a combination thereof; and

WHEREAS, There are increasingly more Americans and youth coming forward identifying as transgender or non-gender conforming; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 9-10, 2018, That The American Legion will continue to:

1) Identify all applicable federal, state and local laws during the selection of a site for operating a national-level youth program

2) Observe all applicable federal, state and local laws during the planning and operational phases of a national-level youth program

3) Make all reasonable accommodations possible that do not put participants at risk and aid in ensuring the inclusion of as many participants as practicable; examples of reasonable accommodations may include (but are not limited to) separate sleeping room, separate bathing and toilet facilities, etc.; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That departments and posts are strongly urged to abide by all applicable federal, state and local laws in the planning and operation of their youth programs, giving further consideration to making all reasonable accommodations possible.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER BOLAND: Commander, this resolution has the approval of the Americanism Commission and your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I recommend its adoption. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded to approve Resolution No. 29, titled, "Reasonable Accommodation For Participation in American Legion Youth Programs At The National Level." Are there any questions? All those in favor of approving Resolution No. 29, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried.

Resolution No. 30: American Legion Baseball Regional Tournament Sites and Dates for 2019 and 2020

Origin: American Legion Baseball Committee

Submitted By: Americanism Commission

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 9 of the National Executive Committee, May 2009, established that beginning with the 2011-2012 seasons, regional tournaments of The American Legion Baseball program may be sited in one location for one (1) year or for two (2) consecutive years, based on accessibility and central location as determined by open bids using objective, weighted evaluation criteria; and

WHEREAS, It is the responsibility of the Americanism Commission to select the sites and dates for the Regional and World Series tournaments of American Legion Baseball; and

WHEREAS, It is customary that the sites for regional tournaments be selected in advance; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 9-10, 2018, That the dates for regional tournaments of the American Legion Baseball program shall be August 7-11, 2019, and August 5-9, 2020; and, be it finally
RESOLVED, That sites for the 2019 and 2020 regional tournaments of the American Legion Baseball program be awarded as follows:

Region 1 – Shrewsbury, Massachusetts
Region 2 – Asheboro, North Carolina
Region 3 – Tampa, Florida
Region 4 – Hastings, Nebraska
Region 5 – Charleston, Illinois (2019 only)
Region 6 – Sioux Falls, South Dakota
Region 7 – Lewiston, Idaho (2019 only)
Region 8 – Fairfield, California

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER BOLAND: Commander, this resolution has the approval of the Americanism Commission and your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I recommend its approval. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and second to approve Resolution No. 30, titled "American Legion Baseball Regional Tournament Sites And Dates For 2019 And 2020." Are there any questions? All those in favor of approving Resolution No. 30, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER BOLAND: Attached to this report is Addendum A and B. I move that the action of the Americanism Commission become the action of the National Executive Committee. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded that the action of the Americanism Committee Addendum A and B become the action of the NEC. Are there any questions? All those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried. Thank you. Mr. Warnken

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: I thought maybe this might be an opportune time to finish up that Rule 8A resolution.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: No. 31?

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Resolution No. 31.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: Enough time has passed.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: All right. We've elapsed time from 9:56 this morning to 14:34 hours, which means we've had four hours elapse. I will now read Resolution 31 under rule 8A.

Resolution No. 31: 2021 National Convention Contract

Origin: Convention Commission
Submitted By: Convention Commission

WHEREAS, The Convention Commission has reviewed the status of the proposed National American Legion Convention in Phoenix, Arizona, August 27 – September 2, 2021; and

WHEREAS, Subject to receiving a properly executed contract from the 2021 The American Legion National Convention Corporation of Arizona the Convention Commission believes that all conditions for a contract covering The American Legion National Convention in Phoenix, Arizona, August 27 – September 2, 2021, have been satisfied; and

WHEREAS, The Convention Commission hereby recommends to the National Executive Committee that it enter into the appropriate contract with the 2021 The American Legion National Convention Corporation of Arizona to cover the 2021 American Legion National Convention; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 9-10, 2018, That the national commander, after receipt of an executed contract from the 2021 The American Legion National Convention Corporation of Arizona and the review and approval of same from the national judge advocate, be and is hereby authorized and
directed to execute said contract and the national adjutant, be and is hereby
authorized and directed to attest to same.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, this
resolution has the approval of the Convention Commission and you’re the Subcommittee
on Resolutions, and I recommend its approval. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded to approve
Resolution No. 31, titled "2021 National Convention Contract." Are there any questions?
All those in favor of Resolution 31, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, I
know I said this morning that we had Resolution No. 33 and Resolution No. 34 we were
going to read tomorrow on the changes to the uniform procedure for both the cancellation
and suspension of both the post and department charters. With your permission, I would
like to complete those at this time.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: Okay.

Resolution No. 33: Changes to the Uniform Code of Procedure for the Revocation,
Cancellation or Suspension of Department Charters of The American Legion
Origin: Subcommittee on Resolutions
Submitted By: Subcommittee on Resolutions

WHEREAS, It is a good practice to review procedures and manuals for possible
updates, corrections, modifications and clarification; and
WHEREAS, The American Legion’s Uniform Code of Procedure for the Revocation,
Cancellation or Suspension of Department Charters is one such procedure; and
WHEREAS, The National Executive Committee is empowered under Article XI,
Section 3 of the National Constitution to adopt rules of procedure regarding the hearing
and trial of any cause involving the cancellation, suspension, or revocation of a department
charter; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in
regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 9-10, 2018, That the
“Uniform Code of Procedure for the Revocation, Cancellation or Suspension of
Department Charters of The American Legion” be amended in accordance with the
attached Exhibit A; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the national adjutant be empowered to ensure proper
formatting and punctuation of this Uniform Code; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the amended Uniform Code take effect with the next printing
of the manual.

EXHIBIT A

Uniform Code of Procedure for the Revocation, Cancellation or Suspension of
Department Charters

(Adopted by the National Executive Committee of The American Legion,
November 21-22, 1940, Indianapolis, Indiana Amended by that body May 9 – 10,
2018, Indianapolis, Indiana)

I. Charges
Section 1. A charge that any Department should, for any good and sufficient
cause, have its charter cancelled, suspended or revoked, may be initiated by a
Department of The American Legion in good standing, or by any three (3) Posts of
the Department accused or the National Executive Committee. A charge may be withdrawn only with the consent of the National Commander.

Section 2. Such charge shall be filed with the National Commander at National Headquarters.

Section 3. Such charge shall be in writing, and signed by the respective Commanders and Adjutants of the Department or Posts or an authorized representative of the National Executive Committee, as the case may be, and sworn to before any officer authorized to administer oaths.

Section 4. Three additional copies of such charge shall be filed with the original. The National Commander shall forthwith cause one copy of such charge to be served on the defendant Department by delivering a true copy thereof to the Adjutant of said Department as hereinafter provided.

Section 5. Such charge shall include the following:

a. A certified or attested copy of the resolution authorizing the filing of such charge.

b. The full name and address of the Department against which the charge is made, as well as the full name and address of the Commander and Adjutant of such Department.

c. A clear, concise and detailed statement of the facts upon which the charge is based.

d. The section or sections of the Constitution and By-Laws alleged to have been violated.

e. Affidavits or documents substantiating the charge may be attached.

Section 6. After a charge has been filed, the National Commander shall forthwith cause a full investigation of the facts to be made. After such investigation, the National Commander shall file a report and recommendation with the National Executive Committee for its action thereon at its next meeting.

Section 7. Proceedings relating to the cancellation, suspension or revocation of a Department charter may originate with either the National Commander or the National Executive Committee. The action of the National Executive Committee in rejecting any charge or charges against a Department shall be final.

Section 8. The action of the National Executive Committee in rejecting any charge or charges against a Department shall be final.

II. Resolution of National Executive Committee

Should the National Executive Committee determine by a majority vote that a hearing and trial should be held to determine whether a Department charter should be cancelled, suspended or revoked, it shall then adopt a resolution which shall include the following:

a. A statement that the National Executive Committee has determined that a hearing and trial is warranted.

b. Authorization and direction to the National Commander and National Adjutant to sign a formal complaint.

c. The names and addresses of the members of the subcommittee before which the hearing and trial is to be held.

d. The name and address of the National Judge Advocate or special acting National Judge Advocate who is to assist the committee.

e. Authorization to the subcommittee to hire such stenographic or other help as may be necessary and to incur such expense as may be necessary.
That the subcommittee shall report its written findings of fact and recommendation to the National Executive Committee at its next meeting, provided, however, that if the hearing or trial is not completed a partial report shall be made.

III. Complaint

Section 1. In all cases a formal complaint, in triplicate, shall be drawn by the National Judge Advocate and signed by THE AMERICAN LEGION, through its National Commander and National Adjutant, setting forth the following:

a. A clear and concise statement of the facts upon which the charges are predicated.

b. The origin of the charges.

c. A copy of the resolution of the National Executive Committee appointing the subcommittee and its assistants.

d. A copy of the Uniform Code of Procedure for the Revocation, Cancellation, or Suspension of Department Charters.

e. The time within which an appearance or answer shall be filed by the Department, which shall be not less than twenty (20) or more than sixty (60) days from the date of the service of a copy of the complaint.

f. The time and place for the hearing and trial, which shall not be more than thirty (30) days after the date of the expiration of the time for the filing of the answer.

Section 2. Any such complaint may be amended by the subcommittee of the National Executive Committee in its discretion at any time upon such terms as may be deemed just in the opinion of the said subcommittee.

IV. Service

Section 1. The subcommittee shall cause a true copy of the complaint to be served on the defendant Department.

Section 2. All complaints, orders and other process and papers of the subcommittee or of the national organization of The American Legion may be served personally, or by registered mail, or by leaving a copy thereof at the principal office of the Defendant Department or Post or place of residence of the person to be served. The verified return by the individual serving the same showing service thereof in the manner herein provided, or the registry return receipt shall be proof of service.

Section 3. All notices, orders, papers or other process which are to be served on the National Headquarters of THE AMERICAN LEGION, or the subcommittee appointed to conduct the trial, shall be deemed served if they are served on the National Adjutant at National Headquarters, said service to be made as herein before provided.

Section 4. Witnesses may be summoned by a notice signed by either the special acting National Judge Advocate, the National Judge Advocate, or by a member of the subcommittee.

V. Answer

Section 1. The defendant Department shall file an answer to said complaint with the National Judge Advocate at National Headquarters within the time specified in the complaint. The answer shall contain a clear and concise statement of the facts which constitute its defense. Any charge or specification in the complaint which is not expressly denied or explained in the answer shall be deemed to be admitted.

Section 2. In the event that the complaint is amended during the course of the hearing or trial, the defendant shall be furnished with a copy of such amendment and
may file an amended answer to the said amended complaint within five (5) days thereafter.

VI. Subcommittee

Section 1. The subcommittee to hear and try and make written findings of fact and recommendations with reference to the matter of the cancellation, suspension or revocation of the Department charter shall be appointed by the National Executive Committee and shall consist of not more than five (5) nor less than three (3) members of the National Executive Committee. The National Executive Committee of the Department under investigation shall not be a member of such subcommittee.

Section 2. Should no member of the subcommittee be a lawyer, opinions on questions of law may be obtained from the National Judge Advocate or special acting National Judge Advocate.

Section 3. A majority of the members of the subcommittee shall constitute a quorum. If for any reason there is less than a quorum, the hearing shall be adjourned until a quorum is present.

Section 4. The duties of the National Judge Advocate or special acting National Judge Advocate shall be to see that the trial is prompt, complete and thorough, make all arrangements for the hearings, the summoning of all witnesses and the production of all papers. He shall see that all the orders of the subcommittee shall be carried out. He, along with members of the appointed subcommittee, shall examine and cross-examine all witnesses.

VII. Hearing and Trial

Section 1. The rules of evidence prevailing in courts of law and equity shall not be controlling. The subcommittee shall decide all questions arising as to the relevancy of the evidence and the regularity of the proceedings. Due process and equal protection legal standards shall be afforded to the Defendant Department at all stages of this process.

Section 2. The subcommittee may hold its hearings in closed sessions or may open them to the public. The subcommittee shall hear witnesses on oath or affirmation.

Section 3. Any party to the proceedings shall have the right to appear at such hearing in person, by counsel, or otherwise, subject to such reasonable restrictions as may be placed on this right by the subcommittee, and to examine and cross-examine witnesses and to introduce documentary or other evidence.

Section 4. Stipulations of fact may be introduced in evidence with respect to any issues.

Section 5. Objection to the conduct of the hearing shall be stated orally together with a short statement of the grounds of such objection and included in the stenographic report of the hearing.

Section 6. Any party to the proceedings shall be entitled to a reasonable period at the close of the hearing for oral argument, which shall not be included in the stenographic report of the hearing. Briefs maybe filed by the parties within the time fixed by the subcommittee.

Section 7. In the discretion of the subcommittee, the hearings may be continued from day to day, or adjourned to a later date, or to a different place by announcement thereof at the hearing by the chairman or vice-chairman of the subcommittee, or by other appropriate notice.

Section 8. A stenographic report of the trial shall be made.

VIII. Report of Subcommittee
Section 1. The subcommittee, after it has completed its hearings, shall file the complete report of the proceedings had upon the trial, together with its written findings of fact and recommendations with reference thereto with the National Adjutant not less than five (5) days before the next meeting of the National Executive Committee, all of which shall be open to the inspection of all members of the National Executive Committee as well as representative or representatives of the Defendant Department.

Section 2. The National Executive Committee shall consider said report and act thereon.

Section 3. At the National Executive Committee meeting at which the report of the said subcommittee is to be considered, one (1) representative of the defendant Department may, within the discretion of the National Executive Committee, be given the privilege of the floor for not more than one (1) hour.

Section 4. Should the subcommittee’s report be a partial report, the National Executive Committee may continue the committee and authorize it to hold further hearings and present its final report at the next meeting of the National Executive Committee.

Section 5. The decision of the National Executive Committee, based upon the report of its subcommittee, shall be final and no appeal can be taken therefrom.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON WARNKEN: Commander, this resolution has the approval of the Resolutions Subcommittee. I move for its approval. ...Second

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded to approve Resolution No. 33, "Changes to the Uniform Code of Procedure for the Revocation, Cancellation or Suspension of Department Charters of the American Legion." Are there any questions? All those in favor of approving Resolution 33, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried.

Resolution No. 34: Changes to the Uniform Code of Procedure for the Revocation, Cancellation or Suspension of Post Charters of The American Legion

Origin: Subcommittee on Resolutions
Submitted By: Subcommittee on Resolutions

WHEREAS, It is a good practice to review procedures and manuals for possible updates, corrections, modifications and clarification; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion’s Uniform Code of Procedure for the Revocation, Cancellation or Suspension of Post Charters would be more clear if a portion of Article I, Section 7 were to be included in Article 1, Section 1; and

WHEREAS, The National Executive Committee is empowered under Article III, Section 4 of the National By-Laws to adopt rules of procedure regarding the hearing and trial of any cause involving the cancellation, suspension, or revocation of a post charter; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 9-10, 2018, That the “Uniform Code of Procedure for the Revocation, Cancellation or Suspension of Post Charters of The American Legion” be amended in accordance with the attached Exhibit A; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the national adjutant be empowered to ensure proper formatting and punctuation of this Uniform Code; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the amended Uniform Code take effect with the next printing of the manual.
I. Charges
Section 1. A charge that any Post should, for any good and sufficient cause, have its charter cancelled, suspended or revoked may be initiated by any intermediate body between the Post and the Department, or by any three Posts of the Department in which the Post accused is located or the Department Executive Committee. A charge may be withdrawn only with the consent of the Department Commander.

Section 2. Such charge shall be filed with the Department Commander at Department Headquarters.

Section 3. Such charge shall be in writing and signed by the respective Commanders and Adjutants of the intermediate bodies or Posts or an authorized representative of the Department Executive Committee, as the case may be, and sworn to before any officer authorized to administer oaths.

Section 4. Three additional copies of such charge shall be filed with the original. The Department Commander shall forthwith cause one (1) copy of such charge to be served on the defendant Post by delivering a true copy thereof to the Adjutant of said Post, as hereinafter provided.

Section 5. Such charge shall include the following:
   a. A certified or attested copy of the resolution authorizing the filing of such charge.
   b. The full name and address of the Post against which the charge is made, as well as the full name and address of the Commander and Adjutant of such Post.
   c. A clear, concise and detailed statement of the facts upon which the charge is based.
   d. The section or sections of the National and Department Constitutions and By-Laws alleged to have been violated.
   e. Affidavits or documents substantiating the charge may be attached.

Section 6. After a charge has been filed, the Department Commander shall forthwith cause a full investigation of the facts to be made. After such investigation, the Department Commander shall file a report and recommendation with the Department Executive Committee for its action thereon at its next meeting.

Section 7. Proceedings relating to the cancellation, suspension or revocation of a Post charter may also originate with either the Department Commander or the Department Executive Committee. The action of the Department Executive Committee in rejecting any charge or charges against a Post shall be final.

Section 8. The action of the Department Executive Committee in rejecting any charge or charges against a Post shall be final.

II. Resolution of Department Executive Committee
Section 1. Should the Department Executive Committee determine by a majority vote that the Post should surrender its charter, said Department Executive Committee shall direct the defendant Post to surrender its charter for cancellation, and shall pass a resolution that unless the charter is so surrendered, prior to the date therein specified, a hearing and trial be held to determine whether the Post charter
should be cancelled, suspended or revoked, and said resolution shall include the following:

a. A statement that the Department Executive Committee has determined that a hearing and trial is warranted.

b. Authorization and direction to the Department Commander and Department Adjutant to sign a formal complaint.

c. The names and addresses of the members of the subcommittee before which the hearing and the trial is to be held.

d. The name and address of the Department Judge Advocate or special acting Department Judge Advocate who is to assist the committee.

e. Authorization to the subcommittee to hire such stenographic or other help as may be necessary and to incur such expense as may be necessary. Said expense, including the cost of stenographic report of the trial when ordered to be transcribed by the subcommittee or the Department Executive Committee, shall be taxed as costs against the Department, complainants or defendant Post in such manner and amount as the Department Executive Committee shall prescribe.

f. That the subcommittee shall report its written findings of fact and recommendation to the Department Executive Committee at its next meeting, provided, however, that if the hearing or trial is not completed, a partial report shall be made.

III. Complaint

Section 1. In all cases, a formal complaint, in triplicate, shall be drawn by the Department Judge Advocate and signed by The American Legion, through its Department Commander and Department Adjutant, setting forth the following:

a. A clear and concise statement of the facts upon which the charges are predicted.

b. The origin of the charges.

c. A copy of the resolution of the Department Executive Committee appointing the subcommittee and its assistants.

d. A copy of the Uniform Code of Procedure for the Revocation, Cancellation or Suspension of Post Charters.

e. The time within which an appearance or answer shall be filed by the Post, which shall be not less than twenty (20) or more than sixty (60) days from the date of the service of a copy of the complaint.

f. The time and place for the hearing and trial, which shall not be more than thirty (30) days after the date of the expiration of the time for the filing of the answer.

Section 2. Any such complaint may be amended by the subcommittee of the Department Executive Committee in its discretion at any time upon such terms as may be deemed just in the opinion of the said subcommittee.

IV. Service

Section 1. The subcommittee shall cause a true copy of the complaint to be served on the defendant Post.

Section 2. All complaints, orders and other process and papers of the subcommittee or the Department organization of The American Legion may be served personally, or by registered mail, or by leaving a copy thereof at the principle office or Headquarters of the intermediate body or Post, or place of residence of the person or officer to be served. The verified return by the individual serving the same showing service thereof in the manner herein provided, or the registry return receipt shall be proof of service.
Section 3. All notices, orders, papers or other process which are to be served on the Department Headquarters of The American Legion, or the subcommittee appointed to conduct the trial, shall be deemed served if they are served on the Department Adjutant at Department Headquarters, said service to be made as herein above provided.

Section 4. Witnesses may be summoned by a notice signed by either the special acting Department Judge Advocate, the Department Judge Advocate, or by a member of the subcommittee.

V. Answer
Section 1. The defendant Post shall file an answer to said complaint with the Department Judge Advocate at Department Headquarters within the time specified in the complaint. The answer shall contain a clear and concise statement of the facts which constitute its defense. Any charge or specification in the complaint which is not expressly denied or explained in the answer shall be deemed to be admitted.

Section 2. In the event that the complaint is amended during the course of the hearing or trial, the defendant shall be furnished with a copy of such amendment and may file an amended answer to the said amended complaint within five (5) days thereafter.

VI. Subcommittee
Section 1. The subcommittee to hear and try and make written findings of fact and recommendations with reference to the matter of the cancellation, suspension or revocation of the Post charter shall be appointed by the Department Executive Committee and shall consist of not less than three (3) members of the Department Executive Committee. No member of the Post under investigation shall be a member of such subcommittee.

Section 2. Should no member of the subcommittee be a lawyer, opinions on questions of law may be obtained from the Department Judge Advocate or the special acting Department Judge Advocate.

Section 3. A majority of the members of the subcommittee shall constitute a quorum. If for any reason there is less than a quorum, the hearing shall be adjourned until a quorum is present.

Section 4. The duties of the Department Judge Advocate or special acting Department Judge Advocate shall be to see that the trial is prompt, complete and thorough, make all arrangements for the hearings, the summoning of all witnesses and the production of all papers. He shall see that all the orders of the subcommittee shall be carried out. He, along with members of the appointed subcommittee, shall examine and cross-examine all witnesses.

VII. Hearing and Trial
Section 1. The rules of evidence prevailing in courts of law and equity shall not be controlling. The subcommittee shall decide all questions arising as to relevancy of the evidence and the regularity of the proceedings. Due process and equal protection legal standards shall be afforded to the Defendant Post at all stages of the process.

Section 2. The subcommittee may hold its hearings in closed sessions or may open them to the public. The subcommittee shall hear witnesses on oath or affirmation.

Section 3. Any party to the proceeding shall have the right to appear at such hearing in person, by counsel or otherwise, subject to such reasonable restrictions as
may be placed on this right by the subcommittee, and to examine and cross-examine
witnesses and to introduce documentary or other evidence.

Section 4. Stipulations of fact may be introduced in evidence with respect to any
issues.

Section 5. Objection to the conduct of the hearing shall be stated orally together
with a short statement of the grounds of such objection and included in the
stenographic report of the hearing.

Section 6. Any party to the proceedings shall be entitled to a reasonable period
at the close of the hearing for oral argument, which shall not be included in the
stenographic report of the hearing. Briefs may be filed by the parties within the time
fixed by the subcommittee.

Section 7. In the discretion of the subcommittee, the hearings may be continued
from day to day, or adjourned to a later date, or to a different place by announcement
thereof at the hearing by the chairman or vice-chairman of the subcommittee or by
other appropriate notices.

Section 8. A stenographic report of the trial shall be made.

VIII. Report of Subcommittee

Section 1. The subcommittee, after it has completed its hearings, shall file the
complete report of the proceedings had upon the trial, together with its written
findings of fact and recommendations with reference thereto with the Department
Adjutant not less than five (5) days before the next meeting of the Department
Executive Committee, all of which shall be open to the inspection of all members of
the Department Executive Committee, as well as representative or representatives of
the defendant Post.

Section 2. The Department Executive Committee shall consider said report and
act thereon.

Section 3. At the Department Executive Committee meeting at which the report
of the said subcommittee is to be considered, one representative of the defendant Post
may, within the discretion of the Department Executive Committee, be given the
privilege of the floor for not more than one (1) hour.

Section 4. Should the subcommittee’s report be a partial report, the Department
Executive Committee may continue the committee and authorize it to hold further
hearings and present its final report at the next meeting of the Department Executive
Committee.

IX. Appeal

Section 1. Should the Department Executive Committee refuse to cancel, suspend
or revoke the charter of the Post, such decision shall be final and no appeal can be
taken therefrom.

Section 2. Should the Department Executive Committee, upon a report of its
subcommittee, cancel, suspend or revoke the charter of the defendant Post, the
defendant Post and the National Adjutant shall be notified by the Department
Adjutant of the decision of the Department Executive Committee, which notice shall
be mailed within five (5) days after such decision has been rendered. Should the
Defendant Post desire to appeal from the decision of the Department Executive
Committee, it shall serve its notice of appeal, signed by the Post Commander and Post
Adjutant, on the Department Adjutant at Department Headquarters within thirty
(30) days from the date of said suspension, cancellation or revocation.

Section 3. Upon receipt of said notice of appeal, the Department Commander
shall immediately notify the National Commander of such appeal and shall cause the
Department Judge Advocate, or special acting Department Judge Advocate, and the subcommittee to submit all the papers and the complete record of the hearings to the National Commander. Upon receipt of the notice of appeal, the National Commander shall appoint a subcommittee of not more than five (5) nor less than three (3) members of the National Executive Committee for the purpose of hearing the appeal from the action of the Department Executive Committee.

Section 4. The National Executive Committeeman, or alternate, from the Department of which the defendant Post is a part, shall not be eligible to serve on this committee.

Section 5. This subcommittee of the National Executive Committee shall meet at least one (1) day prior to the meeting of the National Executive Committee and to this committee the National Commander shall refer the complete record, in writing, of said proceedings with such exceptions thereto as are made by the defendant Post.

Section 6. This subcommittee may make its recommendations merely from the records, or it may permit representatives of the Department or the defendant Post to appear and argue the matter before the committee, and it may, as such hearing of such appeal, take further evidence relating thereto under such rules and conditions as it may from time to time adopt.

Section 7. This subcommittee shall review the cause and recommend to the National Executive Committee the action to be taken thereon.

Section 8. The decision of the National Executive Committee, based upon the report of this subcommittee, shall be final and there shall be no appeal therefrom.

Section 9. The cost of the proceeding may be retaxed as the National Executive Committee shall deem just and equitable.

X. Disposition of Post with Suspended, Cancelled or Revoked Charter

Section 1. Upon the suspension of the charter of a Post the Department Executive Committee is authorized, empowered and directed, by and through its duly authorized agents, to take possession, custody and control of all of the records, property and assets of and belonging to such Post, and to provide for the government and administration of such Post during said suspension period.

Section 2. Upon cancellation or revocation of the charter of any Post of The American Legion, the Department Executive Committee is authorized, empowered and directed, by and through its duly authorized agents, to take possession, custody and control of all of the records, property and assets of such Post, and to take all necessary and proper steps and proceedings to conclude and close the affairs of such Post and said Department Executive Committee may transfer any remaining Post members into appropriate neighboring Posts willing to accept said members.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, this resolution has the approval of the Resolutions Subcommittee, and I move for its approval. ...Second

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's has been moved and seconded to approve Resolution No. 34, "Changes to the Uniform Code Procedure for the Revocation, Cancellation, or Suspension of Post Charters of The American Legion." Are there any questions? All those in favor of approving Resolution 34, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried. Thank you very much. Are there any donations for Operation Comfort Warriors?

...National Vice Commander Bryant assumed the chair.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER KOUTZ: Thank you very much, commander. As you know, this is dear to my heart, Operation Comfort Warriors. I go all over the state
promoting it. Not just Indiana, I go all over the place, but up here with me is Department Commander Marty Dzieglowicz, alternate NEC Ed Trice and our National Executive Committeeman Jerry Jordon. I've got quite of few donations and I'm going to read every one of them because I think it's worth it.

As you know, every year Post 64 here in Indianapolis has their annual ham and bean dinner, which I've attended every year since I was national commander, and this year was no different. It's always the first Sunday in April. This year the post gave me a check for $37,000. Gave me another check just off of the ham and beans, and a little bit of gaming, $3,767; Sons of The American Legion of Post 64 $2,500; American Legion Riders of Post 64, $2,000; American Legion Auxiliary of Post 64, $2,000, for a total for that Sunday $47,267. (Applause)

Other donations: Attica American Legion Post 52, $250; American Legion Kapperman Post, Newburgh, Indiana, Post 44, $300; Larry Lowry, $100; Richard & Andrea Woodke, $100; Sergeant Major Raymond G. Orth, Retired Army, this guy is from Rolla, Missouri, he brings a check over to Mt. Vernon, Indiana, once a month for $100, he's got $400 worth of checks in here. This one here is a good one, these guys would like to be up here but they can't get out, from Branchville Correctional Facility, they make us wooden furniture and we raffle it off, and that brought in $2,000 on the wooden chairs. Doris Gostling, $25; Jerry and Linda Jordon, $100; Sons of The American Legion Squadron 276, $100; Janet Bunch $40; Gayle and George Thorpe, $25; David Lee, $100. This is a man that played at Post 64 on that big ham and bean dinner on the first Sunday in April. They played, they didn't charge us anything, they left the bucket out front, and they gave me the money as soon as it was over with. They took in $438 that day just alone in tips. Rosemary Hutchinson $60; David Rook $20; Kevin Hinton $20; Tennyson American Legion, from a shooting match, $1,500; myself and my wife in memory of some people, $40; Dan Dellinger, $5, he said he paid for his coffee now for upstairs, so we've got $5 out of him. Beech Grove American Legion Post 276 in Beech Grove, right here outside of Indianapolis, $1,000. And we had some cash sales of $100. That total today that I'm turning in to commander is $54,007. And if I get the $20 that our national judge advocate owes me for a fine he's supposed to pay from Friday night, that will be $54,027. (Applause)

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: Thank you.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER KOUTZ: Thank you, commander. I'm just going to give you a couple of updates. Some things that are still happening here in Indiana, we're going to have a lot of money here again for convention, but there's some important work and some people doing it and I want to say what they're doing.

The first one is on Sunday, May 20, we're having American Legion Riders ride all for OCW. On Saturday, June 2, Dave Baughman, who is a national staffer here at the national headquarters, member of Cicero Post 341, they put on what they call a Battle Ride, the Riders do, always the first Saturday in June. They usually raise anywhere from $6,000 to $10,000. They're having that on June 2.

June 2, you can laugh, but I want to go to these one day, Nebraska is having their tractor relay across Nebraska. I would love to see that one day. I will. But they raise a lot of money.

The American Legion State Ride here in Indiana is June 21 through 24 at my post, and I know they're going to raise a lot of money that day.

Finally, the last one is Zack's Ride at Speedway American Legion. They've already had one benefit; I always wait until they get both of them in. They're having Zack's ride on August 4, which will bring in another $13,000 or $14,000.

So with that, I thank y'all. You know, and you heard us spend a lot of money today. I hope that y'all go back to your posts and districts and state and support Operation Comfort Warriors. Thank you all very much. Our state commander has given us another hundred
dollars from him and his wife, Roseanne. Thank you. \textit{(Applause)}

\textbf{NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN:} The Department of Michigan.

\textbf{NEC MEMBER MOORE (MI):} Our department adjutant had to leave. He left me in charge of this check, and I want to get rid of it before somebody rolls me. On behalf of the Department of Michigan, I would like to present to you The American Legion Charities check for $1,000. \textit{(Applause)}

\textbf{NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN:} Thank you very much. The Department of Florida.

\textbf{NEC MEMBER BOLAND (FL):} Commander, on behalf of the Department of Florida, we would like to present you with a check for $5,000 for The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation. I have the honor to be the president of the foundation, and we give out quite a bit of money, and a lot of times you wonder, well, has it helped The American Legion? In the past couple years, we've given out over $125,000 to Legion programs outside of The American Legion. So we are backing The American Legion 100 percent, and it's an honor to be part of that and give you a $5,000 check. \textit{(Applause)}

\textit{...National Commander Rohan resumed the chair.}

\textbf{NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN:} Thank you all. I would really like to thank Past National Command Bill Detweiler from Louisiana for his patience. Now we can go back to his report, the NEC Department Advisory Committee meeting.

\textit{Oral Report: Department Advisory Committee}

\textbf{William M. Detweiler, Louisiana, Chairman}

Speaking of revocation of posts and suspensions and so forth, we had a meeting of the National Executive Committee Department Advisory Committee which I have the opportunity to chair, met on the 8th, on Tuesday afternoon, at 3:00 at the Sheraton. All were present, including NEC Dave Warnken and PNCs Tom Bock, Dale Barnett and Ron Conley. We also had a number of distinguished guests: the national commander, the national judge advocate, Past National Commander Jimmie Foster, Past National Vice Commander Doug Haggan, chairman of the Internal Affairs Commission, NEC Department of Philippines, NEC Department of Washington, and the ANEC Department of North Carolina, and she said she came in to learn a few things. We hope we all learned something that day.

In addition, we had one member from the post that was in question, Post 10 from the Philippines, who flew in here on his own nickel because he was that concerned about the fact that his charter had been revoked and he wanted to put his best foot forward to try to get that revocation dismissed.

The chairman advised that there were two appeals that had been submitted to the national commander, one from the Department of Philippines, one from the Department of Washington. The appeals were submitted under the Uniform Code of Procedure for Revocation, Cancellation, or Suspension of Post Charters.

First one was the appeal from Claude A. Thorp Post 10, Department of the Philippines. Background. Records submitted from the department, stated that the charter of Claude A. Thorp Post 10, following a hearing on December 9, 2017, was revoked due to the following charges brought by three posts of the department, namely, Post 28, Post 63, and Post 123. The alleged charges consisted of the following allegations: Conduct unbecoming of a Legionnaire by the commander, second vice, and the adjutant of the post. Number two, charges alleging use of The American Legion emblem and name for financial gain without proper authorization and commission.

Findings of the Committee: The record is totally devoid of any specific facts to support either of the two charges listed in the complaint by the Department of the
Proceedings of Wednesday, May 9, 2018

Therefore, the appeal of Claude A. Thorp Post No. 10 is maintained and the Department of the Philippines will be ordered to reinstate the charter of said post without delay.

Motion was made by NEC Dave Warnken, seconded by Past National Commander Tom Bock that the appeal of the post of the Department of Philippines, No. 10, be maintained, and that the National Executive Committee approve the recommendation of the committee to maintain the appeal that, in following that approval of the recommendation of the NEC Committee and the NEC, that the national commander is authorized to direct the department of Philippines, through its commander, to immediately reinstate the charter of Claude A. Thorp Post 10 of the department without further delay. The motion was passed unanimously. I need a motion from the NEC to maintain the appeal which, in effect, does away with the revocation.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, I make that motion in regards to what Chairman Detweiler said. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded. Are there any questions? All those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried.

CHAIRMAN DETWEILER: Unfortunately, I don't think this is the last of this, that you're going to hear of this, because afterwards we received a text from the adjutant of the Philippines that said he was, in effect, resigning, he didn't want to have anything to do with the Legion anymore, because he would not sign the paperwork to reinstate this post. And that's very unfortunate to have that attitude. But I can assure that record is totally devoid of anything to support these charges. It was based on a case where a gentleman in the post was found guilty of theft, not by the post, but by the Philippines government, the court system, in 1996. The judgment was signed in either 2017 or '18.

And at that time, the police authorities arrested the gentleman. Unfortunately, he had Alzheimer's or he had dementia, and he ended up dying in prison. Now, that's unfortunate. But what does that have to do with the membership of the post? I don't know if this is a personal matter. We got the impression it was, to some extent. And that's why they sent the original file.

Now, the second matter was from the Robert Ellis Post No. 4, Department of Washington. The background: Robert Ellis Post 4, the Department of Washington, timely filed an appeal from a decision by the department to revoke its charter following a trial on January 10, 2018. The appeal was filed in accordance with the Uniform Code of Procedure, Revocation, Cancellation, and Suspension of Post Charters. The alleged charges consisted, in essence, of the following: The post was placed on probation by the department and the post refused to comply with the probation order because there was an appointment of two trustees who were to regularly visit the post and observe their activities and report back to the department. Next matter, the action of the post members were contrary to the beliefs of The American Legion. Next, the post did not support the programs of the department and the post refused to contribute financially to the support of the Columbia Basin Veterans Coalition. Then lastly, the post members harassed the department officers.

After a full discussion of the charges and considering the record submitted on appeal and the responses of the department, the committee was of the opinion that the record did not support the alleged charges. In addition, it was obvious from a review of the record that some of the members of the department were acting out of personal differences with members of the post, which dated back to various disagreements over the years.

In addition, the department did not follow the procedures outlined in the Uniform Code to revoke the charge. In fact, the revocation of the charter was decided by the Department Executive Committee before the trial on January 10 of 2018. Further, the department did not have the authority under the Uniform Code of Procedure for Revocation, Cancellation, or Suspension of a Post Charter to place the post on probation.
There was no such animal as probation. I know it's used in some departments, but I'd be very careful.

Findings: The record is devoid of clear and concise evidence to support the alleged charges set forth in the record of the appeal. Therefore, the committee was of the opinion that the appeal of Post 4 Department of Washington for the revocation of its charter should be maintained.

The findings, motioned by NEC Dave Warnken, seconded by PNC Ronald Conley, that the appeal of Robert Ellis Post 4 of the Department of Washington be maintained and that the National Executive Committee approve the recommendation of the committee to maintain the appeal and that following approval of this recommendation by the NEC, that the national commander is authorized to direct the Department of Washington, through its commander, to immediately reinstate the charter of Robert Ellis Post No. 4 of the department without further delay. Motion passed unanimously. Madam Commander, we need a motion. We need approval from the NEC. We've got the motion.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN KILE: I would like to recommend that we accept his motion. Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: The motion was seconded that we maintain the appeal of Post 4 in the Department of Washington and reinstate their charter. Are there any questions? All those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried.

CHAIRMAN DETWEILER: I want to, in fact, bring out a couple points. Not to prolong it, it's late in the day and it's past my naptime. But it's obvious from these appeals, and some of the others that we've dealt with, these are personal squabbles going on between members in a department. They do not come under the purview of the NEC or of its committee that deals with these issues because they don't need meet the qualifications of the standards and the procedures set forth in the Uniform Code. Either the procedure dealing with Posts or the procedures for dealing with departments. It calls for clear and concise evidence of the allegation.

And, you know, you're saying, well, this post didn't support some outside entity, because the department likes to support it. Well, maybe the post doesn't have the money, I don't know. But that's not something that's germane to The American Legion. One of the best was "They didn't act like Legionnaires," or "They didn't believe in the beliefs of The American Legion." What is that? Who defines that?

So, please, go back to your departments; if you have a problem like this, try to solve this kind of stuff in the department. That's where it should be resolved, not here at the national level. We'll do anything as far as, if you bring something that complies with the uniform procedures of both as to the departments and the posts, we'll be happy to look at. Happy to have a hearing if necessary. But just because a bunch of disgruntled people in a post, in a department, handle that in your own house. Thank you.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, motion to receive and file the report of Chairman Detweiler. Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded to receive and file the report of the NEC Department Advisory Committee meeting. Are there any questions? All those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried. Are there any announcements?

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: No announcements.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: At this time, I would entertain a motion for the NEC to go into executive session.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, I so move that NEC go into executive session. Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded that the NEC go into an executive session. Are there any questions? All those in favor, signify by saying
aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried.

...At 3:00 p.m., Wednesday, May 9, 2018, the National Executive Committee went into Executive Session.

...At 3:15 p.m., Wednesday, May 9, 2018, the National Executive Committee went into regular session and recessed to reconvene at 8:30 a.m., Thursday, May 10, 2018.
...At 8:30 a.m., the National Executive Committee reconvened, National Commander Rohan presiding.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: With the colors of our nation in place, hand salute. Two. I'll now call on our chaplain, Robert Vick, from Florida for invocation. Uncover, please.

Invocation
Robert A. Vick, Florida, National Chaplain

O Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder, consider all the worlds Thy hands have made. I see the stars and I hear the rolling thunder, Thy power throughout this universe displayed. Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee. How great Thou art, how great Thou art.

Father, the words to this old hymn is our anthem today. We praise You for who You are. We praise You for who You have made us. We praise You for what You have done for us and continue to do. I pray that Your presence will be felt in our midst today as we engage in our deliberations. Father, we represent veterans who are not able to represent themselves and their children and their families. Father, make us worthy of the task that You have assigned us. Father, forgive us for our sins and we'll be careful to praise You because you're worthy of all praise, and continue to bless America, God, my Savior, the country worth living and working to protect. And this prayer is said in that name that is above all names. Amen.

Pledge of Allegiance and Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion
Roy Helms, Wisconsin, National Sergeant-at-Arms

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: I call on national Sergeant-At-Arms Roy Helms, from Wisconsin, to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

...The National Executive Committee recited the Pledge of Allegiance followed by the Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: Adjutant Wheeler, roll call.

Roll Call
National Officers

National Commander
Denise H. Rohan

National Adjutant
Daniel S. Wheeler, Virginia

National Vice Commanders
Larry J. Marcouillier, Delaware (Excused)
Past National Commanders

Clarence M. Bacon, Maryland (Excused)  Hon. John A. Brieden, III, Texas (Excused)
John P. "Jake" Comer, Massachusetts  Thomas L. Bock, Colorado
Miles S. Epling, West Virginia (Excused)  Paul A. Morin, Massachusetts
Robert S. Turner, Georgia  Martin F. Conatser, Illinois
Dominic D. DiFrancesco, Pennsylvania (Excused)  Robert W. Spanogle, Michigan
Bruce Thiesen, California (Excused)  David K. Rehbein, Iowa
William M. Detweiler, Louisiana (Excused)  Clarence E. Hill, Florida
Daniel A. Ludwig, Minnesota  Jimmie L. Foster, Alaska
Joseph J. Frank, Missouri  Fang A. Wong, New York
Anthony G. Jordan, Maine (Excused)  James E. Koutz, Indiana
Butch L. Miller, Virginia (Excused)  Daniel M. Dellinger, Virginia
Hon. Alan G. Lance, Sr., Idaho  Michael D. Helm, Nebraska (Excused)
Richard J. Santos, Maryland  Harold D. Barnett, Georgia
Ronald F. Conley, Pennsylvania  Charles E. Schmidt, Oregon

National Executive Committeemen

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Missouri Kenneth J. Goth
Montana David A. Driver
Nebraska William D. Crosier, Jr.
Nevada Ronald L. Michalski
New Hampshire William R. Roy
New Jersey Charles K. Robbins
New Mexico Felix Trujillo
New York Edward Bertrand
North Carolina Jeff W. Joyner
North Dakota Robert L. Krause
Ohio Dennis E. Clausing
Oklahoma Timothy W. Smith
Oregon Robert D. Liebenow
Pennsylvania Dennis C. Haas
Philippines Lawrence E. Wade
Puerto Rico Angel O. Narvaez-Negron
Rhode Island Cory D. Bates
South Carolina Gary L. Mitchell (Excused) Peter Rice (Excused)
South Dakota James Huls
Tennessee Don E. Mathis
Texas C.W. Sparks, Jr.
Utah Terry D. Schow
Vermont Marlys A. Lemnah
Virginia Michael F. Mitrione
Washington Ken C. Lee
West Virginia William W. Kile
Wisconsin Kenneth J. Rynes, Jr. (Excused) Robert L. Shappell
Wyoming Terry E. Miller

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: That completes the roll call. You have a quorum.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: Is there any unfinished business from yesterday? With that, we will move into the remarks by the national vice commanders. I'll call on National Vice Commander William J. Flanagan from Illinois.

Remarks: William J. Flanagan, Illinois, National Vice Commander

Good morning everyone. National Commander Rohan, National Adjutant Wheeler, national vice commanders, and past national commanders and members of the National Executive Committee. As my year started, I asked myself, what did I want to accomplish this year? So I started out by trying to contact all of the Central Region's district commanders. That's the first thing I wanted to do. Unfortunately, in this great day and age, you either get a voicemail message or you get an answering machine. But eventually, as I contacted them, it seemed to all come down to the same thing: How do you get local posts involved with membership and programs? That's not every local post that doesn't do it.

The lack of communication on many levels was and is a real issue. Also, several of the district commanders were new to the position and still learning. I recommended to them that they take the opportunity to make use of the Basic Training course which would help them with learning more about The American Legion and being in a leadership role. It is an excellent learning tool for all Legion members.
Also, during my travels, I did find that many departments already offered training sessions during or in conjunction with their department meetings or conferences throughout the year. I advised all the commanders to make use of these opportunities and move forward with confidence to do their best.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the departments I've visited for their kind and generous hospitality and look forward to the rest of this year. If I may indulge, commander, I would like to personally thank the Department of West Virginia for being the first 100 percent department. Thank you. (Applause)

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN KILE: Commander, motion to receive and file the report of National Vice Commander William Flanagan.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded to receive and file the report of National Vice Commander William Flanagan. Are there any questions? All those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried. Now I'll call on National Vice Commander Bobby Bryant from Oklahoma.

Remarks: Bobby D. Bryant, Oklahoma, National Vice Commander

Good morning commander, past national commanders, national officers, member of the National Executive Committee, and all guests. I appreciate being able to be here with you this morning. It's both a pleasure and honor for me to serve as the national vice commander for the Southeast Region.

Our motto this year is "We've Got Your Six." I say that because department after department has reached out to help the others in one way or another, especially with regard to Mother Nature and our weather. So we appreciate all the help.

I would like to start off by saying that the training we vice commanders received last July was truly extraordinary. The training has helped me in countless ways to be more successful during my time as vice commander. To date, I have been able to visit nine of the 14 departments in the southeast. I feel these visits have been very fruitful and successful. My wife, Linda, and I have driven to all visited departments, of course with the exception of Puerto Rico, which we're waiting on someone to build a bridge. (Laughter)

Through my travels and business with all of the departments, I've tried to pass on as much of the information from our training as I could, but time really flies when you have the opportunity to meet so many dedicated Legionnaires, veterans, and their spouses. Nonetheless, having had that great training provided to me with the tools to pass on significant information that will assist the departments in my region.

However, having been the Oklahoma commander, and now having gone through the vice commander training, I would like to recommend that the vice commanders be able to spend more time with the new department commanders during the fall conference, or possibly even during the membership meeting in July. We really need to get to know one another a lot better, I feel, at that level and try to assist them as we go along. That meeting should focus on the things that incoming national commander deems most important to them, such as NEF, TFA, service officers, the DC visit in February, post excellence and, of course, membership. Further, I would suggest that this training be limited to commanders only as opposed to including the adjutant, vice commander or the NEC. If this meeting time could involve experts from some of those areas in a manner similar to the vice commander training, those department commanders would have many more tools and have a more successful year, I believe.

I firmly believe that the ongoing and improving success of our organization is rooted in providing excellent training for the appropriate people as they rise through the ranks. I
also am confident that it will produce great benefits to The American Legion, all veterans, and all departments of The American Legion. Thank you for your time this morning, I appreciate it. Commander, that concludes my report. (Applause)

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN KILE: Commander, motion to receive and file the report of National Vice Commander Bobby Bryant. Second. NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded to receive and file the report of National Vice Commander Bobby Bryant. Are there any questions? All those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Motion carried. I now call on National Vice Commander Byron Callies, from South Dakota.

Remarks: Byron Callies, South Dakota, National Vice Commander

Good morning. Madam Commander, fellow Legionnaires, thank you for having me here. Before I get started with my remarks, I would just like to comment, if the Navy Seabees need help building a bridge to Puerto Rico, they can call on us combat engineers of the Army. (Laughter)

Some time has passed from when I was an endorsed candidate for national vice commander to the actual installation at National Convention in Reno in 2017. During that time, emotions run like a rollercoaster, from valleys one month to mountain peaks the next. It seemed that, while waiting for the call, either time stood still or flew by.

In July of 2017, I was privileged to meet four other Legionnaires who were having the same thoughts as I was having. Five rookies were both scared and excited, five rookies who began training for what lies ahead. I can honestly say that the staff at national headquarters in Indianapolis and Washington, D.C. had our best interests at heart, and would give us their best to see that we would not fail. Quickly we bonded, because we all knew we were in the same boat. The final days of the 2017 convention seem like a big blur now, and when we arrived home, we made several calls to each other saying, "What did the staff say about that?" Or, "Do you remember how silly we looked when we were playing the hostile interview game?"

Well, eventually we had to go our separate ways and relied on our own life experiences and observations of our other leaders. We set goals and found that some were unrealistic when we ran up against the reality of the real world. Personally, I went in thinking that I could help each department reach 100 percent of their reporting of their consolidated post reports like Missouri did. A big shout out to them.

Reality hit when I was traveling into other departments and some post commanders didn't know what a CPR was, other than a method of bringing a person back to life. Well, maybe there is a correlation between the two, in that CPR can bring a person back to life, and a CPR can help bring a post back to life.

Another goal was to contact everyone who recruited three new members for The American Legion. I received periodic lists of names of people who accomplished this goal. But reality hit when the numbers were no longer in service, the email got bounced back or the telephone number was a local post and the person was not around.

The third goal, of course, was to help departments reach the 100 percent membership goal. And as we all know, the wall hits in February and March, and recruiting becomes more difficult, a major valley. But one thing I did learn, that in the words of Winston Churchill, "Never, never, never give up." We are struggling right now, but if we heed the words of Winston Churchill, we'll continue to keep this organization the greatest veterans organization in the world. Thank you for the privilege of being vice commander, and I will never, never, never give up. Madam Commander, that's my report. (Applause)
RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN KILE: Madam Commander, a motion to receive and file the report of National Vice Commander Byron Callies. ...Second

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded to receive and file the report of National Vice Commander Byron Callies. Are there any questions? All those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried. And now National Vice Commander from the Department of Utah, Paula Stephenson.

Remarks: Paula Stephenson, Utah, National Vice Commander

National Commander Rohan, fellow national vice commanders, National Executive Committeemen, past national commanders, national staff, and guests. The scope of our Western Region consists of 15 departments, including 13 western states and posts in Canada, Mexico, Central America, South America, Australia, Guam, Taiwan, the Philippines, Okinawa, Japan, Korea, and Kwajalein. Very different cultures and different climates all having potential impact on membership and programs in The American Legion. Note, you cannot locate all of these posts on legion.org "Find A Post," or on the post locator through my legion.org.

Accomplishments by the Western departments based on national commander's guidance in August of 2017. One: Monthly conference calls were conducted with national membership, department leadership, and M&PA support for each of the departments. Ideas were shared on proven department accomplishments, which was great between national meetings.

The results on the latest membership comparison report, the West had 50 percent of the six that are ahead of last year. That's Idaho, Montana, and Mexico. And out of the top 20 on that list, the West has 55 percent of those slots. We are gaining on the rest of the regions even though we're still at the bottom.

Reconnect Program. All departments are reconnecting. Three of the Western departments, Idaho, Montana, and Utah, are in the 5,000-point range. I noticed that what they are doing is more important to the membership than the time it takes or understanding of submitting the documents for those points. The military side, as I asked when I was out there, doesn't have a clue of what this program is all about, even though it is a DoD initiative. The program needs to be pushed by both military and on our side through training.

New Members. The West was leading for the longest time in the number of national commander's membership pins. However, we're down to third place now, and the actual numbers for new members is in third place for the West. The West likes bling, and family members like wearing an earned pin.

Renewals. We're in second place. We pushed the personal touch of Merv Gunderson this year, all year, which included welfare visits, telephone calls, dinners, et cetera. Revitalizations impacted renewals tremendously and taught post and district leaders a lot about communicating with members. I saw this firsthand through all the revitalizations that I attended.

ALEI Basic Training. 11 of our 15 departments have met the five percent goal that Commander Rohan stated. I would suggest national advertise on a regular monthly basis through the Legion magazine and in that little book that just came out through Emblem Sales on how all membership can take this online course. It is that valuable to the understanding of what The American Legion is all about.

National American Legion Press Association. Several western states established their own DALPAs, department press associations, this year, supported by social media. NALPA should continue to support these efforts.

Finally, what I saw with most departments is a dramatic cultural change, improved
communication with all generations, and improved numbers of women, minorities, and younger veterans in leadership positions at all levels. Where the Legion Family worked together, there was absolute synergy and success with all their programs and membership. "Family First" is a great campaign and understood at all levels. Observations were very encouraging in this arena and very exciting to see. Thank you very much. Thank you, commander. (Applause)

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN KILE: Commander, motion to receive and file the report of National Vice Commander Paula Stephenson. ...Second

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded to receive and file the report of National Vice Commander Paula Stephenson. Are there any questions? All those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Thank you all of you. I'll now call on Chairman Walter Ivie from Texas for Media & Communications Commission Report.

Oral Report: Media & Communications Commission
Walter Ivie, Texas, Chairman

Good morning. I want to thank madam commander, members of National Executive Committee, American Legion members and staff, and other guests. I provided my written report about the Media & Communications Commission, so I'll keep my comments brief.

Over the years we have gathered in this distinguished room to hear stories of the dedicated work that our volunteers perform throughout this great nation. We have heard of legislative victories, remembrances of the fallen, and services provided to veterans and their families. In more recent years while gathering here, we have heard warnings of declining membership. We can no longer say we were a two-million-member organization. The reality of our membership numbers is outlined in my written report, but I want to emphasize a particular number that illustrates how the dropping membership is affecting our bottom line.

Currently, our magazine advertising revenue is about $400,000 behind goal. While advertising on the Legion website and in our e-newsletter have shown steady growth, it is not making up for the loss from print. The drop-off from magazine revenue is directly related to the lower membership and the decreasing number of magazines being distributed. For comparison sake, in March 2018, we published 1.86 million magazines. In March of 2013, the total was 2,230,000 magazines. It's a simple yet troubling equation: Fewer members equals fewer magazines, equals fewer advertising dollars.

Good news: Staff members have been diligently working with the Legion's advertising vendor, the James G. Elliott Company, in ways to boost circulation and, therefore, advertising revenue. For example, last fall we began to distribute three free magazines to every post to be used as membership incentive tools. These magazines, about 35,000, also count toward our overall circulation number, which is used to calculate the cost of magazine advertising. We are continuing to work with the Elliott Company to identify and implement new ways of boosting circulation and addressing advertising revenue. For example, we're working on a special centennial package later this year that we expect to recover some of our lost revenue. And in addition, the June month is looking pretty good on advertising.

These initiatives are only part of the overall solution for our membership. We need members, as you all know. Our members serve the communities every day. We share stories about the success of Post 152 in White Bird, Idaho, and how it is quickly becoming a reliable institution in its community. We've illustrated how Post 81 in Melbourne, Florida, rebounded from Hurricane Irma after only nine days and started helping its community
recover. We've demonstrated how American Legion Family members provide scholarships, grants, comfort items, volunteer hours, and so much more to veterans, servicemembers and their families. These stories demonstrate that there is no better time to be a member of The American Legion and there's no better time to ask someone to be a member of The American Legion.

As we depart Indianapolis this week, return to our departments and our posts, I strongly encourage everyone to join me in personally engaging in membership activity. Call up an expired member to rejoin. Knock on the door of a veteran in your neighborhood. Talk with a young veteran about how the Legion can help him or her with their needs. Our organization has collected a century's worth of accomplishments. Let's rebuild our membership base to set up future generations for The American Legion's next century of success.

Commander, that concludes my report. I want to thank for your continued support of the Media & Communications Commission and our various programs.

Report: Media & Communications Commission
May 10, 2018
Walter Ivie, Texas, Chairman

Operations overseen by the Media & Communications Commission are progressing smoothly. Media and Communication staff members are working together on high-profile targets to increase membership, revenue and awareness for The American Legion brand. Successes can be seen in the magazine readability, record pace of website traffic, digital advertising growth and more.

American Legion Magazine has once again been named the nation’s top-read magazine by an independent auditor. However, the membership slide is having an impact on revenue the magazine is able to bring in.

Knowing this, staff members have made concerted efforts to minimize expenses. In the first three months of 2018, we have trimmed overall expenses by $287,000 as compared to this point in 2017. However, expenses are still $246,000 behind budget.

Monthly magazine advertising sales have been up and down through the June issue with overall revenue trailing budget by about $255,463. Digital advertising is slightly ahead of the budget.

The dropoff in magazine revenue is directly correlated to membership and the decreasing number of magazines being distributed. For comparison’s sake, in March 2018 we published 1.86 million magazines. In March 2013, the total was 2.23 million magazines.

Staff members have been working with the Legion’s advertising vendor, the James G. Elliott Company, on ways to boost circulation and therefore advertising revenue.

Last fall, we began to distribute three free magazines to every post as membership incentive tools. These magazines (about 35,000) also count toward our overall circulation number, which is used to calculate the cost of magazine advertising. (Auditors limit the this type of distribution to three per physical address.) We are continuing to work with the Elliott Company to identify and implement new ways of boosting circulation and addressing advertising revenue. For example, we are working on a special centennial package later this year that we expect to recover some lost revenue.

We are also working with the Marketing Division and First Degree to support projects like National Poppy Day, as well as working with other groups to support and promote the centennial celebration, the National American Legion Press Association and others.

Some recent examples of successes in our media program:

Website: The redesign of the national website has been successful by all measurable metrics. Two years after the launch, website traffic is up 140 percent, while the number of
unique visitors has increased by nearly 10 percent. When those visitors come to our website, they are also spending more time with it. Two years ago, a visitor averaged 2.22 pages per visit. Now, that number is 4.81 pages.

**Digital advertising:** We are seeing interest beyond the core of our website and weekly Online Update e-newsletter for advertisers. For example, the Commander’s Message e-newsletter in 2018 has already generated $27,000 in revenue – the same amount of revenue from all of 2017. Additionally, we have increased the subscribers in the monthly Centennial e-newsletter to more than 600,000 and we expect to develop some advertising for it in the coming year.

**E-newsletters:** The e-newsletter program continues to be a success with each of the 10 newsletters recording average open rates of between 20 and 40 percent, far superior to the industry standard of 14 percent.

**Social media:** Staff members continue to find success with Facebook Live to broadcast events, including Washington Conference. The Commander’s Call Facebook Live video generated 17,000 views on Facebook and the Commander’s Call video had more than 6,200 views – a significant increase from the way we previously handled livestream events, which rarely exceeded 100 viewers.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, motion to receive and file the report of the Media & Communications Commission. We have no resolutions and no addendum. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It has been moved and seconded to receive and file the report of the Media & Communications Commission. There are no resolutions. Are there any questions? All those in favor of receiving and filing the Media & Communications Commission report, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will now call of National Historian Richard Dubay, for his report.

**Oral Report: National Historian**

Richard Dubay, Michigan

Commander Rohan, national officers, members of the National Executive Committee, good morning. As historian, one of the first duties that you have is arranging for the judging of the post and department history books. I announced those results at the fall NEC meeting. Only 35 books were entered, of which were six department yearbooks, three department narratives, 21 post yearbooks, and five post narratives. The number of books that are submitted seems to be getting smaller and smaller each year. With the upcoming 100th centennial anniversary, we are hoping that many more departments and posts will submit their histories.

With the implementation of the new judging procedures and tabulating process, started by Past National Historian Paul Bennett in 2016-2017, we requested feedback from all judges so that we might be able to respond back to those who entered as to how to improve on their entries. We continue to stress to pay attention to detail and follow the guidance available in the Officer’s Guide.

In November, during Commander Rohan's visit to Michigan, I had the opportunity to attend a Thanksgiving dinner held at Post 200 in Taylor, Michigan. Over 100 veterans and their caregivers from the John Dingell VA Hospital and Piquette Square, a transitional housing facility for homeless veterans, were brought in by a bus to the post for a traditional Thanksgiving dinner, music, and Christmas presents. The Junior ROTC unit from Taylor, Michigan, also were present to greet and assist these veterans.

As the National Convention in Minneapolis approaches, I am working on the national historian's luncheon, as well as continue to answer any question that might arise as they
pertain to history or NADHAL.

I would like to thank The American Legion Library Director Howard Trace, Ms. Lynda Lydick, and the rest of the library staff for their invaluable assistance this year. Commander Rohan, it has been an honor to serve as your national historian this year and I thank for the privilege. This concludes my report.  (Applause)

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN KILE: Commander, motion to receive and file the report of National Historian Richard Dubay. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It has been moved and seconded to receive and file the report of National Historian Richard Dubay. Are there any questions? All those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried. Thank you, Richard. I will now call on the chairman of the National Security Commission, Mike Schlee, from Maryland.

Oral Report: National Security Commission
G. Michael Schlee, Maryland, Chairman

Thank you, commander. National officers, past national commanders, members of the National Executive Committee. It's a pleasure being with you today. Earlier you received the advance report of the National Security Commission meeting during Washington Conference, and it details our extensive meetings in Washington on February 26. One resolution was considered there and recommended for approval.

Since that time, resolutions have been received from two departments and were initiated based on legislative issues, so there were two telephonic meetings of a working group of the National Security Commission where they considered four resolutions, of which two of those are recommended for approval; two are being held for further study.

I'd like to take a minute or two to talk about the report that the staff prepared for you today. The report in your package contains significant updates on a variety of defense issues to include readiness, budget issues, POW/MIA accounting, quality of life, and the health of the force. But I would like to just spend a minute or two on where we stand and what it looks like for the future. Secretary of Defense Mattis appeared before the House Armed Services Committee at the end of April. And during his presentation, he laid out the four basic tenets of the national security strategy.

Number one, protect the American people, the homeland, and the American way of life. Number two is to promote American prosperity. Number three is preserve peace through strength. And the fourth is to advance American influence worldwide.

Right now where do we stand? The budget that we've approved for defense, a two-year budget, actually, which is one of the rare times I remember that in my tenure in Washington, of fiscal year 2018 was approved at about 700 billion through the next fiscal year of 2019 it will be 713 billion. Significant increases, significant amounts of money. And those increases will, in fact, address some of the readiness issues. They will address some of the conventional modernization issues.

However, joining the interchange with House Armed Services Committee, the ranking member said to Secretary of Defense Mattis, he said, "What about the lean years that are coming?" 2020, which may be detailed, but it's also a fiscal year coming up, but 2020 will be one of the budget caps kick back in, and we'll see a reduction if something isn't done on sequestration and budget caps, a reduction about 85, lowball, billion to 118 billion highball.

Secretary Mattis replied to the congressman, he said, "Well, given those type of cuts, we will have to revise, basically, the four tenets of the national strategy." And my question to you, what do we want to back off on? The protection of the American people, our homeland and way of life? The advancement of American influence? Preserving peace...
through strength? Or the dropping of our incomes worldwide? That's a decision we'll have to start making unless there's some changes in fiscal year 2020.

I think at this stage of the game, two things I have to do. Obviously, I think it's awfully important within each and every one of your communities to engender public support for a strong national defense. We're not going to be hurting for the next two years, but 2020 will be a true test. And if combat reduces, the American support for both our military defense spending and our troops wanes. So it's our job in the community to engender and promote that appreciation.

In closing, I would like to certainly thank my remaining staff, and this will be short because the only remaining staff I have right now is Freddy Gessner, and Freddy has been doing a fantastic job. I appreciate all you do, Freddy. I particularly want to thank you, National Commander Rohan, particularly the remarks yesterday were very good on national security and readiness issues. I want to thank our NEC liaison and all the members of the National Executive Committee for your enduring support of our efforts to provide for the national defense and to provide a viable U.S. foreign policy. Thanks. (Applause)

Advance Report: National Security Commission
February 26, 2018
G. Michael Schlee, Maryland, Chairman

The National Security Commission convened on February 26th during the 58th Annual Washington Conference at the Washington Hilton, Washington, D.C. The following report is a summary of this session:

The commission was honored to welcome National Commander Denise Rohan. The National Security Commission was honored by her attendance and very appreciative of her participation.

National Commander Rohan addressed some key policy areas that the National Security Commission covers, particularly the importance of caring for military families since they form the foundation in the lives of active duty servicemembers.

The program proceeded in the following five sections: 1) POW/MIA update; 2) Selective Service System brief; 3) defense budgeting; 4) cybersecurity; and 5) Award Selection. An Awards Selection Committee composed of members of the National Security Commission and headed by the Committee on Law and Order and Homeland Security met in the afternoon of Monday, February 26, for the purpose of selecting the Regional and National Law Enforcement Officer and Firefighter of the Year.

Finally, two foreign policy panels were hosted on Wednesday, February 28, in partnership with the Harriet Fulbright Institute and the Institute of Technology, Economics and Diplomacy, hosted a foreign policy summit to discuss global issues that affect the United States’ relations with China and Japan, as well as Europe, Eurasia and the Middle East.

1. POW/MIA update

The National Security Commission welcomed Kelly McKeague, Director of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA), and Ann Mills-Griffiths, Chair of the Board for the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia. Mr. McKeague is responsible for policy, control, and oversight of all aspects of the Department’s program to account for our nation’s missing personnel from past conflicts. He leads DoD’s worldwide enterprise of research, investigation, recovery, and identification operations, and supporting functions, in order to provide the fullest possible accounting of our missing personnel to their families and to the nation. Mrs. Mills-Griffiths served over 30 years as Executive Director and CEO of the National League of Families, and currently focuses on policy, operations and sustaining the League’s financial ability to
achieve accounting objectives. At the request of the Secretary of Defense, she also serves on the Advisory Committee of the Defense Department’s 50th Anniversary Vietnam War Commemoration.

The speakers provided membership with very informative updates regarding overcoming successive budget crisis, the remaining obstacle to increasing the pace and scope of accounting efforts while ensuring the safety of field recovery teams. Mr. McKeague addressed the balance between budgeting for disinterment of existing, known remains and conducting field operations to identify some of the 26,000 recoverable POW and MIA servicemembers. Mrs. Mills-Griffiths, a regular participant in the National Security Commission’s work on POW/MIA accountability, gave an overview of the continuing work of the National League of Families and organizations support for both The American Legion and the DPAA.

II. Selective Service System update
The Commission’s next speaker was Donald Benton, the Director of the Selective Service System. Mr. Benton discussed the importance of the Selective Service System to the security of the United States. He explained the system’s dual missions as the following: to furnish manpower to the Defense Department during a national emergency to manage alternative service for men classified as conscientious objectors, and to register, with only a few exceptions, all male U.S. citizens and male immigrants residing in the United States who are ages 18 through 26. Mr. Benton called on Legionnaires, as influencers and mentors, to volunteer and help educate their communities on the importance of registering for the Selective Service. Additionally, Mr. Benton asked for the Commission’s support in continuing to back legislation aimed at ensuring that the system has proper funding and support to carry out its mission.

III. Defense budgeting
To address defense budgeting, the Commission invited Dr. Lawrence Korb, senior fellow at the Center for American Progress and a former assistant secretary of defense for manpower during the first Reagan administration. Dr. Korb laid out the realities of tradeoffs within defense budgeting, remarking that no matter the dollar amount spent there is no way to buy perfect security. Dr. Korb spoke about the massive flow of defense funds that seeks to do everything from modernizing and recapitalizing nearly every existing weapon system, from long-range bombers to ballistic missile submarines, while still providing appropriate funding for operations, maintenance, and training. While most analysts agree that there are shortfalls in several major accounts that are having an impact on operations, like having the majority Marine Corps air platforms grounded due to lack of spare parts, there is a serious question about the wisdom in continuing to throw money at the Pentagon. The Department of Defense has considerable and entrenched difficulties with proper accounting, and Dr. Korb pointed to the fact that it has never undergone a full audit as more reason to be wary about committing taxpayer money with minimal oversight.

IV. Cybersecurity
The Commission’s final speaker was Tim Maurer, co-director of the Cyber Policy Initiative at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Since 2010, his work has been focused on cybersecurity, human rights in the digital age, and internet governance, currently with a specific focus on cybersecurity and financial stability. In his remarks, Mr. Maurer explored the secretive relationships between states and hackers. As cyberspace has emerged as the new frontier for geopolitics, states have become entrepreneurial in their sponsorship, deployment, and exploitation of hackers as proxies to project power. Such modern-day mercenaries and privateers can impose significant harm undermining global security, stability, and human rights. These state-hacker relationships therefore raise important questions about the control, authority, and use of offensive cyber capabilities. While different countries pursue different models for their proxy relationships, they face
the common challenge of balancing the benefits of these relationships with their costs and the potential risks of escalation.

**V. National and Regional Law Enforcement Officer and Firefighter of the Year Selection Committee**

Prior to the Washington Conference the Chairman of the Law and Order and Homeland Security Committee appointed an awards selection subcommittee to review all the nominations that had been received during 2017 from the Departments for the Law Enforcement Officer of the Year and Firefighter of the Year award programs. The Subcommittee met Monday, February 26, in the International Ballroom East in the Washington Hilton Hotel, Washington, D.C., to select the 5 regional Firefighter of the Year winners and the 5 regional Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Winners. There were 23 law enforcement officer nominees and 16 firefighter nominees submitted.

The selections for the Regional Firefighter of Year Award winning Departments are:

**NEW ENGLAND:**
Edward Manko  
Department of Pennsylvania

**CENTRAL:**
Jack Hoffman  
Department of Virginia

**SOUTHERN:**
Dale Jogner  
Department of North Carolina

**MIDWESTERN:**
Michael Sancot  
Department of Iowa

**WESTERN:**
Damon Faust  
Department of Oregon

The selection for the Regional Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award winning Departments are:

**NEW ENGLAND:**
Jennifer Frank  
Department of Vermont

**CENTRAL:**
Clifford Hibbs  
Department of Indiana

**SOUTHERN:**
Brett Walsh  
Department of North Carolina

**MIDWESTERN:**
David Watson  
Department of Minnesota

**WESTERN:**
Steven Binstock  
Department of Oregon

The subcommittee then reviewed the regional winners to select one National Firefighter of the Year and one National Law Enforcement Officer of the Year. The selection for the National Firefighter of the Year is:

**NATIONAL FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR:**  
Damon Faust  
Department of North Carolina

The selection for the National Law Enforcement Officer of the Year is:

**NATIONAL LAW OFFICER OF THE YEAR:**  
Officer Brett Walsh  
Department of Oregon

The winners and runner-ups have been contacted and the Regional winners will receive their awards during their respective Department Conventions. The National winners will receive their awards on stage from the National Commander during National Convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

**VI. Foreign policy panels**

On Wednesday, the National Security Commission, in partnership with the Harriet Fulbright Institute and the Institute of Technology, Economics and Diplomacy, hosted a
foreign policy summit to discuss global issues that affect the United States’ relations with China and Japan, as well as Europe, Eurasia and the Middle East.

The summit, held in conjunction with the Legion’s 58th Annual Washington Conference in Washington, D.C., featured two expert panels moderated by American Australian Association President John Berry and Joshua Walker, head of Global Strategic Initiatives at Office of the President at the Eurasia Group.

The first panel examined China’s economic and political trajectory, with a focus on the key dimensions of the U.S.-China-Japan relations among the world’s largest economies – including what implications it might have for peace and security in Asia. Speakers included Oriana Mastro, Assistant Professor of security studies at the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University; Center for a New American Security President Richard Fontaine; and Walker.

The second panel discussed the many challenges that Europe, Eurasia and the Middle East are struggling to manage and how these collectively increase political volatility and risk for investors. Among the expert speakers included German Marshall Fund of the USA President Karen Donfried; Middle East Institute President Wendy Chamberlin; Luke Coffey, Director of the Allison Center for Foreign Policy Studies at The Heritage Foundation; and Alex Vatanka, Senior Fellow at the Middle East Institute.

Report: National Security Commission
G. Michael Schlee, Maryland, Chairman

You have received a copy of the report of the meeting of the National Commission during the Washington Conference which took place on Monday, February 26th. During the business session, one resolution was considered, amended and was recommended for approval.

The National Security Commission and its seven committees along with the council continue to review developments in the national security and foreign relations arenas. Two executive session of the National Security Commission met by phone on Tuesday, April 17th to act on 3 resolutions and May 3rd to act on 1 resolution. Presiding was Chairman G. Michael Schlee, Vice Chairman present: E.C. Toppin (NC), Committee Chairman present included: Charles Kruger (MN), Daniel Seehafer (WI), Geroge Wehrli (FL), George Bolling (MD), Bill Goede (MN), and Doug Haggan (FR).

MATTERS RECEIVED, CONSIDERED AND ACTED UPON BY THE COMMISSION:

RESOLUTIONS

On April 17th Register Resolution No. 2755, submitted by the Utah Department Executive Committee and Register Resolution No. 2756, submitted by the Tennessee Department Executive Committee were reviewed and both resolutions were recommended to be held for further study (1) resolution was submitted by the National Security Commission and has been forwarded to the National Executive Committee for approval. Our recommended action on two resolutions to be held for further study is in the addendum to this report.

On May 3rd Register Resolution No. 2758, submitted by the Arizona Department Executive Committee was reviewed and recommended to be approved as amended.

As mentioned, Register Resolution No. 2750, submitted by the New Mexico Department Executive Committee was considered by the National Security Commission during the Washington Conference has been amended and forwarded to the National Executive Committee for approval.

Our recommendations are contained in Addendum A attached to this report.

The following are brief updates on several critical areas for your review:
**CURRENT THREAT ENVIRONMENT**

**North Korea**

The upcoming summit represents an aggressive attempt at diplomacy engineered primarily by South Korea and the United States to avoid the collision course of war with North Korea that we appeared to be on due to the 20 ballistic missile tests by North Korea throughout 2017 and the response from President Trump.

Here is what we can expect to see in the next few days. South Korean president Moon Jae-in will likely have calls with other capitals following his meetings with Kim Jong-un. Regional discussions of the implications of the summit will take place on May 9 when the leaders of Japan, China, and South Korea will gather in Tokyo for the first trilateral summit meeting since 2015. It is likely that Moon will visit Washington, after marking the one-year anniversary of his government’s election on May 10, to personally brief President Trump on his meetings with Kim.

The summit between the two Koreas is another positive step in diplomacy that keeps the situation around the Korean peninsula peaceful, moving away from last year’s atmosphere of crisis. The positive atmospherics of the meeting, and North Korea’s continued adherence to weapons testing moratorium should also be welcomed. However, the inter-Korean summit today perhaps raises more questions than it answers. There is clear agreement between the two Koreas that there should be no war on the Korean peninsula anymore. But it is still unclear whether the North Korean regime defines denuclearization in the same way as the United States (CVID—complete, verifiable, and irreversible denuclearization). It is still unclear whether there will be an attenuation of the U.S. alliance commitment to South Korea as a condition for North Korea’s denuclearization.

**Syria**

Last month the U.S., U.K. and France launched airstrikes on targets within Syria, in response to the chemical attack against alleged rebel forces and civilians. The strikes were conducted in coordination with European allies against three targets. These targets were confined to facilities known to produce chemical weapons.

Right now, there are about 2,000 U.S. troops in Syria, working as advisers to the Syrian Defense Forces or providing other support to local militias battling the Islamic State. The mission in Syria is to eradicate the Islamic State, also known as ISIS and DoD remains committed to seeing that mission through. The Pentagon estimates that the U.S.-led coalition has reclaimed 90% of the territory once controlled by the Islamic State.

**China**

China intends to become a global military power and is currently building the capability to do so. Militarily, China seeks to limit our access and undermine our important alliances in the Indo-Pacific. While modernizing their nuclear enterprise, China is also developing a full range of air, maritime, space, and cyber capabilities. Their continued militarization of the South and East China Seas accompanies expanding sovereignty claims that have no basis in international law. They leverage diplomatic and economic influence through the Belt and Road Initiative, and China’s military interests have followed these initiatives into the Indian Ocean, South Asia and beyond. And while we continue to seek Chinese cooperation on a number of fronts, especially with respect to North Korea, their projection of a state-controlled, ‘strong-rule-the-weak’ global order is incompatible with U.S. interests and a rules-based international order.

**Russia**

Russia continues to modernize and invest across the full range of military capability, including new aircraft, submarines, armor, counter-space, and air defense systems, while also modernizing conventional and nuclear strike capabilities. These investments and
activities are specifically designed to limit our power projection capability and undermine the credibility of U.S. alliances, especially NATO.

Violent Extremism

We continue to grapple with the challenge of violent extremism, including ISIS, a resurgent al Qaida, and associated movements. Our strategy remains focused on cutting the flow of finances, foreign fighters, and their disruptive narrative, while working by, with, and through local partners to sustain pressure on their networks, disrupt attacks, and dismantle their capabilities.

Iran

Iran also continues to project malign influence and threaten freedom of navigation in the Middle East. They are also modernizing their space, cyber, missile, and conventional maritime capabilities which pose a direct threat to our Allies and our interests in the region.

The American Legion’s Position: The National Security Commission has Resolution No. 175: Oppose Iran Nuclear Deal. We urge Congress not to lift any sanctions in connection with the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. The United States must be prepared to exercise all options, up to and including military action, in the interest of preventing Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon.

READINESS

The Department of Defense (DOD) faces a strategic choice: whether to focus on modernization for high-tech conflicts with China and Russia or expand forces and improve readiness to meet a superpower’s commitments for ongoing conflicts and crisis response. In their FY 2018 budgets, the services all complain that they are too small for the demands being put on them and hedge toward expanding forces and readiness.

In 2013, readiness took a hit as a result of sequestration. Because cuts had to be made late in the fiscal year, the services were forced to cut facility maintenance, international exercises, and most significantly, training activities. The services have been digging out of that hole ever since.

The administration emphasized readiness in its FY 2017 and FY 2018 budgets. Nevertheless, readiness data are conflicting. Some metrics, like Army rotations to Combat Training Centers, service flying hours, and Navy ship steaming days, have recovered from post-2013 lows, but others, like Navy and Marine Corps aircraft availability, remain depressed. With overall DOD budgets rising, targeted readiness increases, such as aviation spare parts, may be better investments than across-the-board increases.

This lack of proper training and maintenance resulting from the high operational tempo may have played some role in the recent incidents involving the surface fleet. In the wake of the deadly collisions involving the USS John S. McCain and USS Fitzgerald, investigations found the incidents were “avoidable” and occurred as a result of poor decision making and training.

High ops tempo is a policy choice, though often not in the Navy’s hands. The United States could reduce deployments, and the new National Defense Strategy proposes doing that, but such reductions are often regarded as detrimental to alliances. DOD could build more forces, and the administration plans to do some of that, but such expansion is expensive, and DOD’s current plan is to emphasize modernization. The services sometimes argue that replacing “tired iron” with new equipment will help readiness. While such modernization may increase capability, it may not improve readiness. Flying hour costs for an existing F-18, for example, are about half that of a new F-35B/C.

High readiness is desirable in forces and equipment. However, readiness is also very expensive and highly perishable—it must be renewed constantly. Buying more means that DOD cannot buy something else, for example, modernization or force structure. In the new DOD strategy being developed for 2019 and beyond, the services hope to pursue all three
goals—expand forces, improve readiness, and increase modernization—but the fiscal future is highly uncertain, and they will likely have to make difficult trade-offs.

**FOREIGN RELATIONS**

**Japan Delegation**

On March 27, National Security staff met with an official delegation from the nation of Japan, facilitated by the Institute for Technology, Economics, and Diplomacy (INTED). Dr. Joshua Walker, head of Global Strategic Initiatives at Eurasia Group, was also in attendance. The meeting presented an opportunity for cultural and policy exchange, and resulted in Japanese delegation extending an invitation for the National Commander to meet with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe during the 2018 Far East trip.

**Foreign Policy Panels**

On February 28, the National Security Commission, in partnership with the Harriet Fulbright Institute and the Institute of Technology, Economics and Diplomacy, hosted a foreign policy summit to discuss global issues that affect the United States’ relations with China and Japan, as well as Europe, Eurasia and the Middle East.

The summit, held in conjunction with the Legion’s 58th Annual Washington Conference in Washington, D.C., featured two expert panels moderated by American Australian Association President John Berry and Joshua Walker, head of Global Strategic Initiatives at Office of the President at the Eurasia Group.

The first panel examined China’s economic and political trajectory, with a focus on the key dimensions of the U.S.-China-Japan relations among the world’s largest economies – including what implications it might have for peace and security in Asia. Speakers included Oriana Mastro, assistant professor of security studies at the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University; Center for a New American Security President Richard Fontaine; and Walker.

The second panel discussed the many challenges that Europe, Eurasia and the Middle East are struggling to manage and how these collectively increase political volatility and risk for investors. Among the expert speakers included German Marshall Fund of the USA President Karen Donfried; Middle East Institute President Wendy Chamberlin; Luke Coffey, director of the Allison Center for Foreign Policy Studies at The Heritage Foundation; and Alex Vatanka, senior fellow at the Middle East Institute.

**National Commander’s Foreign Travels**

From November 26 – December 8, the National Commander visited military installations in countries across the Far East to include South Korea, Okinawa, the Philippines, and Hawaii. One of the main focuses during the travel is for the National Commander to personally encourage and express thanks to U.S. service men and women in each region for their patriotic service to the nation on behalf of The American Legion. Other important aspects of the trip are to gain a better understanding of regional security issues and meet with senior Department of Defense officials to communicate the viewpoints of The American Legion. Staff also included town hall events at installations within each country in order to communicate to servicemembers the benefits available to them through programs offered through The American Legion such as support with the Department of Veterans Affairs claims, transition assistance, and employment services. In support of The American Legion’s commitment to achieving full accounting of all U.S. POW/MIAs from all conflicts the National Commander visited the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency’s new headquarters and met with their senior leadership.

**MILITARY AND VETERAN QUALITY OF LIFE**

Staff has attended monthly meetings with senior defense officials from the Defense Health Agency to discuss a series of major Tricare changes that were implemented January 1, ushering in fee changes for almost all beneficiaries; a new plan name, a new regional map, and new regional contractors.
The updates are the result of a periodic federally mandated contracting process combined with new legislation passed by Congress in 2016.

**Impacts for All Users**

Tricare's annual fee schedule will now operate on a calendar year -- January 1 to December 31 -- instead of the fiscal year system used in the past. That change impacts all beneficiaries, including Tricare for Life users, who are otherwise untouched by the shifts.

On January 1, the plans known as Tricare Standard and Tricare Extra were combined into a single plan, known as Tricare Select.

Active duty family members who use Tricare Prime saw no major changes, so long as they stayed in that plan.

Starting in 2019, active duty families and those who retire from active duty will no longer be able to switch at will between plans. Instead, they must wait for annual fall "open enrollment" period to move plans or experience a "qualifying life event." Tricare has yet to release a final list of what those "life events" will include.

On February 1, 2018, TRICARE pharmacy copayments changed for all beneficiaries, except Active Duty Servicemembers, dependent survivors of ADSMs, and medically retired servicemembers and their dependents.

**Retail Network Pharmacy Copayment Changes (up to 30-day supply)**
- Generic formulary drugs will increase from $10 to $11.
- Brand-name formulary drugs will increase from $24 to $28.
- Non-formulary drugs will increase from $50 to $53. *(NOTE: Non-formulary drugs are generally only available through home delivery.)*

**TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery Copayment Changes (up to 90-day supply)**
- Generic formulary drugs will increase from $0 to $7.
- Brand-name formulary drugs will increase from $20 to $24.
- Non-formulary drugs will increase from $49 to $53.

**Military Treatment Facility Pharmacy Copayment Changes**
- Beneficiaries can still fill their prescriptions for $0 copay at MTF pharmacies.

**Upcoming changes to TRICARE**

Dental and vision changes will be implemented in the 4th quarter of 2018 as well as a first ever open enrollment for calendar year 2019. Prices for FY19 are expected to be available by October 2018.

**The American Legion’s Position:** The National Security Commission has Resolution No. 102: Oppose Tricare Fee Increases which states that The American Legion is strongly opposed to hikes in premiums and or enrollment fees being paid by enrollees in TRICARE. The American Legion urges Congress to decisively reject these unjust proposed increase in the military retirees’ TRICARE enrollment fee, deductibles, or premiums.

**BUDGETING**

**FY18 Omnibus - Defense**

This year Congress passed HR 1625, the $1.3 trillion omnibus spending bill. The bill modified defense discretionary spending caps for fiscal years 2018 and 2019 to $700 and $716 billion, respectively. $107 billion more than FY 2017. The FY19 Budget Request builds on the FY17 and FY18 budgets and supports rebuilding the U.S. military into the lethal and ready Joint Force the nation needs. However, we cannot reverse a decade-plus of erosion in one fiscal year. The Joint Force must continue to receive sufficient, sustained, and predictable funding for the foreseeable future to restore our competitive advantage and ensure we never send future generations into a fair fight.

It includes $589.5 billion in base discretionary funding — $73.4 billion above FY 2017 levels — and $65.2 billion for Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) associated with the war in Afghanistan and other counterterrorism operations such as the fight against the Islamic State (also known as ISIS or ISIL).
• The bill fully funds an active duty end strength of 1,322,500 and a reserve component end strength of 816,900, an increase of 9,500. It also funds a 2.4 percent pay raise for military personnel. The bill adds $222 million to pay for increased end strength and $206 million to address the increase in military pay.

• $9.5 billion for the Missile Defense Agency (MDA), an increase of $1.6 billion above the FY2018 budget request. In December, Congress appropriated $2.0 billion in FY2018 funding for MDA to accelerate Missile Defense and Defeat Enhancements to counter the threat from North Korea, including: $960 million for additional THAAD and AEGIS interceptors; $568 million to initiate the expansion of Missile Field #4 at Fort Greely, Alaska, with 20 additional Ground-Based Interceptors equipped with the newest Kill Vehicle; and

• $123 million to support a Joint Emerging Operational Need from U.S. Forces Korea for integration and more efficient use of missile defense systems to improve defensive capability on an urgent timeline. The bill also would provide $44 billion for 10 F/A-18E/F Super Hornet fighters, 35 Joint Strike Fighters, and 17 Apache helicopters.

• The bill also includes $23.8 billion, $3.4 billion above the budget request. In total, the agreement funds the construction of 14 new ships: one aircraft carrier, two Virginia class submarines, two DDG-51 destroyers, three Littoral Combat Ships, one LXR amphibious warship, one Expeditionary Fast Transport ship, one Expeditionary Sea Base, one TAO fleet oiler, one Towing, Salvage and Rescue ship (ATS), and one T-AGS oceanographic survey ship.

FY18 Omnibus – State & Foreign Operations
The bill contains a total of $16 billion in base and OCO funding for the operational costs of the State Department and related agencies, as well as diplomatic efforts to enhance peace and stability around the globe. The amount is $1.8 billion below fiscal year 2017, largely due to reduced costs of United Nations international peacekeeping missions and a one-time infusion of supplemental funds that was provided last year in the Security Assistance Appropriations Act, 2017 for scaling up counter-ISIS operations. Within this amount, the legislation provides $6 billion for embassy security. These funds will address needs at more than 275 diplomatic facilities overseas, including facility upgrades and security personnel as recommended in the Benghazi Accountability Review Board report.

FY18 Omnibus – Homeland Security
The bill includes $47.8 billion for the Department of Homeland Security, an increase of $5.4 billion over the last fiscal year. These dollars will bolster border infrastructure, add more “boots on the ground,” increase detention space, and improve surveillance technology. The legislation includes $1.571 billion for physical barriers and associated technology along the Southwest border. This amount provides for more than 90 miles of “border wall system,” going beyond the Administration’s budget request for a total of 74 miles in fiscal year 2018.

FY19 Proposed Defense & State Department Budgets
President Trump’s FY19 budget includes an expected $16 billion defense increase, offset by domestic-side cuts. The plan signaled the White House’s intent to restore a “depleted” military. The request includes $716 billion for the Defense Department, including $617 billion in the base budget and $69 billion in the emergency Overseas Contingency Operations account. Overall, the request is 3.1 percent of gross domestic product -- a figure near historic lows. The budget is a strategy-driven document that stresses the nation’s primary goals: to defend the homeland, make the military more lethal, and to strengthen old alliances and build new ones.
The American Legion’s Position: These budget increases and proposed increases for fiscal year 2019 in defense spending are a step in the right direction to rebuild our devastated military but we must continue to advocate for full funding of the military. The National Security Commission has Resolution No. 21: National Defense Budget which urges Congress to support budget increases in military spending to reverse the effects of the 2013 Budget Control Act also known as sequestration and to not allow our military forces to reach a weakened state in these uncertain and perilous times. Also, our resolutions support full funding for the Department of State’s essential operations.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

One of the most important parts of the work of the National Security Division is the preparation and presentation of congressional testimony as well as letters of support on issues of national security and the quality of life of servicemembers. Since January 2017, the National Security Division has written four (4) letters of support.

The following is a synopsis of the congressional hearings and correspondence held from January to May 1, 2017, on matters pertaining to the National Veterans Employment & Education Commission:

On January 24, the staff wrote a letter of support to Representative Sanford Bishop (GA) for “The Disabled Veterans Tax Termination Act”, which would provide a comprehensive solution to the concurrent receipt problem facing members of our nation’s armed services by ending the dollar-for-dollar offset on military retirement pay based on their VA disability compensation.

On February 12, the staff wrote a letter of support to Senator Elizabeth Warren (MA) for S. 2402 “A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to increase the number of peer-to-peer counselors providing counseling for women veterans, and for other purposes”, which emphasizes counseling for women who suffered sexual trauma while serving, have Post Traumatic Stress Disorder or another mental health condition, or are at risk of becoming homeless.

On February 12, the staff wrote a letter of support to Representative Mike Coffman (CO) for “The Peer-2-Peer Act”, which would increase the number of peer-to-peer counselors for women veterans and other purposes to support a better quality of life for veterans.

On April 9, the staff wrote a letter of support to Representative Daniel Lipinski (IL) for “The Purple Heart and Disabled Veterans Equal Access Act”, which would extend government commissary, morale, welfare, and recreation privileges to disabled veterans, Purple Heart recipients, Prisoners of War, and their designated caregivers.

National Security worked with the Legislative Division on testimony that was submitted on April 25 on the VA management of life insurance programs for service members and veterans. The American Legion made several recommendations to include sending veterans three month reminders prior to the expiration of their one-year enrollment period. We also raised the question of how VA is currently assessing consistency and quality of claims decisions for TSGLI.

POW/MIA UPDATE

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) has accounted for 62 service members from past conflicts since the beginning of 2018. Of this total 47 are from WWII, 11 are from the Korean War, and 4 are from the Vietnam War.

Since January 1, 2018 staff have coordinated attendance by Department leadership at 4 Family Update events hosted by DPAA at:
- 20 January, San Diego, California
- 24 February, Jacksonville, Florida
- 24 March, El Paso, Texas
- 20 April, Rapid City, South Dakota
Proceedings of Thursday, May 10, 2018

Staff will continue to coordinate attendance with Department for future updates which are scheduled for:
May 19 Louisville, KY
June 21-24 Washington, D.C.
August 9-10 Washington, D.C.
September 8 Philadelphia, PA

Full funding of DPAA is something we continue to be concerned about. The effects of continuing resolutions and threats of government shutdowns are crippling to DPAA efforts. Without guaranteed funding recovery teams are threatened with having to end their mission and return stateside short of mission dates. Mission planning is impacted as well. The difficult mountains of Vietnam can only be excavated during the warm months and without guaranteed funding recovery opportunities may be missed or delayed.

The follow is the current statistical list of the unaccounted for from past conflicts:

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<th></th>
<th>WWII</th>
<th>Korean War</th>
<th>Vietnam War</th>
<th>Cold War</th>
<th>Iraq &amp; Other Conflicts</th>
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The American Legion’s Position: The National Security Commission maintains Resolution No. 22: POW/MIA Policies which calls for the fullest possible accounting which is defined as releasing live prisoners, repatriating remains of those killed in action or who died in captivity, or providing convincing evidence as to why neither is possible. The American Legion remains steadfast in our commitment to the goal of achieving the fullest possible accounting for all U.S. military personnel and designated civilian personnel missing and unaccounted for from our nation’s past conflicts and current and present wars.

The National Security Commission thanks National Commander Rohan, our NEC Liaison Committee and all members of the National Executive Committee for their enduring support for this Commission’s efforts to ensure a strong national defense and viable U.S. foreign policy.

Addendum A: Resolutions Not Approved

Hold for Study
Register Resolution No. 2755 (UT DEC) State Funeral for the Last WWI Medal of Honor Recipient
Register Resolution No. 2756 (TN DEC) Establish Separate Paramedic/Emergency Medical Technician Award

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, motion to receive and file the report of the National Security Commission with the exception of three resolutions and we have Addendum A. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It has been moved and seconded to receive and file the report of the National Security Commission with the exception of three resolutions and addendum A. Are there any questions? All those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried.
Resolution No. 8: Commission the USS Los Alamos

Origin: Register Resolution No. 2750 (NM) Department Executive Committee

Submitted By: National Security Commission

WHEREAS, The USS Albuquerque (SSN-706), a Los Angeles Class nuclear submarine was decommissioned on March 1, 2017; and
WHEREAS, The previous USS Los Alamos, a floating dry dock serving nuclear submarines was in service from 1961 and retired in 1994; and
WHEREAS, The community of Los Alamos has solicited explicitly the support and approval of The American Legion, the Nation’s largest and oldest fraternal veteran’s organization, for approval and support through endorsement, founded on a pillar of National Security; and
WHEREAS, It is right and fitting that the secretary of the Navy should consider this request, given the unique contributions of the residents of Los Alamos to this nation and the U.S. Navy since 1943; and
WHEREAS, Los Alamos, considering its small size, has had and continues to have a disproportionate impact on national security and global stability; and
WHEREAS, The knowledge and understanding of nuclear energy that was developed by residents of Los Alamos during the Manhattan Project provided the scientific basis that led to the development of the U.S. Navy’s nuclear propulsion systems used throughout the U.S. Naval fleet today; and
WHEREAS, Los Alamos National Laboratory continues to be a leader in developing twenty-first century technologies to provide a strong defense against aggressors; and
WHEREAS, Naming a nuclear powered attack submarine the USS Los Alamos is a fitting tribute to the men and women of Los Alamos who served in the nation’s interest since 1943; and
WHEREAS, With special consideration of the timeliness of this request, federal legislation passed in November 2015 established the new Manhattan Project National Historical Park as the latest addition to the National Park Service and in recognition of Los Alamos National Laboratory’s upcoming 75th Anniversary in 2018, the naming of a submarine as the USS Los Alamos is appropriate and fitting; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 9-10, 2018, That The American Legion hereby endorses the naming of a future U.S. Navy nuclear attack submarine as the USS Los Alamos in honor of the strategic military role of Los Alamos in bringing World War II to an end, in developing an understanding of nuclear energy which led to today’s Nuclear Navy, in developing all of the nuclear weapons the Navy currently maintains and in recognition of the importance of the work that the thousands of scientists and engineers at Los Alamos National Laboratory continue to provide to the United States Navy; and, be it finally
RESOLVED, That The American Legion National Headquarters submit this resolution to the Honorable Sean J. Stackley, secretary of the Navy for adoption.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER RONNING: This resolution has the approval of the National Security Commission and your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its approval. ....Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It has been moved and seconded to approve Resolutions No. 8, titled "Commission the USS Los Alamos." Are there any questions? All those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried.
Resolution No. 9: Military Commissaries  
Origin: National Security Commission  
Submitted By: National Security Commission

WHEREAS, Defense officials have asked the Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA) for cost-saving options including how the system would operate with reduced or no taxpayer subsidies; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Defense is implementing pilot programs to reduce costs such as variable pricing; and

WHEREAS, DeCA currently operates nearly 250 stores worldwide and employs approximately 18,000 people and its annual sales exceed $5 billion; and

WHEREAS, By using commissaries, financially challenged military families can save an average of more than 30 percent on their purchases compared with commercial supermarkets; and

WHEREAS, In addition to improving the quality of life for the troops and their families, commissary privileges help recruit and retain the best and brightest men and women to serve our country; and

WHEREAS, Without commissary savings, pay compensation for active duty and military retirees would be less competitive with the civilian sector; and

WHEREAS, Retired as well as drilling reservists and National Guardsmen are now authorized to use the commissaries and their access to the DeCA should not be restricted; and

WHEREAS, Any effort to reduce or dismantle the integrity of the military commissary system would be seen as a serious breach of faith with a benefit system that currently serves as a mainstay for the active and reserve components, military retirees and military survivors, military personnel involuntarily discharged or released from active duty, and 100 percent service-connected disabled veterans and others; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 9-10, 2018, That The American Legion urge the Department of Defense and Congress to continue full funding of the military commissary system and to retain this vital non-pay compensation benefit system which is essential to the morale and readiness of the dedicated men and women who have served, and continue to serve, the national security interests of the United States; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion supports expanding military commissary privileges to disabled veterans and their designated caregivers, Purple Heart recipients, and former Prisoners of War; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion opposes any efforts to institute "variable pricing" or to privatize the military commissary system or to reduce discounts or to dismantle or downsize the Defense Commissary Agency; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That Resolution No. 100 titled, "Military Commissaries" approved by the 2016 National Convention is hereby superseded and rescinded.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER RONNING: This resolution has the approval of the National Security Commission and your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its approval. ....Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It has been moved and seconded to approve Resolution No. 9, titled "Military Commissaries." Are there any questions? All those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried.
Resolution No. 10: Expedited Citizenship Applications For Deported Veterans

Origin: Register Resolution No. 2758 (AZ) Department Executive Committee
Submitted By: National Security Commission

WHEREAS, Approximately 35,000 legal permanent residents, or green card holders, serve on active duty and 8,000 join the military every year; and

WHEREAS, Between 2009 and 2016, the Military Accessions Vital to the National Interest Program (MAVNI) allowed approximately 10,400 non-citizens to join the military and lend critical language and medical skills to our country’s defense; and

WHEREAS, Various reports from the citizenship organizations, national and local news sources, and firsthand accounts from members of Congress have confirmed that hundreds, possibly thousands, of veterans have been deported for committing certain crimes, many non-violent and substance abuse related, after serving in the United States Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, Many have been sent to countries they have not known since early childhood and many live in Mexico, along the U.S. border, to be close to loved ones and support networks; and

WHEREAS, The overwhelming majority of deported veterans who have been interviewed consider the U.S. their home; and

WHEREAS, Many deported veterans have said they believed their service automatically conferred citizenship upon them; and

WHEREAS, The servicemembers reportedly believe the military did not do enough to inform its non-citizen members that they qualified for an expedited naturalization process and it was typically left to the service-member to pursue it with little assistance or guidance; and

WHEREAS, Those same deported veterans were not aware that many non-violent crimes would trigger their deportation and keep them from ever becoming citizens; and

WHEREAS, Changes to the program would allow for a significant portion of deported veterans to access some form of health care no matter where they live with the Foreign Medical Program as an example; and

WHEREAS, Dependents eligible by a foreign-born service member’s Department of Veterans Affairs benefits should not experience delay in delivery of their benefits, especially when some or all of those dependents may be U.S. citizens in their own right; and

WHEREAS, Congressional oversight of the Foreign Medical Program will be crucial to ensure that deported veterans have access to the only Department of Veterans Affairs health care currently available to them; and

WHEREAS, While the Foreign Medical Program is not direct Department of Veterans Affairs care, it gives them access to care addressing service connected issues; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 9-10, 2018, That The American Legion urges Congress to enact legislation to permit the granting of citizenship to deported veterans if their discharge is honorable and they do not have a felony conviction.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER RONNING: This resolution has the approval of the National Security Commission and your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its approval. ...Second

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It has been moved and seconded to approve Resolution No. 10, titled "Expedited Citizenship Applications For Deported Veterans." Are there any questions? All those in favor of Resolution No. 10, signify by saying aye.
RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER RONNING: This report has one Addendum A. I move that the actions of the National Security Commission be the actions of the NEC. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It has been moved and second that the action of National Security Commission on Addendum A be approved as the action of the NEC. Are there any questions? All those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried. Thank you. Chairman Paul Dillard from Texas, Legislative Commission.

Oral Report: Legislative Commission
Paul Dillard, Texas, Chairman

Commander Rohan, National Adjutant Wheeler, national officers, past national commanders, members of the National Executive Committee, and distinguished guests. It is truly an honor to be standing before you this morning and you allowing me to be here. While the Legislative Commission was not called to meet at this meeting, we have already prepared and submitted a written report for your review, which was distributed to you in advance. Attached to this report is an addendum. Addendum I listing a resolution with the legislative pertinent information to the 115th Congress, including those approved at this National Executive Committee meeting, the 99th National Convention, and the 2017 NEC meeting in the fall.

The national Legislative Commission has met once since the last NEC in October of 2017, and that meeting was held February 26, 2016 at The American Legion Washington Conference, with 33 members present and over 60 others which were guests which were present with standing room only. Interest and attendance such as this is inspirational and shows that now, more than ever, Legionnaires realize that the actions taken in the U.S. Congress are important. You all know this, but we must be alert, we must be aware, and most importantly, we must be engaging our members of Congress to ensure that they know what The American Legion wants and what our veterans deserve.

I had the honor of chairing that meeting. Our National Legislative Council Chairman Dewey Moss, from Georgia, presented his report on the council activities. The commission continues its efforts to increase education about the legislative issues impacting The American Legion and to promote better understanding of the American political process. Guest speakers included bipartisan staff members from both the House and the Senate veterans committees. After the prepared presentation, a question-and-answer session brought other issues up for discussion, and both sides benefited from this information exchange.

Legion staff members discussed the impact of pending legislation, including the VA and the DoD budgets, the ongoing status of Choice, the appeals modernization, accountability of the VA, the flag amendment, and even enactment of The American Legion Centennial Coin Bill.

The American Legion continues to be an active vocal participant in the national legislative process. In the first five months of the 115th Congress, The American Legion has provided testimony in 14 congressional hearings and is currently working on others, not including congressional roundtables. Our Legislative Council puts Legionnaires in all 535 congressional offices on Capitol Hill to amplify our voice. When the action alerts go out, we monitor the data and can see thousands of contacts with senators and representatives.

In closing, nothing is more important to our national legislative efforts than our Legion Family and the collective voice they carry. When the call of help is made, we need Capitol Hill, the White House, and even the VA to hear the roar of The American Legion
voice. There are many great ways to ensure Capitol Hill, the White House, and the VA hears The American Legion, but I will only highlight two. One, sign up more members. Power comes in numbers, and with more members, the more power and influence that we have over our elected officials. Two, sign up for the legislative action alerts. This will guarantee that you will get the call to action that you can then share with the Legion Family. Our mission as an American Legion Family is to protect the rights and benefits of our American veterans. We can and we will accomplish that mission, but we need the help of every American Legion member.

Commander Rohan, the Legislative Commission appreciates your continued support and involvement, as well as that of the national adjutant, the National Executive Committee, past national commanders, and the staff in both Washington and here in Indianapolis. Thank you for the honor and privilege of chairing this critical commission, and we will continue to work every day to ensure that we put Family First. This concludes my report. God bless America. (Applause)

Advance Report: Legislative Commission  
February 26, 2018  
Paul E. Dillard, Texas, Chairman

There has been one meeting of the National Legislative Commission since the National Executive Committee last met in October, 2017. Thirty-two (32) members of the Commission met on February 26, 2018 at the Washington Hilton Hotel in Washington, DC. Legislative Commission Chairman Paul Dillard (TX) chaired the meeting. National Legislative Council Chairman Dewey Moss (GA) presented his report on Council activities.

The Commission welcomed two guest speakers to its meeting who participated in a panel discussion about the veterans’ legislative agenda for the remainder of the 115th Congress. The guest speakers were: Ray Kelley, Minority Staff member for the House Veterans’ Affairs Committee (HVAC); and, David Shearman, Professional Staff member of the Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee (SVAC). The discussion included: a) an overview of veterans’ legislation enacted in 2017, including the Legion’s 100th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Act, the “Forever GI Bill” and VA accountability legislation; b) implementation of these new laws in the current session of Congress; and c) legislation to streamline VA’s community care programs. In addition, the current controversies surrounding VA Secretary David Shulkin were addressed. Afterwards, a question-and-answer session occurred, with many Commission members fully engaged in the discussion.

Legislative Director Matthew Shuman reported on the status of current legislation impacting on issues critical to The American Legion. Major discussion topics included: legislation to address VA’s Choice program, as well as to improve VA’s appeals process; and, to address the continuing problems with transparency and accountability in the VA.

Recent Congressional Developments

The Second Session of the 115th Congress convened on January 3, 2018. Major issues on the agenda for both chambers revolved mainly around completing action on the fiscal year (FY) 2018 budget, as well as developing the FY 2019 budget. To date, The American Legion has participated in twelve (12) congressional hearings during the Second Session.

The American Legion and the Citizens Flag Alliance continue to support a proposed constitutional amendment: “The Congress shall have power to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States.” The American Legion supports passage of the measure and ratification by the state legislatures. A House bill, House Joint Resolution (H.J. Res.) 61, was introduced on February 2, 2017 by Representative Steve Womack
This measure currently has 27 cosponsors, and more are being sought. A Senate companion measure, Senate Joint Resolution (S.J. Res.) 46, was introduced on June 14, 2017 by Senator Steve Daines (MT). That measure currently has 13 cosponsors, and additional cosponsors continue to be sought.

On March 23, President Trump enacted Public Law (P.L.) 115-141, the omnibus spending measure for fiscal year (FY) 2018. The overall bill contains $1.3 trillion to fund the operations of the federal government until September 30, 2018. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) received a total of $81.5 billion in discretionary funding for the remainder of FY18, in addition to advance appropriations of $71 billion (discretionary) and $108 billion (mandatory) for FY19, which begins on October 1.

A deal to include multiple VA reforms in the FY 2018 omnibus spending bill that Congress formulated to prevent a government shutdown collapsed on March 21. Earlier in the week, the bill was set to contain three measures that would: overhaul the VA Choice program, which veterans use to access private-sector medical care; expand the Caregivers program to pre-9/11 veterans; and, a plan to initiate a systematic review of VA infrastructure, with the intention of disposing of aging and underused facilities nationwide. When Congress unveiled its $1.3 trillion bill the evening of March 21, the VA reforms had been removed. This was due mainly to opposition by the House Democratic leadership. Sen. Johnny Isakson (GA), chairman of the Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee, stated he would work to pass the rejected VA reform language later this year.

On Wednesday, March 28 President Trump fired VA Secretary David Shulkin, ending weeks of speculation surrounding the embattled agency heads. The president said he was “thankful for Dr. David Shulkin’s service.” Rumors about Shulkin’s ouster began circulating in February after an inspector general faulted the secretary for a trip he took to Europe in 2017. Auditors found Shulkin inappropriately accepted gifts while abroad and allowed the government to pay for his wife’s travel. Shulkin since reimbursed the government for those costs, but has maintained he followed the advice of ethics officials throughout his tenure. He further blamed internal politics within the department for his controversies, saying other Trump administration officials at both VA and the White House were seeking to undermine him because he was not pursuing sufficient private health care access for veterans.

The Choice program, which funds healthcare for VA-registered veterans in non-VA settings, is likely to run out money in late May or early June of this year. The Legion is working with Congress to reverse this looming disaster.

The Legislative Division thanks everyone who attended the Washington Conference to visit with their respective Members of Congress. We also extend a special thanks to those who have already submitted their Call-In Status Reports. Thus far, the Legislative Commission has received about 185 reports and more are still coming in. These call-in reports keep us informed of the great work that you and the departments are doing to advance our legislative priorities. The reports are also an excellent resource for keeping track of which congressional offices were visited and the issues that were discussed. If you have not already submitted a report, we look forward to seeing it soon. You can use the following web form to submit the report quickly and conveniently: http://www.legion.org/legislative/aar.

A more substantive report on congressional developments will be presented by the Legislative Commission at the May 9-10, 2018 meetings of the National Executive Committee.

Below is a list of bills that the Legislative Division has worked on during the Second Session of the 115th Congress.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bill Number</th>
<th>Official Title</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Issue Code</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S. 624</td>
<td>To allow servicemembers to terminate their cable, satellite television, and Internet access service contracts while deployed.</td>
<td>To allow servicemembers to terminate their cable, satellite television, and Internet access service contracts while deployed – SUPPORT</td>
<td>DEF</td>
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<tr>
<td>H.R. 1206</td>
<td>Reducing Barriers for Veterans Education Act of 2017</td>
<td>To amend title 38, U.S.C., to include the cost of applying to an institution of higher learning as part of the benefits provided under the Post-9/11 Education Assistance Program – SUPPORT (with modifications)</td>
<td>EDU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H.R. 3023</td>
<td>To amend title 38, United States Code, to eliminate the authority of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to pay reporting fees to educational institutions</td>
<td>To amend title 38, United States Code, to eliminate the authority of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to pay reporting fees to educational institutions – SUPPORT</td>
<td>EDU</td>
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<tr>
<td>H.R. 3940</td>
<td>Veterans Education Disaster Assistance Act</td>
<td>To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for housing stipends and supply fee payments under the Post-9/11 Educational Assistance Program for individuals affected by extended school closures due to natural disasters – SUPPORT</td>
<td>EDU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H.R. 4830</td>
<td>Servicemembers Improved Transition through Reforms for Ensuring Progress Act (SIT-REP Act)</td>
<td>To amend title 38, U.S.C., to provide for the disapproval of any course of education for purposes of the educational assistance programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs unless the educational institution providing the course permits individuals to attend or participate in courses pending payment by Department, and for other purposes – SUPPORT</td>
<td>EDU</td>
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<tr>
<td>S. 1072</td>
<td>Homeless Veterans Prevention Act of 2017</td>
<td>To amend title 38, U.S.C., to improve the provision of services for homeless veterans, and for other purposes – SUPPORT</td>
<td>HOU</td>
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<tr>
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<td>S. 2304</td>
<td>Protecting Veterans from Predatory Lending Act of 2018</td>
<td>To amend title 38, U.S.C., to protect veterans from predatory lending, and for other purposes – SUPPORT</td>
<td>HOU</td>
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<tr>
<td>H.R. 4451</td>
<td>Homeless Veterans’ Reintegration Programs Reauthorization Act of 2017</td>
<td>To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for a five-year extension to the homeless veterans reintegration programs and to provide clarification regarding eligibility for services under such programs – SUPPORT</td>
<td>HOU</td>
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<tr>
<td>H.R. 4835</td>
<td>Job Training through Off-Base Opportunities and Local Support for Veterans Act (Job TOOLS for Veterans Act)</td>
<td>To extend the pilot program on off-base transition training for veterans and spouses – SUPPORT</td>
<td>LBR</td>
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<tr>
<td>H.R. 5044</td>
<td>Service-Disabled Veterans Small Business Continuation Act</td>
<td>To amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify the treatment of certain surviving spouses under the contracting goals and preferences of the Department of Veterans Affairs – SUPPORT</td>
<td>SMB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PL 115-141</td>
<td>Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018</td>
<td>To fund federal government operations for the remainder of fiscal year 2018, particularly the Departments of Defense, Homeland Security, Labor, and Veterans Affairs – SUPPORT</td>
<td>VET</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H.R. 888</td>
<td>To amend title 38, United States Code, to improve dependency and indemnity compensation for survivors of certain totally disabled veterans</td>
<td>To amend title 38, United States Code, to improve dependency and indemnity compensation for survivors of certain totally disabled veterans – SUPPORT</td>
<td>VET</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H.R. 4245</td>
<td>Veterans’ Electronic Health Record Modernization Oversight Act of 2017</td>
<td>To direct the VA Secretary to submit to Congress certain documents relating to the Electronic Health Record Modernization Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs – SUPPORT</td>
<td>VET</td>
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<td>Bill Number</td>
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<td>H.R. 4335</td>
<td>Servicemember Family Burial Act</td>
<td>To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for headstones and markers for, and interment in national cemeteries of, deceased spouses and dependent children of members of the Armed Forces serving on active duty, and for other purposes – SUPPORT</td>
<td>VET</td>
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<tr>
<td>H.R. 4958</td>
<td>Veterans Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2018</td>
<td>To increase, effective as of December 1, 2018, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes – SUPPORT</td>
<td>VET</td>
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<tr>
<td>H.R. 4910; S. 2372</td>
<td>Veteran Cemetery Benefit Correction Act</td>
<td>To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide outer burial receptacles for remains buried in National Parks, and for other purposes – SUPPORT</td>
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<tr>
<td>S. 2038</td>
<td>Fairness for Korean DMZ Veterans Act of 2016</td>
<td>To amend title 38, U.S.C., to provide for a presumption of herbicide exposure for certain veterans who served in Korean, and for other purposes – SUPPORT</td>
<td>VET</td>
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<tr>
<td>S. 2097</td>
<td>State Veterans Home Program Improvement Act of 2017</td>
<td>To amend title 38, U.S.C., to improve the administration of State homes furnishing care to veterans under the laws administered by the VA Secretary, and for other purposes – SUPPORT</td>
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<tr>
<td>S. 2105</td>
<td>To modify the presumption of service connection for veterans who were exposed to herbicide agents while serving in the Armed Forces in Thailand during the Vietnam era, and for other purposes.</td>
<td>To modify the presumption of service connection for veterans who were exposed to herbicide agents while serving in the Armed Forces in Thailand during the Vietnam era, and for other purposes – SUPPORT</td>
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<td>S. 2131</td>
<td>VA Newborn Emergency Treatment Act</td>
<td>To amend title 38, U.S.C., to authorize the VA Secretary to furnish medically necessary transportation for newborn children of certain women veterans, and for other purposes – SUPPORT</td>
<td>VET</td>
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<tr>
<td>S. 2247</td>
<td>To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for a consistent eligibility date for provision of Department of Veterans Affairs memorial headstones and markers for eligible spouses and dependent children of veterans whose remains are unavailable, and for other purposes.</td>
<td>To amend title 38, U.S.C., to provide for a consistent eligibility date for provision of Department of Veterans Affairs memorial headstones and markers for eligible spouses and dependent children of veterans whose remains are unavailable, and for other purposes – SUPPORT</td>
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<td>S. 2248</td>
<td>To amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide certain burial benefits for spouses and children of veterans who are buried in tribal cemeteries, and for other purposes.</td>
<td>To amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide certain burial benefits for spouses and children of veterans who are buried in tribal cemeteries, and for other purposes – SUPPORT</td>
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<td>S. 2294</td>
<td>Securing Electronic Records for Veterans’ Ease Act of 2017 or “SERVE Act of 2017”</td>
<td>To amend title 38, U.S.C., to ensure that individuals may access documentation verifying the monthly housing stipend paid to the individual under the Post-9/11 Educational Assistance Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs – SUPPORT</td>
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<td>S. 2341</td>
<td>Veterans’ Debt Fairness Act</td>
<td>To amend title 38, U.S.C., to improve the processing of veterans benefits by the Department of Veterans Affairs, to limit the authority of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to recover overpayments made by the Department and other amounts owed by veterans to the United States, to improve the due process accorded veterans with respect to such recovery, and for other purposes – SUPPORT</td>
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<td>S. 2357</td>
<td>Accountability in Department of Veterans Affairs Scheduling and Consult Management Act</td>
<td>To require the VA Secretary to review the processes and requirements of the Department of Veterans Affairs for scheduling appointments for health care and conducting consultations under the laws administered by the Secretary, and for other purposes – SUPPORT</td>
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**ISSUE CODE LISTING**

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<td>Unemployment</td>
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**Report: National Legislative Commission**  
**May 9 – 10, 2017**  
**Paul E. Dillard, Texas, Chairman**

This report provides a summary of congressional actions since the National Convention on issues of particular concern to The American Legion. The report is arranged by program areas.
Recent Congressional Developments

The Second Session of the 115th Congress convened on January 3, 2018. Major issues on the agenda for both chambers revolved mainly around final fiscal year (FY) 2018 appropriations for the Department of Defense (DOD) and the remainder of the federal government; and, passage of FY 2019 appropriations. The American Legion participated in thirty (30) congressional hearings during the First Session.

On March 23, 2018 President Trump signed Public Law (PL) 115-141, which finalized FY19 funding for federal government operations. The House passed the measure on March 22 by 256-167; the Senate followed suit shortly thereafter, approving the bill by 65-32. The measure provides $1.3 trillion of funding for operations of all federal departments and agencies. Individual appropriations amounts are presented in each relevant subject area in this report.

AMERICANISM

On February 8, 2017 Representative Steve Womack (AR) introduced House Joint Resolution (HJ Res) 61, a flag protection constitutional amendment for the 115th Congress. It has been assigned to the House Judiciary Committee. The measure currently boasts 27 cosponsors. A Senate companion measure was introduced on June 14, 2017 as Senate Joint Resolution (SJ Res) 46, and currently has 13 cosponsors. The American Legion will continue to seek passage of a constitutional amendment to protect the American flag because it is the right thing to do. Let “We the People” decide.

A s stated above, the President on March 23 enacted the final continuing appropriations measure for FY18, PL 115-141. Under the provisions of the new law, Department of Justice programs received $29.9 billion in funding for the remainder of the fiscal year (until September 30, 2018). Specific areas of interest to The American Legion include:

- Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI): The FBI received $9 billion for this year;
- U.S. Marshals Service: This agency would receive $2.9 billion;
- Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA): $2.6 billion is tabbed for this agency;
- Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF): The legislation contains $1.3 billion; and,
- Juvenile Justice Grants: One program area that has been a primary Legion concern since 1974 is the account for juvenile justice grants, which totals $282.5 million for FY 2018. These grants address such concerns as child abuse, youth gangs and violence against children, missing / exploited children, and underage drinking.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

On October 6, 2017 President Trump signed into law PL 115-65, The American Legion 100th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Act. The law requires the U.S. Mint to produce a centennial coin in celebration of The American Legion turning 100 and proudly representing and supporting millions of veterans. The Legislative Division focused much attention during April through August of 2017 gathering support and co-sponsors for HR 2519 and S 1182, companion measures supporting the Legion Coin. S 1182, the Senate version sponsored by Sen. Todd Young (IN), was introduced with 28 co-sponsors and accumulated 75. The Senate measure passed that chamber on August 3 by a voice vote. HR 2519, the House bill sponsored by Rep. Tim Walz (MN), was introduced with 102 co-sponsors and garnered 385 prior to House passage. On September 25, HR 2519 passed the House by a voice vote. On September 27, the Senate approved HR 2519 by unanimous consent.

On October 12, 2017 members of the House Veterans’ Affairs Committee voiced support for a bill authorizing the sale of Pershing Hall, which was established as a World War I memorial by The American Legion in 1928 and transferred to the VA in 1991. The
Legion is asking the property remain under ownership of the federal government for posterity.

Rep. Mike Coffman (CO) introduced the legislation, **H.R. 2773**, authorizing VA to sell the property on the condition that whoever buys it agrees to preserve its architecture. The money from the sale and any historic memorabilia inside would be given to the American Battle Monuments Commission, which is responsible for maintaining American military cemeteries, monuments and memorials outside the U.S. “While Pershing Hall is probably a terrific hotel, it makes no sense that the VA keeps a luxury hotel in Paris on its books,” said Rep. Coffman. “The VA needs to focus its time and resources on its core mission: taking care of our nation’s veterans.”

Pershing Hall has deeply personal meaning to The American Legion. The Legion got its start in Paris in 1919, created by members of the American Expeditionary Force who served in the First World War. The Legion purchased the property, which had been a townhouse, to recognize the American Expeditionary Forces and Gen. John Pershing, and maintain the Legion’s presence in Paris. Since management was transferred to the VA, the Legion has been disappointed with what’s happened with the building. The Legion thought it would remain a memorial with space for U.S. veterans in Paris to go for VA aid. Instead, the VA signed a 99-year lease in 1998 with a private French firm that operates the hotel and spa. Above the building’s entrance is the Legion’s wreath and star emblem, in stone and iron. At one time, it was full of fine art, furnishings, plaques and other memorabilia with some tie to the “Great War.” After VA took over the building, the items were placed in multiple storage areas in the U.S. and France.

Rep. Coffman criticized the lease, calling it a bad deal that significantly decreases the property’s market value. The Legion asked that the property be kept under federal control until the lease is complete in 2097. But House VA committee members said the VA “should not be in the business of managing hotels.” Rep. Phil Roe (TN), chairman of the House committee, said he was uncertain what to do and needed to think about the issue. “I think we need to be sensitive and aware of that history,” he said.

Rep. Coffman previously attempted to have the VA sell Pershing Hall in 2015 to help pay for cost overruns at the under-construction VA hospital in Aurora CO, but the legislation stalled.

On October 25, 2017 a ceremony was conducted in the U.S. Capitol, with Congressional Gold Medals presented to Filipino and Filipino-American veterans, to honor their service and sacrifices during the Second World War. More than 250,000 Filipino soldiers served alongside American servicemembers in the Philippines, with 57,000 killed. After the war, President Truman signed legislation rescinding promises of benefits and U.S. citizenship for these Filipino veterans. In 1990, Congress awarded U.S. citizenship to thousands of Filipino veterans and later extended VA benefits to them. The 2009 stimulus law authorized lump-sum payments, although in some cases missing or poor records blocked the payments from being made.

### NATIONAL SECURITY

Final funding for the Department of Defense (DOD) for the balance of FY18 was contained in PL 115-141. The measure allots $659.5 billion for DOD programs, an increase of $61.1 billion over the FY 2017 enacted level. It includes $65.2 billion in Overseas Contingency Operations funding.

Defense spending includes:

- **Military Personnel and Pay**: $137.7 billion for military personnel and pay accounts, including a 2.4 percent pay raise for all uniformed personnel and civilian employees. This funding level provides for 1.322 million active-duty troops and 816,900 Guard and Reserve troops.
• **Operation and Maintenance**: $238 billion; this category supports key readiness programs to prepare our troops for combat and peacetime missions, including flight time and training, equipment and facility maintenance, and base operations.

• **Research and Development**: $89.2 billion; this area will fund research, development, testing, and evaluation of new defense technologies. It will help to advance the safety and success of current and future military operations and prepare our nation to meet a broad range of future security threats.

• **Procurement**: $144.3 billion; these funds support our nation’s military readiness by providing the necessary platforms, weapons, and other equipment our military needs to train, maintain the force, and conduct successful operations.

• **Health**: $34.4 billion for DOD health and family programs; the legislation includes funding for cancer research, as well as traumatic brain injury and psychological health research and suicide prevention outreach programs. It includes $359 million for cancer research, $125 million for traumatic brain and psychological health research, and $287 million for sexual assault prevention and response.

Fiscal year 2018 funding for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) was included in PL 115-141. A total of $47.7 billion was appropriated for the agency’s discretionary accounts. Major accounts which interest our organization include:

• **Customs and Border Protection** – The law contains $14 billion for this account, an increase of $1.8 billion over FY 2017.

• **Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE)** – A total of $7.1 billion for ICE. It includes: funds for hiring additional law enforcement officers and attorneys; partnerships with local law enforcement; and critical infrastructure and equipment improvements.

• **Coast Guard** – The measure contains $12.1 billion for this agency – a $1.7 billion increase over FY17.

• **Transportation Security Administration (TSA)** – The bill includes $7.9 billion for TSA.

• **Cybersecurity and Protection of Communications** – To combat increasingly dangerous and numerous cyber-attacks, the law contains $1.9 billion for the National Protection and Programs Directorate to enhance critical infrastructure and prevent hacking.

• **Secret Service** – The measure contains $1.99 billion for the Secret Service. The funding includes investments in investigations and cybersecurity, and continues funding for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

• **Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)** – The law funds FEMA’s disaster relief account at $7.9 billion, to respond to both natural and man-made disasters. It includes $3 billion for FEMA grant programs, including firefighter assistance grants and State Homeland Security grants.

In addition to regular DOD funding, PL 115-141 contains Military Construction appropriations. These accounts total $10.1 billion, an increase of $2.4 billion above FY17 amounts. Among the accounts funded are:

• **Military Family Housing** – The law provides $1.4 billion to fund construction, operation, and maintenance of military family housing for the balance of the current fiscal year, $2 million more than the budget request. The funding will ensure quality housing is sustained for nearly 1.4 million military families currently served by the program.
• **Military Medical Facilities** – A total of $708 million for construction and alterations for new or existing military medical facilities is included in this legislation. This funding will continue support and care for almost 10 million eligible beneficiaries, including our wounded troops overseas.

• **DOD Education Facilities** – This measure contains $250 million for essential safety improvements and infrastructure work at four DOD Education Activities facilities located within the U.S. and abroad.

• **Guard and Reserve** – A total of $645 million is earmarked for construction/alterations for Guard and Reserve facilities in 26 states and territories, $450 million above the requested level.

• **NATO Security Investment Program (NSIP)** – The new law provides $178 million for infrastructure necessary for wartime, crisis, and peace support and deterrence operations, and training requirements. The funds will support responses to challenges posed by Russia and to the risks and threats emanating from the Middle East and North Africa.

• **Guantanamo Bay** – The measure continues a language to prohibit the closing of the Guantanamo Bay Naval Station and a provision to prohibit funding for any facility within this country to house detainees. Also contained in the law is $115 million in funding to build two new barracks to house servicemembers stationed at Guantanamo Bay.

**VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION**

Under the provisions of PL 115-141, signed by the President on March 23, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) received a total of $185.4 billion for FY18 funding. Discretionary funding totaled $81.5 billion, an increase of $7.1 billion above the FY 17 level. Included in the discretionary funding accounts are:

• **VA Medical Services** – This law provides $68.8 billion, providing for the treatment of about 7 million patients in FY18. Individual accounts which interest The American Legion include: $8.4 billion in mental health care services; $7.3 billion in homeless veterans treatment, services, housing, and job training; $751 million for Hepatitis C treatment; $512 million for gender-specific healthcare; $386 million for opioid abuse prevention; $316 million for traumatic brain injury treatments; $270 million in rural health initiatives; and, $196 million in suicide prevention activities.

• **Medical and Prosthetic Research** – The new law provided $722 million for this account, an increase of $47 million over the previous year’s funding.

• **Advance Appropriations for All Veterans Programs for FY 2019** – $179 billion. Discretionary medical programs will be funded in 2019 at $71 billion. In addition, mandatory programs will be funded at $108 billion. This was done to eliminate the possibility that VA programs would go unfunded in case of a government shutdown.

• **National Cemetery Administration** – This agency received $306 million for its operations, $20 million more than FY 2017.

• **Information Technology (IT)** – This account received $4.05 billion, a decrease of $223 million.

• **VA Electronic Health Record** – The law contains $782 million for the new VA electronic health record system. This will ensure the implementation of the contract creating an electronic record system that is identical to the one being developed for DOD. These two identical systems will ensure our veterans receive
proper care, with timely and accurate medical data transferred between the VA, DOD, and the private sector.

- Disability Claims Processing – $2.9 billion was allocated to address the burgeoning claims backlog. This amount is an increase of $5 million over the President’s request and $54 million above the 2017 enacted amount. Funding for the Board of Veterans Appeals was increased by $4.9 million to a total of $161 million, in order to address the continuing appeals backlog.

- Construction – Major construction funding totaled $512 million, $16 million below the 2017 amount. Funds will be used for correcting critical seismic deficiencies, new hospital and clinic construction, and repairing crumbling infrastructure in some of VA’s oldest structures. Minor construction was set at $342 million.

- Construction Grants – The state extended care facilities account received $110 million (an increase of $20 million), with the state cemeteries programs receiving $45 million (the same as FY17). Both of these programs have been essentially flat-lined by Congress for a number of years. The American Legion continues to urge Congress to make substantial increases in both grant accounts to allow states to construct state cemeteries and state veterans’ homes.

- Arlington National Cemetery – The new law includes funding for Arlington Cemetery totaling $247 million. This includes an additional $177 million for new security requirements and planning, design, and construction of the Southern Expansion at the cemetery.

On September 29, 2017 President Trump signed into law PL 115-62, the Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2017, to extend VA authorities in a number of areas. The House approved the measure on September 25 by a voice vote. On September 27 the Senate passed the bill by unanimous consent, clearing it for the White House.

Among the law’s provisions is a five-month extension of the assisted living pilot program for veterans with traumatic brain injuries. This will enable the VA to transition currently participating veterans into other existing programs for ongoing support and rehabilitation. The bill also extends caregiver support payments, a pilot program for newly separated women veterans to receive counseling in retreat settings, and a temporary increase in payments for travel to Vet Centers. The legislation extends several other healthcare-related provisions, such as collection of copayments and recovery from third parties for care provided in some instances for non-service connected care.

Authorities in both benefits and homeless veteran programs were also extended. The measure also included some technical corrections to the recently-enacted “Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017” (PL 115-48) which were requested by the Trump Administration.

On November 6, 2017 the House of Representatives approved several bills affecting veterans. The House passed the following bills:

- **HR 1066**: The VA Management Alignment Act of 2017 – this measure, introduced by Rep. Derek Kilmer (WA), would require VA to submit a report regarding the roles, responsibility, and accountability of elements and individuals of VA, using the findings of the Independent Assessment, the Commission on Care, and relevant GAO reports as resources. It passed the House by a 399-0 recorded vote.

- **HR 3562**: To amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish assistance for adaptations of residences of veterans in rehabilitation programs – This measure, introduced by Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity Chairman Jodey Arrington (TX) and Ranking Member Beto O’Rourke (TX), would give VA-designated appraisers the ability to rely solely on information from approved third parties, such as a desktop appraisal,
when determining a home’s value for a VA home loan. The bill was approved by recorded vote of 400-0.

- **HR 3657**: To expand authority to provide headstones and markers to eligible spouses and dependents in tribal veterans cemeteries – Introduced by Rep. Bruce Poliquin (ME), this bill would authorize VA to provide headstones and markers to eligible spouses and dependents who are buried or interred at tribal veterans cemeteries. The measure cleared the House by a voice vote.

On November 7, the House continued its support of veterans and passed the following bills:

- **HR 918**: The Veteran Urgent Access to Mental Healthcare Act – this measure, introduced by Rep. Mike Coffman (CO), would require VA to provide an initial mental health assessment and any subsequent mental health services required to meet urgent mental health care needs to former servicemembers who would otherwise be ineligible for such services because they were discharged from military service under OTH conditions. The House approved the bill by a voice vote.

- **HR 1133**: Veterans Transplant Coverage Act – Introduced by Rep. John Carter (TX), this legislation would authorize VA to provide all care and services needed for a veteran to receive an organ transplant from a live donor, regardless of whether the donor is eligible for VA health care or whether the health care facility is part of the VA. The measure cleared the House by a voice vote.

- **HR 1900**: National Veterans Memorial and Museum Act – This bill, introduced by Rep. Steve Stivers (OH), would designate the Veterans Memorial and Museum in Columbus, Ohio, as the National Veterans Memorial and Museum. The measure cleared the House by a voice vote.

- **HR 2123**: Veterans E-Health and Telemedicine Support Act (VETS) Act of 2017 – Introduced by Rep. Glenn Thompson (PA), this measure would give the VA Secretary the legislative authority to allow VA providers to practice telemedicine across state lines. The House approved the legislation by a voice vote.

- **HR 2601**: Veterans Increased Choice for Transplanted Organs and Recovery (VICTOR) Act – This legislation, introduced by Rep. Neal Dunn (FL), would require VA to consider whether there is a medically compelling reason to require a veteran requiring a transplant to travel outside the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network region that the veteran resides in to receive a transplant from another VA transplant center. Or, if the veteran faces an unusual or excessive burden in receiving a transplant from a VA transplant center before referring a veteran in need of a solid organ or bone marrow transplant to a VA transplant center, he would be allowed to receive the procedure from a community transplant center. The measure cleared the House by a voice vote.

- **HR 3634**: The Securing Electronic Records for Veterans Ease (SERVE) Act of 2017 – Introduced by Rep. Jim Himes (CT), this measure would make BAH documentation available online to all veterans, which would help confirm a veteran’s monthly housing stipend and simplify their home or apartment rental process. The House approved the legislation by a voice vote.

The House passed the following bills on November 8:

- **HR 3705**: Veterans Fair Debt Notice Act – Introduced by Rep. Chellie Pingree (ME), the bill would instruct VA to use plain language in its debt notices to provide a clear explanation of why VA is alleging that the veteran owes such a debt. It passed the House by a 422-0 recorded vote.

- **HR 4173**: The Veterans Crisis Line Study Act of 2017 – This legislation, introduced by Rep. Jim Banks (IN), would require VA to conduct a study on the outcomes and efficacy of the Veterans Crisis Line based on an analysis of
national suicide data and data collected from the VCL. It passed the House by a 420-0 recorded vote.

These measures now go to the Senate for consideration.

President Trump on November 21, 2017 enacted PL 115-89, the Veteran Apprenticeship and Labor Opportunity Reform (VALOR) Act. This measure, introduced by Rep. Ro Khanna (CA), would simplify an approval process by allowing companies to register their apprenticeship programs with one central approval agency.

On November 21, 2017 the President signed PL 115-86, the VA Prescription Drug Accountability Act of 2017. This legislation requires VA to share all controlled substance prescribing information with state-run databases. While current law mandates that the Veterans Health Administration share such data with state prescription drug-monitoring programs, the VA's electronic health records (EHR) can't differentiate between dependents and other non-veterans. Therefore, the VA only shares data on veterans, leaving out dependents and non-veterans – about 10 percent of the VHA's patient population.

On January 9, 2018 President Trump signed Executive Order 13822, which instructs the Departments of Defense (DoD), Veterans Affairs (VA), and Homeland Security (DHS) to develop a joint plan addressing veterans’ suicide, especially in the first year after leaving military service. The departments have 60 days to develop a plan, and must report on its implementation and effectiveness within 180 days of the signing date. The order specifies that the plan should work to streamline access to mental health services throughout an individual’s transition to civilian life and across the DoD and VA. The inclusion of the DHS means that the Coast Guard will be covered by these actions.

On March 9, President Trump signed PL 115-131, the Veterans Care Financial Protection Act of 2017. Introduced by Rep. Matt Cartwright (PA), this legislation directs VA to work with federal agencies and states to develop and implement standards that protect individuals who are eligible for this increased pension from dishonest, predatory or otherwise unlawful practices.

President Trump on March 16 signed PL 115-136, a measure to establish a consistent applicability date for provision of memorial headstones and markers for eligible non-veteran individuals. This legislation, introduced by Rep. Jim Banks (IN), would provide a headstone or marker for all eligible non-veterans who die on or after November 11, 1998.

A deal to include multiple VA reforms in PL 115-141 – the FY 2018 omnibus spending bill that Congress formulated to prevent a government shutdown – collapsed on March 21. Earlier in the week, the bill was set to contain three measures that would: overhaul the VA Choice program, which veterans use to access private-sector medical care; expand the Caregivers program to pre-9/11 veterans; and, a plan to initiate a systematic review of VA infrastructure with the intention of disposing of aging and underused facilities nationwide. When Congress unveiled its $1.3 trillion bill the evening of March 21, the VA reforms had been removed. This was due mainly to opposition by the House Democratic leadership. Sen. Johnny Isakson (GA), chairman of the Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee, stated he would work to pass the rejected VA reform language later this year.

On March 27, President Trump enacted PL 115-159, entitled the State Veterans Home Adult Day Health Care Improvement Act of 2017, was introduced by Sen. Orrin Hatch (UT). This bill would direct VA to enter into an agreement or a contract with state veterans homes to pay for medical supervision model adult day health care for a veteran eligible for, but not receiving, nursing home care. This bill requires the VA Secretary to establish a payment rate through regulations, but until that rate is published stipulates that payment under each agreement or contract between VA and a state home must equal 65 percent of the payment that VA would otherwise pay to the state home if the veteran were receiving nursing home care.
On Wednesday, March 28 President Trump fired VA Secretary David Shulkin, ending weeks of speculation surrounding the embattled agency head. The president said he was “thankful for Dr. David Shulkin’s service.” Rumors about Shulkin’s ouster began circulating in February after an inspector general faulted the secretary for a trip he took to Europe in 2017. Auditors found Shulkin inappropriately accepted gifts while abroad and allowed the government to pay for his wife’s travel. Shulkin since reimbursed the government for those costs, but has maintained he followed the advice of ethics officials throughout his tenure. He further blamed internal politics within the department for his controversies, saying other Trump administration officials at both VA and the White House were seeking to undermine him because he was not pursuing sufficient private health care access for veterans.

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATION

The final appropriations bill for FY18 – PL 115-141 – included funding for the Department of Labor, specifically for the Veterans Employment and Training Service (VETS). Spending for VETS totaled $295 million. Funding for individual VETS accounts included:

- **Jobs for Veterans state grants** received $180 million, which fund DVOP and LVER personnel;
- **Federal administrative costs** were funded at $42.1 million;
- **Homeless Veterans Reintegration Programs** received $50 million;
- **Transition Assistance Program (TAP)** was funded at $19.6 million; and,
- **National Veterans’ Employment and Training Services Institute (NVTI)** received $3.4 million for its operations, which include the training of DVOPs and LVERs.

On January 8 President Trump signed into law PL 115-105, the Jobs for Our Heroes Act, which clarifies eligibility rules for active-duty servicemembers and reservists applying for commercial driver’s licenses (CDLs) under Department of Transportation programs. The legislation passed the Senate in September by unanimous consent, then cleared the House by a 418-0 recorded vote on December 21.

Previously, lawmakers had created a special program for veterans seeking CDLs, which allowed them to skip driving tests and some certification requirements if they had previous applicable experience from their time in the ranks. But those provisions – outlined in the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act in 2015 (PL 114-94) – did not include reservists who have not yet separated from the military or active-duty troops planning ahead for their post-service careers. Transportation officials created a two-year exemption to cover those groups, but the new legislation makes those changes permanent.

In addition, the measure also allows more Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical professionals to perform required federal health examinations for the licensing processes. Because of current rules, only a small number of VA staffers meet the requirements for administering those tests.

This concludes The American Legion National Legislative Commission’s Report to the National Executive Committee.

ADDENDUM I

The National Legislative Commission is required, under Rule 8-b of the National Executive Committee, to compile a list of resolutions with legislative intent adopted during meetings of The American Legion National Convention and The American Legion National Executive Committee. The following resolutions constitute an ongoing list of all resolutions that are legislative in nature. This list of resolutions will constitute part of The American Legion’s legislative program through the 115th Congress.
THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS WERE ADOPTED IN THE SPRING MEETINGS OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MAY 9-10, 2018

INTERNAL AFFAIRS
Res. No.  2 National Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial
Res. No.  3 Coin Commemorating The 75th Anniversary of the End of World War II

NATIONAL SECURITY
Res. No.  9 Military Commissaries
Res. No. 10 Expedited Citizenship Applications for Deported Veterans

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION
Res. No. 11 Support Veteran and Reserve Servicemember Financial Protections
Res. No. 12 Accountability and Enhancements of Transition Assistance Program; Outcomes and Delivery for Today’s Digital Transitioning Servicemembers
Res. No. 13 Designation of the Week of June 18 Through June 24, 2018, as “National GI Bill Commemoration Week”
Res. No. 14 Oppose the Cessation of The Department of Defense Hiring Heroes Program

VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION
Res. No. 16 Beneficiary Travel Philippines
Res. No. 18 Furnish Hospital Care and Medical Services to Veterans and Family Members who were Stationed at Military Installations at which the Veterans and Dependents were Exposed to Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances
Res. No. 19 Burn Pits and Environmental Exposures

THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS WERE ADOPTED AT THE FALL NEC MEETINGS, OCTOBER 11-12, 2017.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS
Res. No.  9 Award Congressional Gold Medal to the Chinese American Veterans of World War II
Res. No. 11 National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass for Honorably Discharged Veterans

VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION
Res. No. 12 Department of Veterans Affairs Drug Pricing Policy

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION
Res. No. 19 Expanding Employment Services to Non-Service Connected Disabled Veterans
Res. No. 20 Support of An Acting Operator for Deployed Servicemember’s Small Business

THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS WERE ADOPTED AT THE 99th NATIONAL CONVENTION
AUGUST 22, 23, 24, 2017

INTERNAL AFFAIRS
Res. No.  88 National Veterans Memorial and Museum
NATIONAL SECURITY

Res. No. 17 Counter Transnational Organized Crime
Res. No. 19 Homeland Security and the Opioid Epidemic
Res. No. 20 National Cybersecurity Strategy
Res. No. 21 National Defense Budget
Res. No. 22 POW/MIA Policies
Res. No. 23 Prohibition on Wrongful Broadcast or Distribution of Intimate Visual Images
Res. No. 40 USS Liberty
Res. No. 70 Medal of Honor for E. Royce Williams

VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION

Res. No. 3 WWII Veterans Hospital and Medical Eligibility
Res. No. 8 Expand the Presumptive Period for Veterans Who served in South Korea
Res. No. 13 Improve VA Communication with Service Officers
Res. No. 14 Extend Allotted Time for Claims Review by Service Officers
Res. No. 28 Permit VA Providers to Discuss the use of Medical Marijuana in those States that have Legalized Marijuana
Res. No. 41 Radiation-Exposed Veterans
Res. No. 47 Research into Hearing Loss Due to Loud or Constant Noise Exposure in the Military
Res. No. 74 Air Carrier Access
Res. No. 75 Department of Veterans Affairs Rural Health Care Program
Res. No. 76 Veterans Emergency Room or Urgent Care Facility Relief

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION

Res. No. 26 Support Effort of the Small Business Administration’s Office of Veterans Business Development and Veterans Business Outreach Centers
Res. No. 78 Support Greater GI Bill Outcomes by Closing 90-10 Loophole
Res. No. 81 Military Spouse Employment
Res. No. 82 Preserve Veteran and Servicemember Rights to Gainful Employment and Borrower Defense Protections
Res. No. 83 Protect Veteran and Servicemember Rights to Fair Consumer Arbitration
Res. No. 84 Support and Strengthen the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA)
Res. No. 85 Support Employment and Reemployment Rights of National Guard and Reservists Returning from Deployment

THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS WERE ADOPTED IN THE SPRING MEETINGS
OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MAY 8-9, 2017

FINANCE

Res. No. 3 100th Anniversary Commemorative American Legion Coin

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

Res. No. 16 National Global War On Terrorism Memorial

VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION

Res. No. 23 Department of Veterans Affairs Provide Mental Health Services for Veterans with other than Honorable and General Discharges
Res. No. 25 Department of Veterans Affairs Maintained Medical and Dental School
Res. No. 27 Amend Title 38, United States Code, To Clarify The Treatment of A Veteran as Adjudicated Mentally Incompetent for Certain Purposes
Res. No. 29 Department of Veterans Affairs Establish An Opioid Treatment Program to include An Opioid Detox Unit at every VA Medical Center

**VETERANS EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION**
Res. No. 20 GI Bill Fairness for Wounded Servicemembers and Activated National Guard and Reservists
Res. No. 21 Support State and National Funding for Troops to Teachers Program

**THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS WERE ADOPTED AT THE FALL MEETINGS OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OCTOBER 12-13, 2016**

**AMERICANISM**
Res. No. 19 Flag Code Amendment

**INTERNAL AFFAIRS**
Res. No. 9 Transfer Custodianship of Pershing Hall Building and Artifacts to the American Battle Monuments Commission
Res. No. 11 Support and Defend Veteran and Military Memorials

**VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION**
Res. No. 22 Surviving Families Benefits
Res. No. 23 Add Agent Orange Component to Code of Federal Regulations 4.16
Res. No. 24 Improve Special Monthly Compensation (K) Award

**VETERANS EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION**
Res. No. 20 Oppose Efforts to Downgrade Low-Level Wage Positions within the Department of Veterans Affairs
Res. No. 21 Education Benefit Forgiveness and Relief for Displaced Student-Veterans

**THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS WERE ADOPTED AT THE 98TH NATIONAL CONVENTION IN CINCINNATI, OHIO AUGUST 30-SEPTEMBER 1, 2016**

**AMERICANISM**
Res. No. 278 Financially Assist Families Faced by Catastrophic Illness of Their Children
Res. No. 279 Support Funding Comprehensive Health Care for Children & Youth
Res. No. 280 Funding For Drug Trafficking Prevention Programs
Res. No. 281 Prevention of Child Sexual Exploitation
Res. No. 282 Oppose any Attempt to Weaken Present Laws Governing Penalties for the Production, Sale and Distribution of Pornographic or Obscene Materials to Minors
Res. No. 283 Establish “National Family Week”
Res. No. 284 Locate Missing Children and Prevent Child Victimization
Res. No. 285 National School Lunch Program
Res. No. 286 Prevent Child Maltreatment
Res. No. 287 Programs and Organizations that Promote Child Safety
Res. No. 288 Reducing or Preventing Teenage Pregnancy
Res. No. 289 Support for the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
Res. No. 290 Honoring the Anniversary of “In God We Trust”
Res. No. 291 School Prayer
Res. No. 292 Return Patriotic Holidays to Traditional Dates
Res. No. 293 Oppose Importation of Foreign Manufactured American Flags
Res. No. 294 Boy Scouts of America and The Department Of Defense
Res. No. 295 Oath of Renunciation and Allegiance
Res. No. 296 Support Fairness for Immigrant Spouses
Res. No. 297 Conscientious Objectors Tax Diversion
Res. No. 298 English Language be Declared as the Official United States Language
Res. No. 299 Pledge of Allegiance
Res. No. 300 Star Spangled Banner
Res. No. 301 Eliminate Damages and Attorney Fees in Establishment Clause Lawsuits
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Res. No. 90 South China Sea Island Building
Res. No. 91 Cybersecurity and Identity Theft
Res. No. 92 Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission Positions
Res. No. 93 Codify Burial Eligibility for Arlington National Cemetery
Res. No. 94 Earned Military Benefits
Res. No. 95 Flexible Savings Accounts
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Res. No. 99 Support for the Jones Maritime Act and Related Cabotage Laws
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Res. No. 3 Department of Veterans Affairs Accountability
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Res. No. 38  Exempt VA Benefits and Services from Pay-Go Provision
Res. No. 39  Research to Develop a Blood Test to Detect Colorectal Cancer
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Res. No. 54  Designate Waldenstrom’s Macroglobulinemia as a Presumptive Condition for Veterans who Served in Combat Theaters
Res. No. 55  Radiation Exposure
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Res. No. 125  Opening the Federal Supply Schedule for Pharmaceuticals to Medicare and Medicaid
Res. No. 126  Oppose any Reduction of Eligibility Criteria for Department of Veterans Affairs Per Diem Payment to State Veterans Home
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Res. No. 236 Department of Veterans Affairs to provide Interim Benefits for Pending Claims over 90 days
Res. No. 237 Authorization to Apply for a Headstone, Marker, or Medallion
Res. No. 238 Suicide Prevention for American Veterans Act
Res. No. 239 Dependency and Indemnity Compensation for Surviving Spouses
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Res. No. 244 Exempt Purple Heart and Medal of Honor Recipients from VA Prescription Co-Payment
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Res. No. 251 Grant a 10% Rating for Veterans who must Take Daily Medication for Hypertension
Res. No. 252 Support Legislation to Pay Interest on Claims Granted by the Board of Veterans’ Appeals
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Res. No. 259 Extend Caregiver Benefits to include Veterans before September 11, 2001
Res. No. 262 Department of Veterans Affairs provide Service Dog Allowance
Res. No. 263 Include World War II Veterans in Priority Group 6 for Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care
Res. No. 265 Automatic Waiver for Over-payments of $300 or Less
Res. No. 267 Allow Beneficiaries to Retain $90 of Their Benefits while in MedCaig Covered Nursing Homes
Res. No. 268 Urn Markers provided by the National Cemetery Administration
Res. No. 271 Request Study by The Department of Veterans Affairs on the Medical Effects of Exposure to Depleted Uranium
Res. No. 272 Extend Dental Care to Veterans with Service Connection of 50% or More
Res. No. 360 Advance Appropriations for all of the Department of Veterans Affairs’ Discretionary Accounts
Res. No. 361 Congress to provide Back Pay to Veterans and Dependents
Res. No. 362 Congressional Budget Office Scoring on Department of Veterans Affairs Leasing
Res. No. 363 Consolidation of Department of Veterans Affairs Care in the Community Program
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Res. No. 375 Prosecution Of VA Employees Engaged in Fraudulent Practices in The Department of Veterans Affairs
Res. No. 377 Support for Veteran Quality of Life
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Res. No. 379 Veteran Caretaker Stipend
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Res. No. 60 Support Full Funding of Local Veterans Employment Representatives and Disabled Veterans Outreach Program Specialist (DVOPS) Positions
Res. No. 68 Support the Increased Funding of Disabled Veterans’ Outreach Program Specialist and Local Veterans’ Employment Representative Programs
Res. No. 69 Support the Elimination of Department of Labor’s Veterans’ Employment and Training Service Regional Offices
Res. No. 71 Oppose Department of Labor’s Veterans’ Employment and Training Service Hiring of Non-Veterans
Res. No. 72 Oppose Efforts to change the Residency Requirements for State Directors of the Veterans Employment and Training Service
Res. No. 73 Oppose the Transfer of Veterans’ Employment and Training Service to the Department of Veterans Affairs
Res. No. 70 Improve Transition Assistance Program
Res. No. 74 Oppose any Weakening of the Disabled Veterans’ Outreach Program Specialist and Local Veterans Employment Representative
Res. No. 75 Support Legislation that Ensures that all Agencies that Receive Funding from the U.S. Department of Labor or the Workforce Investment Act Meet the Mandatory Compliance Standards for Veterans Preference
Res. No. 76 Support Improvements in the Reporting Programs available to and Administered by Veterans’ Employment and Training Service
Res. No. 77 Support for the Military Transition Program
Res. No. 78 Support for the Strengthening and Adequate Funding of the National Veterans’ Training Institute
Res. No. 79 Support the Restoration of the Duties and Responsibilities of the Disabled Veterans’ Outreach Program Specialist and Local Veterans Employment Representative
Res. No. 80 Support Legislation that would return Disabled Veterans’ Outreach Program Specialist and Local Veterans’ Employment Representative Funding to a Staffing Grant
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Res. No. 155 Improve Transition Assistance Program
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Res. No. 305 Support the Development of Veterans On-The-Job Training Opportunities
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Res. No. 341  Support Recognition of Military and Pay when Calculating Starting Federal Civilian Salaries
Res. No. 342  Support and Strengthen the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA)
Res. No. 343  Support Student-Veterans Return-On Investment Education Outcomes
Res. No. 344  Support Federal Legislation that Protects the Employment of Veterans in the U.S. Postal Services Mail Processing Facilities that are Slated for Closure
Res. No. 345  Support for Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Program Hiring more Counselors and Employment Coordinators
Res. No. 347  Support Legislation to improve the Post-9/11 GI Bill
Res. No. 348  Support Tax Credit for certain Employers
Res. No. 349  Support Veterans Housing Repair and Modification for Pilot Program
Res. No. 350  Support Veterans Home Loans
Res. No. 351  Support a Veteran-Centric Website for Employment
Res. No. 352  Support Work Opportunity Tax Credit Program
Res. No. 353  Support Veterans Employment Initiative
Res. No. 354  Support Veterans Education Debt Forgiveness
Res. No. 355  Support Legislation that Bolsters the Hiring of Veterans in the Public and Private Sectors
Res. No. 356  Support Legislation that Protects the Employment of Veterans in the U.S. Postal Services Mail Processing Facilities that are Slated for Closure
Res. No. 357  Support Federal Legislation that Protects the Employment of Veterans in the U.S. Postal Services Mail Processing Facilities that are Slated for Closure
Res. No. 358  Support Veterans’ Preference in Public Employment

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, motion to receive and file the report of the Legislative Commission with the exception of Addendum I. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded to receive and file the report of the Legislative Commission with the exception of Addendum I. Any questions? All those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, pursuant to Rule 8B of the National Executive Committee, I move that the resolutions on Addendum I be ratified for distribution, as part of the legislative program, to the 115th Congress. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It has been moved and seconded to ratify Addendum I. Are there any questions? All those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Thank you. Motion carried. Thank you, Chairman. We are at the point of confirmation of interim appointments.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, may I address the national adjutant?

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: Yes, you may.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Mr. Adjutant, do you so certify the list of interim appointments is a true and correct list?

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: I so certify.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, I move that the list of interim appointments be approved without being read. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded to approve the interim appointments without being read. Are there any questions? All those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried.
Confirmation of Interim Appointments
National Executive Committee Meeting
Indianapolis, Indiana
May 10, 2018

David A. Driver (Montana), Americanism Commission Liaison Committee, Member (Replaces Mervin G. Gunderson – deceased)
James A. Lacoursiere, Jr. (Connecticut), Americanism Council, Member (New appointment)
William Wims (District of Columbia), Americanism Council, Member (Replaces Richard S. Flahaven – resigned)
Jerry J. Brandt (Florida), Americanism Council, Member (Replaces Richard L. Hewett resigned)
David A. Gray (Maine), Americanism Council, Member (Replaces Daniel R. St. Pierre – resigned)
Mark D. Kearsing (New York), Americanism Council, Member (Replaces Alexander MacInnes, National Security Council, Member – resigned)
 Crystalrene Saunders (North Carolina), Americanism Council, Member (Replaces Donald P. McGuire – resigned)
David Dealey (North Dakota), Americanism Council, Member (Replaces Ronald Matthews – resigned)
Jerry Ball (Oklahoma), Americanism Council, Member (Replaces Michael K. Marxen – resigned)
Jeanette Rae Evans (Nevada), Convention Commission, Ex-Officio Member (Replaces John F. Warden, Jr. – resigned)
Jeff C. Frain (Arizona), 100th Anniversary Observance Committee, Consultant (Replaces Anthony Wright (Pennsylvania) – resigned)
Jeffrey S. Durden (Florida), Constitution & By-Laws Committee, Consultant (Replaces Jill A. Harvell – resigned)
Cecil F. Hennis (South Carolina), National Convention Resolutions Assignment Committee, 2019 Member (Replaces Gary L. Mitchell – resigned)
Louis Brault, Jr. (Massachusetts), Legislative Commission Liaison Committee, Member (Replaces Will J. Chisholm – resigned)
Rebecca Laumann (Wisconsin), Marketing Commission, 2018 Member (Replaces James E. Chapin – resigned)
James E. Chapin (Wisconsin), Marketing Commission, 2020 Member (Replaces Renee Kasuboski – resigned)
Wayne Wagner (Illinois), Marketing Commission, 2020 Member (Replaces Gary Jenson – resigned)
Robert D. Liebenow (Oregon), Marketing Commission Liaison Committee, Chairman (Replaces Cecil F. Hennis (South Carolina) – resigned)
Gary L. Mitchell, (South Carolina), Marketing Commission Liaison Committee, Member (Replaces Robert D. Liebenow (Oregon))
Woody D. Alexander (Oklahoma), National Security Commission, 2020 Member (Replaces Raul Rizo – resigned)
Richard C. Oertel (Virginia), Aerospace Committee, Chairman (Replaces Richard C. Weyenberg (Wisconsin) – resigned)
Anthony E. Heath (Massachusetts), Aerospace Committee, Vice Chairman [Replaces Robert C. Oertel (Virginia) - resigned]
Ted G. Demicichi (Wisconsin), Aerospace Committee, 2020 Member [Replaces Richard C. Oertel (Virginia) - resigned]
RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, may I address the national adjutant again?

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: Yes, you may.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Mr. Adjutant, do you certify the list of cancellations of posts and squadron charters is a true and correct list, and everything has been done to try to revitalize these posts and squadrons?

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: I so certify.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, I move the list be approved without being read. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded that the list of cancellations of posts and their squadron charters be approved as written. Are there any questions? All those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried.
could be revitalized is based on the following criteria:
Community Size  
Veteran Population

Ninety-five (95) posts have been submitted and recommended for cancellation consideration during the 2018 Spring National Executive Committee Meetings in Indianapolis, Indiana. *See Merging Post Information Below*

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(to merge with Ravalli Post 0047)
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**SAL Charters of The American Legion Presented to The National Executive Committee for Cancellation**

**May 10, 2018**

On October 12, 2017, at the Fall Meetings in Indianapolis, Indiana the National Executive Committee approved the cancellation of twelve (12) Squadrons.

Nineteen (19) Squadrons have been submitted and recommended for cancellation consideration during the 2018 Spring National Executive Committee Meetings in Indianapolis, Indiana. *See Merging Squadron Information Below*

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<td>Claude A. Thorp</td>
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<td>Hoffman Memorial Sqdn 0179)*</td>
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<td>WEST VIRGINIA</td>
<td>0104</td>
<td>Roy Johnson</td>
<td>Parkersburg</td>
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RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, may I, again, address the national adjutant?

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: Yes, you may.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Mr. Adjutant, do you certify that the confirmation of dates for future meetings is a true and correct list?

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: I so certify.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: I move they be recorded in the digest, commander. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded that the dates of future meeting be recorded in the digest. Are there any questions? All those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried.

**Confirmation of Date for Future Meetings**

*Previously Approved by NEC*

**2018 FALL MEETINGS**

- Commissions and Committees: October 15-16
- Commanders and Adjutants Conference: October 15-16
- National Executive Committee: October 17-18
NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: Now, if I may have the final report. Thank you.

Final Report of the Subcommittee on Resolutions
David O. Warnken, Kansas, Chairman

Thank you, commander. Your Subcommittee on Resolutions has been in session since May 7. We considered all resolutions that have come before the committee and have considered and acted on 36 resolutions. I would like to take this time to thank the members of the committee who have done an outstanding job and who have attended every session and participated in discussion of these resolutions. My special thanks goes to the entire committee, including Vice Chairman Bill Kile from West Virginia. Please stand. Dennis Boland, Florida; Jim Pisa, Alaska; Marland Ronning, Minnesota; Dennis Haas, Pennsylvania; and Robert Liebenow from Oregon. I thank you very much for your dedicated service this past week. (Applause)

Appreciation is always and also extended to Howard Trace and his staff who serve our committee. I also want to thank the document center, directors and chairmen of the commissions and committees who have been most cooperative and helpful to the
subcommittee in this week's work in order to bring these reports to you. During our deliberations, we have met with a number of chairmen and staff who have been very helpful to us in explaining questions we had about resolutions. I would ask that the commission chairmen handle resolutions as early in their deliberations as possible, and I might mention they have done an outstanding job in doing so, to help expedite the work of the subcommittee and allow time for any revisions or corrections that need to be made to the resolutions.

Please remember that all active resolutions back to 1960 are available on the Digital Archive at archive.legion.org. Resolutions from this meeting will be available early next week. If you have any questions about the Digital Archive, please contact Library and Museum Director Howard Trace.

Commander, it's been a pleasure to serve as chairman of the Subcommittee on Resolutions. We would like to thank the entire National Executive Committee in reporting of these various resolutions. You have been most cooperative.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, I move that this report be received and filed. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It has been moved and seconded to receive and file the final report of the Resolutions Subcommittee. Are there any questions? All those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Thank you. Are there any miscellaneous business or technical motions?

Miscellaneous Business and Technical Motions

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, if I may, I would like to make a technical motion and move that the national adjutant be instructed to review the minutes of the NEC and make any necessary corrections without changing the intent of the NEC meeting, and proceed to edit and distribute these minutes. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: The technical motion has been moved and seconded. Are there any questions? All those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Thank you. I do believe I saw Past National Commander Spanogle.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER SPANOGLE: Commander, just a point of personal privilege to thank members of the NEC and the departments and my fellow Legionnaires. I've had a couple surgeries in the last year, and as my doctor said before the first one, he said, "You're looking good on the outside, but you're not worth a damn on the inside." But at the end of the day, and I've got a lot of days left, so I'm not saying that, it is about comradeship; it's about membership in The American Legion. And I sincerely thank you for all the best wishes. It means a lot to me and those others members who are undergoing the same challenges. Thank you. (Applause)

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: Any other unfinished business?

NEC MEMBER KILE (WV): Commander.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: NEC from West Virginia.

NEC MEMBER KILE: National Commander, I'm Bill Kile, member of the NEC, and I move to reconsider the vote on Resolution No. 15, titled "Support for Creation of Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Economic Opportunity Administration."

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It has been moved and seconded to reconsider Resolution No. 15, which is titled "Support for Creation of Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Economic Opportunity Administration," Resolution 15. I'm going to recognize our judge advocate for a question.
NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE BARNETT: Mr. Kile, were you a member that voted on the prevailing side?

NEC MEMBER KILE: Yes, sir.

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE BARNETT: Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: Are there any other questions on the motion to reconsider Resolution No. 15? All those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried. The motion is back on the table, Resolution 15. Past National Commander Paul Morin.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER MORIN: We move that Resolution 15 be referred back to the committee for further study. ...Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It has been moved and seconded to refer Resolution No. 15 back to the committee for further study. Any questions? NEC from Virginia.

NEC MEMBER MITRIONE (VA): Can I ask the reason why?

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: Past National Commander Ron Conley.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER CONLEY: Commander, members of the executive committee, it's been mentioned in this room several times about the VA and the turmoil within the VA. We don't even have a secretary to the VA. There's a lot of top positions within the VA right now that need appointments. There's a lot of people within the VA overall that need appointed. And now we're going to ask the VA to create a new section within the VA which would need a deputy secretary. I think we need to put more emphasis on the VA and the president to fill the top positions of the VA before we start asking for an increase of the VA to oversee programs.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: Are there any other questions or comments? The motion on the floor is to refer Resolution No. 15 back to the committee. All those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried. It is referred back.

...National Vice Commander Flanagan assumed the chair.

Closing Remarks
Denise H. Rohan, Wisconsin, National Commander

Good morning again, national officers, past national commanders, members of the NEC, committee members, staff, and all of our other guests who are here today. I'm going to be a little bit more brief today than I was yesterday, since I know some of you have planes to catch.

We are about to conclude our final spring meeting of our first century of existence. I think we had a pretty good meeting. We unveiled historic art, reemphasized our commitment to female veterans and their families, and we addressed some important issues pertaining to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Go back to your local VAs and follow up on the baby showers. Check out their websites and find out where their next event will be held. By showing up, by showing up and being there, we can be more than just an organization that sent them some gift bags. We must let all of these veterans know that we care about them and that we are here to serve not just them, but their families as well.

Now, during this meeting we have improved protection of our emblem, reiterated our pledge to preserve the memories and incidences of our associations in the great wars through several resolutions, and voicing our continued commitment to veterans. So let's take that renewed energy that we felt in this room since yesterday and bring it back to your department. Let's celebrate our new century by bringing in new members. Yesterday I said, "It's Family First today, tomorrow, and always." But there's another saying, "Let's go big or go home." Let's go big as we go home.
A large American Legion Family is a strong American Legion Family. As you've also often heard me say, I thank you for whatever it is that you have in your heart that makes you care, makes you care about this nation, makes you care about The American Legion Family, makes you care about our veterans and their families, our military personnel and their families. In reality, when you look at our four pillars, each and every one of you are taking care of our nation's families. So I continue to say thank you. We're always putting this nation and our nation's families first. God bless each and every one of you. I hope you have safe travels home. Thank you. *(Standing applause)*

...*National Commander Rohan resumed the chair.*

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN KILE: Madam Commander, motion to receive and file the national commander's report. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It has been moved and seconded to receive and file the national commander's report. All those in favor. Opposed, same sign. Carried. I call on Chaplain Robert Vick for the benediction.

**Benediction**

*Rober A. Vick, Florida, National Chaplain*

Father, I don't often say it, but we may be the only Bible that some people ever read. We may be the only person whose church that people will ever see. But I want now to emphasize that we, as American Legion members, as veterans who served this great country and serve You, may be the only reason some veterans will choose to belong.

Father, please, put it in the hearts of each American Legion members' heart to conduct themselves so that others who are not members may see us and realize the job we are attempting to do and want to be part of it. It's not the canteen that draws members, or shouldn't be. It's not the parties or the dinners that draw members, or shouldn't be. It should be the hearts of veterans to assist other veterans.

Father, as we travel, as we enter into the world again, we enter the world, but we ask that the world not direct us, that we do those things that we know pleases You and helps our brothers. And, yes, we are our brother's keeper.

Go with us as we travel, protect us, love us, and continue providing for us, and we'll praise You because You're worthy of all praise, my Savior and my King, Amen.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: Cover. The colors of our nation in place, hand salute. Two. I now declare the spring meeting of the National Executive Committee adjourned.

...*At 9:30 a.m., Thursday, May 10, 2018, the National Executive Committee meeting of The American Legion was adjourned. Sine die.*
Abbreviations

A

AARP ......................................................... American Association of Retired Persons
ABMC ....................................................... American Battle Monuments Commission
ADSM ........................................................ Active Duty Servicemember
ALEI .......................................................... American Legion Extension Institute
ANAVICUS .............................................. Army, Navy, Air Force Veterans in Canada – United States
ANC ........................................................... Arlington National Cemetery
ANEC ........................................................ Alternate National Executive Committee
APR .............................................................. annual percentage rate

B

BAH .............................................................. Basic Allowance for Housing
BNY .............................................................. Bank of New York
BVA .............................................................. Board of Veterans Appeals

C

CAM .......................................................... Complementary and Alternative Medicine
CCAC .......................................................... Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee
CRA ............................................................. Commemorative Coin Reform Act
CDL .............................................................. Commercial Driver’s License
CEO ............................................................ chief executive officer
CFA .............................................................. Citizens Flag Alliance
CFO ............................................................. chief financial officer
CFPB .......................................................... Consumer Financial Protection Bureau
CJRC ............................................................ Combined Junior Rifle Club
CPR ............................................................. cardiopulmonary resuscitation
CSR ............................................................ Consolidated Squadron Report

D

DALPA ..................................................... Department American Legion Press Association
DAR ............................................................ Daughters of the American Revolution
DEC .......................................................... Department Executive Committee
DeCA ........................................................ Defense Commissary Agency
DHS ............................................................ Department of Homeland Security
DMS ............................................................ Direct Membership Solicitation
DMZ .......................................................... demilitarized zone
DOD ............................................................ Department of Defense
DOL ............................................................ Department of Labor
DPAA ........................................................ Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency
DRB .......................................................... Discharge Review Board
DSO .......................................................... Department Service Officer
DVOP ........................................................ Disabled Veterans Outreach Program

E

EMS .......................................................... emergency medical services
EMV .......................................................... earned media value
FBI .............................................................. Federal Bureau of Investigation
FDA ............................................................. United States Food and Drug Administration
FEMA .......................................................... Federal Emergency Management Agency
FTE ................................................................ full-time equivalent
FY ................................................................................. fiscal year

GAO ......................................................................... Government Accountability Office
GPA ................................................................. grade point average

HCV ................................................................ Hepatitis C Virus
Hep C ........................................................................... Hepatitis C
HR ............................................................................ House Resolution
HS ........................................................................... high school
HUD .......................................................... Department of Housing and Urban Development

ICE ............................................................... Immigration and Customs Enforcement
ISIL .............................................................................. Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant
ISIS .................................................................................. Islamic State of Iraq and Syria

LEAD .......................................................... Leadership, Education, and Development
LVER ........................................................ Local Veterans Employment Representative

MCJROTC ............................................................. Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps
MDA ................................................................. Missile Defense Agency
MIA ........................................................................ missing in action
MLB ......................................................................... Major League Baseball
MOU .............................................................................. memorandum of understanding
MST ................................................................................ Military Sexual Trauma
MTF .............................................................................. Military Treatment Facility

NADHAL .......... National Association of Department Historians of The American Legion
NALPA ............................................................. National American Legion Press Association
NASA ............................................................. National Aeronautics and Space Administration
NATO .............................................................. North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NCA .............................................................................. National Cemetery Administration
NDAA ................................................................. National Defense Authorization Act
NEC .............................................................................. National Executive Committee
NEF .............................................................................. National Emergency Fund
NIH .............................................................................. National Institutes of Health
O
OCO .................................................................................. Overseas Contingency Operations
OCW .................................................................................. Operation Comfort Warriors
OTH .................................................................................... Other-than-Honorable

P
PDCC .................................................................................. Past Department Commanders Club
PFAS ........................................................................ polyfluorinated alkyl substances
PHA .................................................................................. Public Housing Agency
PL .................................................................................... Public Law
PNC .................................................................................. past national commander
PNVC ............................................................................... past national vice commander
POW .................................................................................. prisoner of war
PROSPER ..... Promoting of Real Opportunity, Success and Prosperity through Education Reform
PSA .................................................................................. public service announcement
PTSD .................................................................................. Post Traumatic Stress Disorder
PUFL .................................................................................. Paid up for Life

R
RFP .................................................................................. request for proposal
ROI .................................................................................... return on investment
ROMP ................................................................................ Ride on Military Pride
ROTC ................................................................................ Reserve Officers Training Corps

S
SAL .................................................................................. Sons of The American Legion
SBA .................................................................................. Small Business Administration
SWS .................................................................................. System Worth Saving

T
TAC .................................................................................. Trophies, Awards and Ceremonials
TAL .................................................................................. The American Legion
TAP .................................................................................. Transition Assistance Program
TBI .................................................................................... traumatic brain injury
TFA .................................................................................. Temporary Financial Assistance
THAAD ........................................................................... Terminal High Altitude Area Defense
TMAP ................................................................................ Teamsters Military Assistance Program
TSA .................................................................................. Transportation Security Administration
TSGLI ............................................................................... Traumatic Servicemembers Group Life Insurance

U
USAID ........................................................................ United States Agency for International Development
USC .................................................................................. United States Code

V
VA .................................................................................. Department of Veterans Affairs
VA&R ........................................................................ Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation
VAMC ................................................................. VA Medical Center
VAOPC ............................................................. VA Outpatient Clinic
VASH .............................................................. Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing
VAVS .............................................................. Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service
VBA .............................................................. Veterans Benefits Administration
VCL ............................................................... Veterans Crisis Line
VETS ............................................................. Veterans Employment and Training Service
VHA ............................................................. Veterans Health Administration
VSO ............................................................... veteran service organization

W

WWI ............................................................ World War I
WWII ............................................................ World War II

Y

YCLE ............................................................ Youth Cadet Law Enforcement
YRRP ............................................................ Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program
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