Resolution No. 103: Support and Expand Department of Defense Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program
Origin: Convention Committee on Veterans Employment & Education
Submitted by: Convention Committee on Veterans Employment & Education

WHEREAS, The Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program (YRRP) is a Department of Defense-wide effort to promote the well-being of National Guard and reserve servicemembers, their families and communities by connecting them with resources throughout the deployment cycle; and

WHEREAS, National Guard and reserve servicemembers have less community support structures than their active-duty counterparts as they often live far from military installations and other servicemembers of their units; and

WHEREAS, Commanders and military leadership play a critical role in ensuring reservists and their families attend Yellow Ribbon events to access information on healthcare, education and training opportunities, financial and legal benefits, provided by government and non-government partners, including the Small Business Administration and Departments of Labor and Veterans Affairs; and

WHEREAS, YRRP has impacted more than 1.5 million individuals across all service branches since its inception by helping maintain the readiness of the military and building stronger, more resilient families; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion’s Employment Innovation Task Force, whose mission is to look specifically at employment issues and identify, recommend, and guide innovative employment solutions for transitioning servicemembers and veterans has recognized improving YRRP as a perennial goal; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, August 28, 29, 30, 2018, That The American Legion urges Congress to mandate the Department of Defense to continue the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program (YRRP); and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion urges the Department of Defense to expand its available resources to all servicemembers and their spouses by including employers in YRRP events, through initiatives such as but not limited to employer panels identifying best practices for veteran-friendly employers and using labor market and economic data to guide career goal setting for National Guard and reserve servicemembers and their spouses.