Resolution No. 113: Locate Missing Children And Prevent Child Victimization
Origin: Convention Committee on Americanism
Submitted by: Convention Committee on Americanism

WHEREAS, Each day in the United States, an average of 1,272 children, 17 years and
younger, are reported missing or disappear by abduction, run away or are lost to some unknown
cause; and

WHEREAS, The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) was
created in 1984 as a central resource and data clearinghouse for law enforcement, victims and their
families, to aid in fighting for the safe recovery of missing children and the protection of all
children from sexual exploitation; and

WHEREAS, Today more children come home safely than at any time in our nation’s
history, law enforcement is better prepared, and families are more alert and aware than ever before
because of the tireless work of NCMEC and law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, NCMEC’s overall recovery rate for missing children is 97 percent,
demonstrating that the current system is working due to effective response of law enforcement,
technological advances, and the general public paying attention to missing children photos; and

WHEREAS, Although NCMEC has made a significant impact in tackling this daunting
problem, there is much that remains to be done for too many children still do not make it home,
and too many are still victims of sexual predators; and

WHEREAS, Even one child disappearing is the concern of all responsible persons; 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 support
appropriate legislation aimed at locating missing children and preventing child
victimization; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion urge Congress to appropriate funds that
meet or exceed current funding levels for the National Center for Missing & Exploited
Children; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion be authorized to collaborate with national
and state missing and exploited children agencies and organizations as determined by the
American Commission to the end that The American Legion can maintain an effective role,
at all levels, in locating missing children and preventing child exploitation; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the departments and posts are encouraged to actively increase the
public’s awareness of child victimization and its detrimental effects on the children and
youth of our society and are urged to cooperate with credible organizations and agencies that
seek to locate missing children in their states and communities.