
PROCEEDINGS

of the

National Executive Committee

of

THE AMERICAN LEGION
Pre-Convention Meeting and
Post-Convention Meeting



Minneapolis Convention Center
Minneapolis, Minnesota

August 27 & August 30, 2018

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Monday, August 27, 2018

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PROCEEDINGS
of the
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
of
THE AMERICAN LEGION
PRE-CONVENTION MEETING

Monday, August 27, 2018

...At 9:00 a.m., Monday, August 27, 2018, the Pre-Convention Meeting of the National Executive Committee was called to order, National Commander Rohan presiding.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: I'll now call the Pre-National Convention Executive Committee meeting to order. Hand salute.

...The National Executive Committee stood and rendered a salute to the colors.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: Two. I'll call on Chaplain Robert Vick from Florida, for an invocation. Please uncover.

Invocation
Robert A. Vick, Florida, National Chaplain

Before I pray this morning, I was dared to tell you this. So I cannot refuse a dare. I was telling one of my brothers here how good God had been to me this past year, and his comment was, "Yeah, yeah, you betcha." I think that has something to do with this state.

Would you please bow your heads with me please. Heavenly Father, You know my name. You are my father. You see each tear that falls, and You hear me before I even call. You know the hearts of everyone in this room. You know our intents and our strengths and our weaknesses. You knew where we need Your help, and You know where we need to be weakened so we do not try to overrule what You want us to do. We pray and praise You for these things today. As we conduct this meeting, give us wisdom which comes only from You. Education we get on our own, but wisdom comes only from You. Give us that wisdom to represent those that cannot represent themselves. And may we do all we do to please You and to glorify You and to promote Your kingdom on this Earth. I pray this prayer in the name of my savior. Amen and amen.

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

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 POW/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: I'll now ask National Sergeant-at-Arms Roy Helms from the Department of 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: Now I call on National Adjutant Daniel S. Wheeler of Virginia for the roll call.

Roll Call

National Officers

National Commander

Denise H. Rohan, Wisconsin

National Adjutant

Daniel S. Wheeler, Virginia

National Vice Commanders

Larry J. Marcouillier, Delaware

William J. Flanagan, Illinois

Bobby D. Bryant, Oklahoma

Byron I. Callies, South Dakota (Excused)

Paula R. Stephenson, Utah (Excused)

Past National Commanders

Clarence M. Bacon, Maryland (Excused)

John P. 'Jake' Comer, Massachusetts

Miles S. Epling, West Virginia

Robert S. Turner, Georgia

Dominic D. DiFrancesco, Pennsylvania

Bruce Thiesen, California

William M. Detweiler, Louisiana

Daniel A. Ludwig, Minnesota

Joseph J. Frank, Missouri (Excused)

Anthony G. Jordan, Maine

Butch L. Miller, Virginia

Hon. Alan G. Lance, Sr., Idaho

Richard J. Santos, Maryland

Ronald F. Conley, Pennsylvania

Hon. John A. Brieden, III, Texas

Thomas L. Bock, Colorado

Paul A. Morin, Massachusetts

Martin F. Conatser, Illinois

Robert W. Spanogle, Michigan

David K. Rehbein, Iowa

Clarence E. Hill, Florida

Jimmie L. Foster, Alaska

Fang A. Wong, New York

James E. Koutz, Indiana

Daniel M. Dellinger, Virginia

Michael D. Helm, Nebraska

Harold D. Barnett, Georgia

Charles E. Schmidt, Oregon

National Executive Committeemen

| Department | Committeeman | Alternate |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| Alabama | Willis Frazier | |
| Alaska | James E. Pisa | |
| Arizona | Richard W. Perry | |
| Arkansas | Mary V. Erdman | |
| California | Janet M. Wilson | |
| Colorado | Thomas J. Florez | |
| Connecticut | D. Joseph Jackson | |
| Delaware | John A. Endres (Excused) | Robert L Michael |
| D.C. | Bron R. Mogenis | |
| Florida | Dennis R. Boland | |
| France | Nola L. Maloney (Excused) | James M. Settle |
| Georgia | Charles F. Wessinger | |
| Hawaii | David R. Carlson | |
| Idaho | Arthur L. Gimpel | |
| Illinois | Bernard A. Stegmüller | |
| Indiana | Jerry L. Jordan | |
| Iowa | Jerry D. Sebben | |
| Kansas | David O. Warnken | |
| Kentucky | Joseph M. Flynn | |
| Louisiana | Charles D. Aucoin | |
| Maine | | Randall G. Klug |
| Maryland | Michael L. Mooney, Jr. (Excused) | Lewis E. Trott, 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 M. 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) | Michael D. Strauss |
| South Dakota | James Huls | |
| Tennessee | Don E. Mathis | |
| Texas | C. W. Sparks, Jr. | |
| Utah | Terry D. Schow | |

| Department | Committeeman | Alternate |
|---------------|-----------------------|-----------|
| 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 ADJUTANT WHEELER: That completes the roll call, commander.

Minutes of the Previous National Executive Committee Meeting

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: Okay. The next order of business is the reading of the minutes from our previous meeting.

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: A motion and a second to approve the minutes as they have been printed in digest form. Are there any questions? All in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed, say nay. Carried.

Opening Remarks

Denise H. Rohan, Wisconsin, National Commander

It's time for my opening remarks. I want to start by saying thank you: Thank you for your hospitality. My aide is here someplace. Yes, there he is. Thanks for all the hospitality that you have provided for Mike and myself as we traveled to your departments. I have learned so much this year. I always thought I understood exactly what The American Legion was all about. But this year all those pieces of the puzzle came together. It might be a better way to say I had the six-pack but now I have the ring that holds it all together.

Our founding fathers 100 years ago gave us an amazing gift. They gave us a gift that they understood that a veteran was a veteran. It didn't matter what their race, their religion or their gender was. Then they gave us the gift of our four pillars. I always understood the four pillars. But I never really understood that how tightly those four pillars all stand together and how they all lean on one another to make this country the great nation that we have. An amazing gift.

When people look at The American Legion, they understand that we're all about veterans affairs and rehabilitation and taking care of veterans. They understand that about The American Legion. They sometimes think that's all we're about. They don't always get the other three pillars that we have. So when our founding fathers found us and decided on that VA&R pillar, they were going back to something George Washington said originally, that, "The willingness of which young people are likely to serve any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportionate to how they perceive veterans of earlier wars are being treated and appreciated by our nation." George Washington said that.

More familiar with us as we work with the VA is President Abraham Lincoln's quote about, "Caring for him who bore the battle and their widows and orphans." People understand that about us and how much we care about taking care of one another, veterans and their families.

We have that national security pillar. The national security pillar, I always look at it as making sure our military personnel have the equipment and resources they need. This year I've seen departments step up to take care of another part of that national security pillar, which is taking care of the families of our heroes who are serving, because when

they go off on deployments, they say to us "Please take care of my family." We've been there. We know what they're going there. We want to be there for their families.

The children and youth pillar. The children and youth pillar is all about making sure that the youth of this nation feels safe. But we also want to make sure that they're physically fit and healthy, have great nutrition, and grow up in a society that we remember what it was like to be as a child. The children and youth pillar and Americanism. I had the opportunity to meet our Youth Champions across this nation. Wow. Our country will be in such fantastic hands when we hand over that mantle.

Now, when I look at that and I start looking at how those pieces are so important as they come together, because, as I've talked to our Youth Champions, I've learned what they hope to do with their future, it's the time that they have spent with our American Legion Family, each and every one of you who took the time to share your stories about your service to this nation and how you put your lives on hold to give them what they have. They are inspired by each and every one of you to go on to school, to join the military, to put a uniform on as a police officer, EMTs, to give back to their communities. As they go to school they're talking about being doctors and nurses, lawyers, so they can continue to take care of veterans.

You have instilled that. Our founding fathers understood that by making sure our youth were taken care of, teaching them what it means to be an American, they are going to come into military, back to service in our nation and eventually they'll be our veterans that we will be taking care of as they continue to take care of us.

What an amazing gift. Each and every one of you has something so special inside of you. You hear me say it time and time again. Thank God whoever planted that seed in you to care about our nation, to put the uniform on in the first place. Even though you've taken the uniform off, you continue to serve, you continue to share your story, you continue to grow this nation into the greatest nation on earth. So God bless each and every one of you. God bless our great nation. God bless our American Legion Family as we go on and start our next 100 years. Thank you. *(Standing applause)*

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: Now we'll go on to the report of the Resolutions Subcommittee. Mr. Chairman, David Warnken from Kansas.

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

Commander, we have no resolutions of an emergency nature for the NEC this morning. Commander, I ask that you prepare the NEC for memorializing resolutions.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: Rise and uncover.

Memorial Resolutions
David O. Warnken, Kansas, Chairman

WHEREAS, It has pleased almighty God, the Great Commander, to summon to His immortal legions our beloved comrade, Terry D. Lewis, Department Vice Commander, 1995 to 1996; Department Commander, 2000 to 2001; National Vice Commander, 2001 to 2002; Media & Communications Commission National Commander's Representative, 2013 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 27th Day of August in the year of our Lord 2018, does

mourn the passing of our distinguished Legionnaire, Terry D. Lewis, 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.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Similar resolutions will be presented to the families of the following: June T. Swearengin, Colorado; David E. DeLong, Florida; Ronald E. Moore, France; Robert F. Woodruff, Georgia; Harold D. Burson, Louisiana; William L. Ciciotte, Maine; Blaine G. Meier, North Dakota; Donald E. Dahl, Oregon; Joseph Carsley, Philippines; W.M. McLaughlin, South Carolina, Robert M. Summit, Tennessee.

A Plan Far Greater

There is a plan far greater than the plan you know,
 There is a landscape broader than the one you see.
 There is a haven where storm-tossed souls may go---
 You call it death – we, immortality.

You call it death – this seeming endless sleep,
 We call it birth – the soul at last set free.
 ‘Tis hampered not by time or space – you weep.
 Why weep at death? ‘Tis immortality.

Farewell, dear legionnaire – ‘twill not be long.
 Thy work is done – now may peace rest with thee.
 Thy kindly thoughts and deeds – they will live on.
 This is not death – ‘tis immortality.

Farewell, dear legionnaire – the river winds and turns,
 The cadence of thy song wafts near to me,
 And now thou know’st the thing that all men learn;
 There is no death – there’s immortality.
 –Anonymous

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: Cover and be seated. I'll now call on Past National Commander Daniel Ludwig for a presentation.

Presentation: Daniel Ludwig, Past National Commander, Minnesota

First off, I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome all of you to sunny Minnesota. *(Laughter)*

If you don't stay too long after the convention is over, I'm going to make a promise that you won't have to plow or shovel snow.

We have a gentleman in our department, vice commander from the district, who arranged for a fair number of proclamations. I'd like to present this to you. I certainly will not read all these proclamations, but they come from the governor, they come from the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives and the Minnesota House of Representatives, the Minnesota Senate. There are numerous ones from various cities in Minnesota including Minneapolis and St. Paul, various county commissions.

So it's my pleasure at this time to present this book of proclamations. Here's also one that's been embedded in a plaque. It's from the city of St. Paul. This is from the city of Minneapolis. Minneapolis always does its best to overshadow St. Paul. *(Applause)*

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: Now I will call on Gaither Keener for the Finance Commission report.

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

Madam Commander, past national commanders, members of the NEC and guests, you have my written report. The Finance Commission met at 9.00 a.m. at the Hilton Hotel on Saturday August 25. All members were present, along with all NEC liaisons, except for one, who was excused.

We had numerous guests from numerous departments. The following reports were submitted to the commission, the national adjutant, the national treasurer, Finance director, National Headquarters executive directors. the national judge advocate and Convention Commission. We received an update on fundraising efforts. Written reports were received from Media & Communication, Marketing, Internal Affairs Commission and Membership & Post Activities Committee.

The commission did approve \$38,800 in emergency purchases and budget overruns since its last meeting. I will tell you that we've had a great year and you will see more information on finance in October.

Current head count at National Headquarters is 294. The National Headquarters reorganization has gone very, very well. All required positions are filled.

Madam Commander, with this being my pleasure, my honor to serve you and this great organization, I want to thank you personally for allowing me to serve and for your leadership this year. Thank you, ma'am.

Report: Finance Commission
August 25, 2018
Gaither M. Kenner, Jr., North Carolina, Chairman

The Finance Commission convened at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, August 25, 2018, in the Symphony I Room of the Minneapolis Hilton. Present were Gaither M. Keener, Jr. (NC), Carl E. Levi (TN), John Monahan (CT), Myron D. Kirby (IL), Denis J. McEaney (NY) and George C. Lussier, Jr. (VA). David O. Warnken (KS), Edward Bertrand (NY), Robert L. Krause (ND,) and Michael F. Mitrione (VA), NEC Liaison Committee members, were also present, as were guests from several departments.

The following reported to the commission: the national adjutant, national treasurer, finance director, our national headquarters' executive directors, the national judge advocate, and the Convention Commission. We received an update on fundraising efforts. Written reports were received from the Media & Communications, Marketing, and Internal Affairs Commissions, and the Membership & Post Activities Committee.

The commission approved \$38,800 in emergency purchases and budget overruns made since its last meeting.

The current authorized head count for national headquarters is 294. The national headquarters reorganization is going well. All required positions are filled.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, I move to approve the report of the Finance Commission. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded to approve the report of the Finance Commission. Are there any questions? All those in favor, say aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried.

Mr. Michael Walton from Illinois with the Convention Commission report.

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

Good morning, everyone. Good morning, commander. I'd like to report on our meeting. We had our meeting on the 25th at 8:00 in the morning. Roll call was taken. All members were present.

I've reviewed each one of the commission members' assignments with them and reminded them they all would have to give a detailed report on each of their assignments at our fall meetings in October. The color guard contests were very well attended by contestants and observers. There were 14 color guards that competed in four categories, with Harrisburg Post 472 from Houston, Texas again being crowned as national champions. Additionally, we had six bands participate in the competitive concert band contest with the Band of the Tonawandas being crowned national champions.

We had no items, commander, which would require action by the National Executive Committee during our meeting. The dates for our future National Conventions: The 101st will be in Indianapolis, August 23 to 29, 2019; 102nd in Louisville, August 28 through September 3, 2020; the 103rd in Phoenix, August 27 through September 2 of 2021; the 104th in Milwaukee, August 26 through September 1 of 2022; the 105th in Charlotte, August 25 through the 31 of 2023; and the 106th in New Orleans, August 23 through 29, 2024. That concludes my report, commander, and thank you for allowing me to serve.

**Report: Convention Commission
August 25, 2018
Michael E. Walton, Illinois, Chairman**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Michael E. Walton (IL) at 8:00 A.M., August 25, 2018. Roll call was taken and all members were present.

Chairman Walton reviewed the convention assignments for each commission member and reminded them that a detailed convention report should be provided to the commission at the 2018 Fall Meeting. The Color Guard contests were well attended by contestants and observers. Fourteen color guards competed in four categories with Harrisburg Post 472 from Houston, Texas, being crowned again as National Champions. Additionally, six bands participated in the Competitive Concert Band Contest with Band of the Tonawandas being crowned National Champions.

There were no items, which require action by the National Executive Committee during National Convention, discussed at the meeting.

Dates for future Conventions are:

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| Indianapolis, Indiana | Aug. 23 – 29, 2019 |
| Louisville, Kentucky | Aug. 28 – Sept. 3, 2020 |
| Phoenix, Arizona | Aug. 27 – Sept. 2, 2021 |
| Milwaukee, Wisconsin | Aug. 26 – Sept. 1, 2022 |
| Charlotte, North Carolina | August 25 – 31, 2023 |
| New Orleans, Louisiana | August 23 – 29, 2024 |

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, motion to receive and file the report of the Convention Commission. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded to receive and file the report of the Convention Commission. Are there any questions? All those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed, nay. Carried.

Kenneth Danilson from Iowa, chairman of the Marketing Commission.

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

National Commander, members of the NEC and guests, this is the abbreviated report of the national Marketing Commission. You have the written report. So I'll make this brief.

The United States Mint is proud to present the designs for the 2019 American Legion 100th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Program on Wednesday, August 29. A first-strike ceremony is slated for January 2019 at the Philadelphia Mint to commemorate the launch of the coin program. The Marketing Division continues to work with the U.S. Mint to build a marketing plan leading up to the sale of the coins in the first quarter of 2019.

In May 2018, the NEC directed the national commander to execute an agreement between The American Legion and USAA. The new revision extends the duration of the current contract to May 31, 2023 providing significant revenue for the national organization, as well as departments.

This is pretty much the end of the report. I've got a couple of people I want to recognize: past director James Baca, who is now the executive director, has been instrumental in establishing the Marketing Commission for this organization. I truly appreciate the things he's done. Also I'd like to recognize Scott Miller, the new director, who I'm sure will do a great job. Commander, this concludes my report. Thank you.

**Report: Marketing Commission
August 27, 2018
Kenneth D. Danilson, Iowa, Chairman**

National Fundraising Program (Non-member)

Year-to-date, the national fundraising program is on pace to meet or exceed its budgeted goal. Gross revenue is expected to finish at 11.2 million dollars and net income is expected to finish at about 2.8 million dollars (before the department revenue share). The program operates on a mailing cycle of every two to three weeks (21 times per year).

The active donor file currently sits at 273,000 donors, which is 39,000 less than the 2017 finish but is expected to climb back to or exceed that level after the fall acquisition campaigns. Member donors represent about 25% of that total and they generate about 33% of total gross income for the program.

Planned Giving

The planned giving platform on Legion.org has been operational going into its third year, increased activity has been seen from this platform as well as monthly advertisements being placed in the magazine. Leads continue to be funneled to the National Treasurer for processing. Additional digital and direct-mail efforts are being developed for implementation in the near future.

American Legion Charities

With a couple weeks remaining in the fundraising cycle, unsolicited donations to American Legion Charities for the 2017/2018 cycle have already outperformed the previous cycle. As of the second week in August, donations to the various American Legion charities exceeded \$3,026,000 which is approximately \$150,000 ahead of the 2016/2017 finish.

Membership – DMS Marketing Activities

The 2018 membership cycle exceeded expectations by finishing with more than 127,000 new DMS members. The goals and budget for the 2019 cycle were established earlier this year to obtain another 120,000 new members. Campaigns began in July and will continue through August, October and then in 2019 between January and April. Both digital and direct mail tactics are being utilized to achieve our goals.

A new communications plan is being rolled out with the 2019 membership cycle in an effort to better communicate with these at risk members and to increase their retention.

Membership – Direct Renewal

As with the DMS cycle, the Direct Renewal cycle also began again in July to start renewing the membership for 2019. The same series of communications is planned, however, new creative and copy is being developed for future implementation.

Membership – Paid Up For Life (PUFL)

The Paid Up For Life Program has adopted an all-digital format for 2018 in an effort to reduce expenses. To date the program is on pace to convert 8,000 members to PUFL by the end of the year.

Corporate Relationships, Special Events and More

USAA Agreement Renewal

In May 2018, 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 new revision extends the duration of the current contract to May 31, 2023, providing significant revenue to The American Legion National Headquarters. Each department has also had 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®:

This year, The American Legion worked in tandem with the American Legion Auxiliary to raise awareness about this special day and the historical significance of the red poppy. A new poppy flower, logo and Emblem Sales merchandise was designed for The American Legion Family and promoted through internal channels to membership of both organizations.

Another goal for 2018 was to increase awareness about National Poppy Day® in the weeks and months leading up to May 25. In February, the Veteranpreneur Contest was launched and was promoted through outreach to organizations that work with veterans. Product entries were reviewed by The American Legion Family and three finalists were featured on Fox & Friends during interviews that took place on National Poppy Day® and Memorial Day. In addition, poppy patches were sent to television stations in select markets across the country and were worn on National Poppy Day® by news broadcasters in Los Angeles and New York, among other cities. Interviews with members of The American Legion Family were secured in San Diego, Austin, and Terre Haute and took place throughout the week.

All media efforts combined totaled more than 15 million broadcast and print impressions and an advertising value of \$1.48 million. In addition, poppy pins and stickers were sent to members of the House and Senate through a Congressional mailing that encouraged Hill staff to participate in recognizing the day.

US Minted Coin Update

The United States Mint is proud to present the designs for the 2019 American Legion 100th Anniversary Commemorative Coin program on Wednesday, August 29th. Surcharges are authorized to be paid to The American Legion to support the Legion's programs for veterans, members of the Armed Forces, and other purposes specified by the authorizing legislation.

A first strike ceremony is slated for January 2019 in at the Philadelphia Mint to commemorate the launch of the coin program. 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. Visit

legion.org/coin to be added to The American Legion's mailing list for updates regarding the program.

AbbVie:

In July 2018, AbbVie, a global pharmaceutical company, continued their commitment to The American Legion as a 2018 National Corporate Alliance. Their commitment included a \$200,000 donation to The American Legion as well as \$690,000 in financial resources dedicated to fund a hepatitis C (hep C) awareness campaign. Hep C is one of the most significant health concerns facing U.S. military veterans.

Sturgis, South Dakota, marked the first stop for The American Legion and AbbVie's TAKE ON HEP C — a nationwide movement to bring free hepatitis C (hep C) antibody testing to veterans and their communities. Between Aug. 4-7 at the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally, 188 veterans and others were tested and thousands were made aware as The American Legion and AbbVie co-branded mobile veterans outreach center was parked on Main Street. The mobile veterans outreach center is a 45' motor coach that includes a front salon for medical testing and a back room for The American Legion to conduct veterans benefit counseling in person or via video conference. The American Legion and the Sturgis Rally conducted a dedicated press conference on the topic and two television stations came to the motor coach for on-camera interviews.

The TAKE ON HEP C tour bus is being utilized to provide educational resources about the disease and bring free hep C testing to veterans. The tour is scheduled to run through the fall and each stop provides The American Legion with media exposure, interaction with local posts and departments, membership outreach and an opportunity for service officers to talk with and assist veterans attending each event. Future stops include Minneapolis, Milwaukee and Daytona. Working with AbbVie on this project is providing significant awareness and financial impact to The American Legion.

Broadcast PSAs:

Utilizing existing imagery and video content from The American Legion media library, a new broadcast PSA was created that highlights the mission, programs and services of The American Legion. The PSA is available in 15- and 30-second lengths to encourage repeat airings and rotation by TV stations that download the spot, as the stations provide airtime at no charge to fill up unsold advertising space. The We Believe message is referenced in the voiceover throughout the spots and the Legion.org/WeBelieve URL is included at the end of each spot as a call to action for viewers.

The PSA has been well received by regional and national outlets. As of July 31, there were 7,525 airings, yielding 59 million impressions and an advertising value of \$1.1 million. Highlights include pick up on the Fox News Channel and the Fox Business Network. The PSAs are currently airing in 34 markets and will also be seen on ESPN's national broadcast throughout the American Legion Worlds Series. Two URLs will be featured to encourage viewers to go online to the We Believe and Join landing pages.

Billboards and Bus Shelters:

Featuring attention getting images and a brief amount of text, billboards are a strong platform to further awareness about The American Legion. Considered 24/7 "always on" media, the Outdoor Advertising Association of America reports that 58% of people buy a product after seeing it on a billboard 5 times. In addition, a recent Nielsen study found that 8 out of 10 adults polled had seen a billboard advertisement in the past month. Of those, 22% visited the website, 26% talked about the product, and 35% searched for additional brand information.

Outdoor media companies often have unsold space and will donate billboard placements to nonprofit organizations to ensure the creative is being changed on a regular basis. Last February, The American Legion was provided with placement in 500 bus shelters in the New City metropolitan area. One month of exposure yielded 98.7 million impressions and an advertising value of more than \$550,000.

Following the creation of the We Believe broadcast PSA, four new billboard and bus shelter designs were developed this summer. Each design highlights an aspect of The American Legion — patriotism, advocacy and support for veterans, and the centennial. The Legion.org/WeBelieve URL is included on each billboard as a call to action to drive traffic online to learn more about The American Legion and the landing page features articles and information specific to the benefits of membership. To date, donated advertising space for the We Believe campaign has been received for 91 total placements in Georgia, Michigan, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee and Texas, with anticipated results of 120 million impressions and an ad value of \$560,000. The We Believe campaign will continue through the fall with an expected outcome of more than 350 million impressions and \$2 million in value.

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. Additionally, The American Legion marketing team continues to work closely with the Media & Communications Division under the new organizational chart that converted the national Marketing, Media & Communications Division into two separate divisions each with its own director since March 2017.

American Legion Emblem Sales

Despite declining membership numbers, Emblem Sales' year-end total revenue for 2017 grew to \$13.69 million vs. \$13.06 million in 2016. Net year-end profit for 2017 grew to \$2.03 million vs. \$1.88 million in 2016.

As of the June 2018 profit and loss statement, American Legion Emblem Sales had year-to-date revenue of \$7.998 million vs. \$7.930 million in 2017. Net profit for the first half of the year was \$1.367million vs. \$1.291 million in 2017.

Report: Emblem Committee Robert Baranowski, Massachusetts, Chairman

The National Emblem Committee met August 25, 2018 in a regularly called session at the Hilton Minneapolis, Calloway Room, with the following members present:

| | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Robert A. Baranowski (Massachusetts), Chairman | |
| Glenn A. Hickman (Ohio), Vice Chairman | |
| Edward P. Courtney (South Carolina) | David M. Stein (Virginia) |
| Mark A. Foxworthy (California) | Charles G. Stephenson (Utah) |
| Gary Haverman (Iowa) | Rene C. Vanmulem (New York) |
| Robert L. Henderson (Illinois) | Ronald W. Wood (Wyoming) |
| Dudley P. LeBlanc (Louisiana) | Richard B. Keith, Staff Liaison |

Financial Statement

Revenues for the first six months of 2018 amounted to \$7,998 million - an increase of \$67,821 as compared with the first six months of 2017. Net profit after distribution established by the National Finance Commission was \$1.367 an increase of \$75,677 for the same period of 2017.

Marketing Report

The 2019 marketing plan was reviewed and includes merchandise renewal, catalog creative & circulation, e-marketing initiatives and emblem licensing initiatives.

The Chairman expressed appreciation to the committee members for their contribution to the meeting.

The unanimous appreciation of the Committee was expressed to the Emblem Sales Staff for dedicated service to The American Legion during the past year.

The American Legion Emblem Sales staff director thanked the committee members for their continued support throughout the year.

The meeting adjourned Saturday, August 25, 2018.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, motion to receive and file the report of the Marketing Commission. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: Moved and seconded to receive and file the report of the Marketing Commission. Are there any questions? All those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried.

I now call on Richard Anderson from Connecticut, the chairman of Americanism.

Oral Report: Americanism Commission
Richard W. Anderson, Connecticut, Chairman

Thank you. Madam Commander, members of the National Executive Committee, past national commanders and guests all. The Americanism Commission met on Saturday, August 25 in the Hilton Minneapolis Ballroom, Salons A through C. There were 130 commission, council and committee members in attendance. The commission was honored to be joined by the Youth Champion delegation and their parents and several other distinguished guests. You have been provided copies of the report of the Americanism Commission before you. There are currently no matters of an emergency nature from the Americanism Commission to be presented to the National Executive Committee. Our challenges have been great. But I have confidence that your Americanism Commission is up for the task.

On behalf of the Americanism Commission, I extend our deepest gratitude to you, madam commander, and all the members of the NEC for its advocacy and support extended to us through this year. Commander, it's an honor to serve you this year. I thank you for that opportunity. To the members of the NEC, thank you for your support that you've given to this commission.

Report: Americanism Commission
August 25, 2018
Richard W. Anderson, Connecticut, Chairman

The Americanism Commission met on Saturday, August 25, 2018, at 8:30 a.m. in the Hilton Minneapolis, Minneapolis Ballroom, Salons A-C, and Third Floor in Minneapolis, Minnesota. One hundred thirty members of the Americanism Commission, Americanism Council, Committee on Children & Youth, Committee on Youth Education and Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Committee were in attendance.

Denise Rohan (WI), National Commander of The American Legion brought greetings. Accompanying her were National Sergeant-at-Arms Roy A. Helms (NV) as well as Michael Rohan (WI), National Commander's Aide. Also bringing greetings were Past National Commander Jake Comer (MA); and Dennis Boland (FL), President, American Legion Child Welfare Foundation and Chairman of the NEC Liaison Committee to the Americanism Commission. Robert Vick (FL), National Chaplain of The American Legion provided the invocation and benediction for the meeting.

The Americanism Commission welcomed the 2018 American Legion Youth Champion Delegation and heard remarks from each of the young champions. In attendance were: Joshua Cheadle, 2018 Boys Nation President of Newport Coast, California; Jered Eddy, 2018 Precision Junior Shooting Sports Champion of Midland, Georgia; Bailey Hoenig, 2018 Sporter Junior Shooting Sports Champion of Zion, Illinois; Carlissa Frederich, 2018 National Oratorical Contest champion of Paducah, Kentucky, and Michael

John Ankner, 2018 American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year of Denver, Colorado. Trace Henry, 2017 American Legion Baseball All-Academic Team Captain of Mooreville, Mississippi was unable to attend due to other obligations.

Kamillah Bunn, Chief Executive Officer, Adoption Exchange Association (AEA) next gave a presentation to the commission. AEA, through its products and services, has facilitated more than 30,000 adoptions nationwide. They are the only national non-profit focused exclusively on strengthening the skills of adoption professionals and promoting and retaining a strong foster care adoption workforce. AEA is also a previous American Legion Child Welfare Foundation grant recipient. Ms. Bunn briefed the commission about the AEA organization, its mission and services, and the positive impact that American Legion Child Welfare Foundation grants have had upon their organization and the families they serve and support.

Lee Shaw Jr., Director, Community Alliances Team for the Boy Scouts of America National Headquarters, and who is also a Past Detachment Commander for the Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Pennsylvania and an American Legion Keystone Boys State alumnus, provided a presentation that included an overview of the membership changes in the Boy Scouts of America and their Family Scouting initiative allowing Scout Troops and Cub Scout Dens to have girls. He clarified the name change to Scouting USA is for their 11-18 year old flagship youth program and not for the entire organization, which remains Boy Scouts of America.

The American Legion Committee on Youth Education (COYE) Chairman Michael Bredeck briefed on the success Legacy and Samsung Scholarship programs. He highlighted that nearly \$1,000,000 in scholarship funds were awarded this year between these two programs alone.

Attendees received information about the Patriotic Memorial Service to be conducted on Sunday, August 26, 2018, from Deputy Director Jeff Hendricks (IN).

I concluded the meeting by extending some special recognition, and expressing appreciation to all volunteers for the fine support and advocacy that Americanism and Children & Youth programs have received throughout this past year.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, motion to receive and file the report of the Americanism Commission. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded to receive and file the report of the Americanism Commission. Any questions? All in favor, say aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried. Paul Dillard from the Legislative Commission.

Oral Report: Legislative Commission Paul E. Dillard, Texas, Chairman

Good morning, Commander Rohan, past national commanders, Adjutant Wheeler, members of the National Executive Committee and guests. There are currently no matters of an emergency nature to present to the National Executive Committee. You have been provided copies of our complete report. I'll refrain from reading. As required by resolution, the annual report of the National Legislative Council is also attached to that report.

I am sure many of you have seen a flurry of activity out of the Legislative Division on Capitol Hill. It is truly an honor to lead this commission through such an active time. In just the previous three months, Congress passed the VA Mission Act through fiscal year 2019 VA and DOD appropriation measure. The Veteran Cemetery Benefit Correction Act, the resolution honoring the enactment of the G.I. Bill of 1944, and even an act of Congress recognizing August 24 through August 30, 2018 as American Legion Week.

In terms of the VA Mission Act, President Trump signed it into law June 6. Not only does the VA Mission Act streamline the eight community care programs through VA into

one common sense program, but it also accomplishes a task The American Legion has been fighting for for many years: Expanding the Caregivers Support Program to pre-9/11 veterans. Furthermore, commander the VA Mission Act roughly costs \$52 billion. It took nearly two years to complete, and our legislative staff was credited with ensuring it passed. So very active to say the least.

Since the beginning of the second session of the 115th Congress in January of this year, we have testified 22 times, provided over 21 letters of support to members of Congress, and worked on well over 60 pieces of legislation. All that said, the true power of influence of The American Legion comes from our members and the fine people in this room. When a legislative request is sent out, we need you to get active. We need you to get others active. And we need you to let Congress know that The American Legion cares about the nation's veterans.

In closing, on behalf of the members of the national Legislative Commission, I wish to extend all members of this body my sincere heartfelt appreciation for your support and encouragement during the past year. A special thanks to our national commander for her active support and her positive approach to our programs and for fighting for all veterans. As she says, family first. Thank you, commander. This concludes my report.

Report: Legislative Commission

August 25, 2018

Paul E. Dillard, Texas, Chairman

The National Legislative Commission met on Saturday, August 25, 2018 in the Minneapolis Convention Center, Room 102, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Sixteen (16) members of the Commission, five (5) members of the NEC Liaison, and twelve (12) visitors were present, bringing it to a total of thirty three (33). The meeting was devoted primarily to a detailed discussion of recent congressional activities involving legislative mandates of The American Legion.

National Legislative Commission Chairman Paul Dillard (TX) offered opening remarks before introducing a panel made of four Congressional staffers. The congressional staffers making up the panel were: Mr. Alex Large, House Veterans' Affairs Committee (Majority), Ms. Megan Bland, House Veterans' Affairs Committee (Minority), Mr. Jon Coen, Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee (Minority), and Mr. David Shearman, Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee (Majority). The panel conversation focused on items both committees worked on during the last year, what they will likely focus on in the remaining time of the 115th Congress, and where they might go in the beginning of the 116th Congress. The conversation was then opened up to a Q&A session with the members of The America Legion in the room.

Following the Congressional Panel, Legislative Chairman Dillard called upon Legislative Council Chairman, Dewey Moss of Georgia to present the Annual Legislative Council Report. Chairman Moss discussed the grassroots lobbying activities and gave a brief summary of the Annual Consolidated Activities Report.

Matthew Shuman, National Legislative Director, along with Larry Lohmann, Senior Legislative Associate, Lindsay Dearing, Legislative Associate, and Jon Espinoza, Legislative Associate, provided the commission a discussion of the 115th Congressional activities as they relate to veterans issues and concerns. They also provided a preview of the remainder of the 2018 congressional session.

Commander Denise Rohan visited the Commission Meeting to bring greetings and discuss the importance and great work of both the Legislative Commission and the Legislative Council.

The following report provides an abbreviated account of congressional developments in the 115th Congress and since this Commission last met in February 2018.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

On October 6, 2017 **Public Law (PL) 115-65**, *The American Legion 100th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Act*, was signed into law by President Trump. The measure 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 Senate version – **S 1182**, sponsored by Sen. Todd Young (IN) – was introduced with 28 co-sponsors and was acted upon with 75. The Senate measure passed that chamber on August 3 by a voice vote. The House bill – **HR 2519**, sponsored by Rep. Tim Walz (MN) – was introduced with 102 co-sponsors and had 385 prior to passage. On September 25, HR 2519 passed the House by a voice vote. On September 27, the Senate approved H.R. 2519 by unanimous consent.

On October 12, 2017, the House Veterans' Affairs Committee held a hearing 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), who introduced the measure, said "... it makes no sense that the VA keeps a luxury hotel in Paris on its books, The VA needs to focus its time and resources on its core mission: taking care of our nation's veterans." The legislation, **H.R. 2773**, authorizes 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.

Legion spokesmen testifying on the bill, said the property has "deeply personal meaning" to the organization. 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 First World War. After VA took over the building, the items were placed in multiple storage areas in the United States and France. The American Legion got its start in Paris in 1919, created by members of the American Expeditionary Force who served in WWI. 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. Our organization thought it would remain a memorial and 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 building as a hotel and spa. 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. Members of the House panel 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.

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.

VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION

On August 12, the President enacted **PL 115-46**, the *VA Choice and Quality Employment Act of 2017*. This legislation – a compromise created and supported by both sides of the aisle – will provide \$2.1 billion to the Veterans Choice Program, which allows veterans to seek health care outside of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) if the needed care is not available through VA. It will also invest \$1.8 billion into hiring more health-care providers (VA currently has about 49,000 vacancies) and authorizes leases for 28 new VA clinics, many of which are badly needed for local care in rural areas.

Without congressional action, the Choice program was expected to run out of money by mid-August, which VA leaders said would have led to layoffs and interrupted medical care for thousands of veterans.

Another measure, **PL 115-55**, the *Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act of 2017*, was signed into law by the President on August 23 at The American Legion's 99th National Convention in Reno, NV. The new law creates three “lanes” for veterans’ appeals, including: a) the “Local Higher Level Review Lane” in which an adjudicator reviews the same evidence considered by the original claims processor; b) the “New Evidence Lane,” in which the veteran could submit new evidence for review and have a hearing; and, c) the “Board Lane,” in which jurisdiction for the appeal would transfer immediately to the Board of Veterans’ Appeals.

PL 115-55 was cosponsored by every member of the House Veterans’ Affairs Committee, and passed the House 418-0 on May 23. The Senate amended and passed the measure on August 1. The Senate’s substitute amendment clarifies that in certain circumstances VA must correct duty to assist errors unless VA can grant the maximum benefit; provides for a limited duty to assist in connection to a supplement claim when veterans identify additional evidence needed to decide a claim; clarifies the difference between an “issue” and “claim”; and, includes some changes to the reports and reporting requirements included in the House version.

On September 29, 2017 President Trump enacted **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. 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 2, 2017 President Trump enacted **PL 115-75**, the *Veterans’ Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2017*. This legislation increased the rates of veterans’ wartime disability compensation, additional compensation for dependents, the clothing allowance for certain disabled veterans, and dependency and indemnity compensation for surviving spouses and children.

The President on November 21 signed **PL 115-86**, the *VA Prescription Data Accountability Act of 2017*. This bill directs the VA to disclose information about an individual who is dispensed medication prescribed by a VA employee or by a non-VA provider authorized to prescribe such medication by the VA to a state controlled substance

monitoring program to the extent necessary to prevent misuse and diversion of prescription medicines.

On December 20 President Trump enacted **PL 115-95**, the *Enhancing Veteran Care Act*. This law authorizes VA to contract with a nonprofit organization that accredits health care organizations and programs in the United States to investigate a VA medical center to assess and report deficiencies of the center's facilities.

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION

President Trump on August 16, 2017 enacted **PL 115-48**, the *Harry W. Colmery Veterans Education Assistance Act of 2017* – familiarly known as the “Forever GI Bill” – would make significant changes to the Post-9/11 GI Bill. These changes include:

- Eliminating a requirement that veterans use their benefits within 15 years of leaving active-duty service;
- Expanding benefits for reservists, Purple Heart recipients and surviving dependents;
- Retroactively restoring benefits to veterans affected by school closures, and;
- Providing additional funds to GI Bill users pursuing degrees in science, technology, engineering and math.

Many of the provisions of this law do not go into effect until 2018, with others becoming effective in subsequent years. This legislation received expedited action; it was introduced on July 13, approved by the House Veterans’ Affairs Committee on July 19, and received final House approval on July 24 by a vote of 405-0. The bill then went to the Senate, where it was passed by unanimous consent five days later.

President Trump on November 21 enacted **PL 115-89**, the *Veterans Apprenticeship and Labor Opportunity Reform Act* or the *VALOR Act*. This measure would simplify an approval process by allowing companies to register their apprenticeship programs with one central approval agency. This bill provides that the state approving agency for a multi-state non-federal apprenticeship program is: (1) for program approval purposes, the state approving agency for the state in which the headquarters of the apprenticeship program is located; and (2) for all other purposes, the state approving agency for the state in which the apprenticeship program takes place.

115th Congress, 2nd Session

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 entire federal government, especially the Department of Defense (DOD), as well as appropriations for FY 2019 federal spending programs.

Three additional continuing resolutions kept the federal government funded through late March. Final funding for FY18 was approved by Congress in late March, with the House approving the measure by a 256-167 vote on March 22, and the Senate passing the bill the next day by a 65-32 vote. It was signed into law March 23 as **PL 115-141**.

To date, The American Legion has participated in twenty (20) congressional hearings during the Second Session.

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 was assigned to the House Judiciary Committee. The measure currently boasts **30** cosponsors. A Senate companion measure, **Senate Joint Resolution (SJ Res.) 46** was introduced on June 14 by Senator Steve Daines (MT). That measure now 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.

The final continuing appropriations measure for FY18, as PL 115-141, contains \$29.9 billion in funding for the Justice Department 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.

On May 24, the House Appropriations Committee approved **HR 5952**, the FY 2019 funding measure for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science programs and Related Agencies. Funding for Department of Justice programs for the upcoming fiscal year totals \$30.7 billion, an increase of \$793 million above the FY 18 enacted level. Programs which interest The American Legion include:

- Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI): The FBI would receive \$9.3 billion for this year;
- U.S. Marshals Service: This agency would receive \$3 billion;
- Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA): \$2.7 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 \$212 million for FY 2019, \$70 million less than the enacted amount for FY 18. These grants address such concerns as child abuse, youth gangs and violence against children, missing / exploited children, and youth mentoring programs.

NATIONAL SECURITY

Final funding for the Department of Defense (DOD) for the balance of FY 2018 was contained in PL 115-141, signed by the President on March 23. 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.
- 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 sexual assault prevention and response programs.

Under the provisions of PL 115-141, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) received \$47.7 billion for its various programs for the remainder of FY 2018. Specific appropriations amounts include:

• Customs and Border Protection – \$14 billion in discretionary funding, an increase of \$1.7 billion over the previous year. This includes \$1.57 billion for border security assets and infrastructure along the U.S.-Mexico border;

• Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) – \$7.1 billion for this agency, a \$641 million increase;

• Transportation Security Administration (TSA) – \$7.9 billion, \$115 million above FY 2017 amounts;

• U.S. Coast Guard – \$12.1 billion, including \$1.7 billion for modernization of vessels, aircraft, and facilities;

• U.S. Secret Service – \$1.99 billion, \$53 million less than the previous year's spending; and,

• Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) – \$7.9 billion for disaster relief funds, including funds for first responder grants.

PL 115-141 provided funding for Military Construction programs of the Defense Department for FY 2018. This bill would provide \$10.1 billion in FY 2018. This amount is an increase of \$2.4 billion – or 31 percent – over 2017 spending. Within that amount, individual program areas include:

• Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) – \$750 million for projects directly related to facilities to support OCO;

• Military Family Housing – \$1.4 billion to fund construction, operation and maintenance of military family housing, an increase of \$131 billion above FY 2017 level. This funding will ensure quality housing for 1.388 million families served by the program;

• Military Medical Facilities -- \$708 million for construction and alterations for new or existing military medical facilities, an increase of \$404 million above current year level;

• DOD Education Facilities -- \$250 million for essential safety improvements and infrastructure work at four DOD Education Activities facilities in the U.S. and overseas;

• Guard and Reserve -- \$645 million for construction/alteration of Guard and Reserve Facilities in 26 states, \$450 million above the requested amount;

• NATO Security Investment Program (NSIP) -- \$178 million – same as FY 2017 – for infrastructure necessary for wartime, crisis, peace support and deterrence operations, and training requirements; and,

• Guantanamo Bay – The legislation continues language to prohibit the closure of the Guantanamo Bay Naval Station and a provision to forbid funding for any facility within the U.S. to house detainees. It also includes \$115 million to fund the construction of two new barracks to house servicemembers stationed at Guantanamo Bay.

Funding for Military Construction projects for FY 2019 are contained in HR 5786 (detailed below).

The bill provides a total of \$10.3 billion for military construction projects – an increase of \$241 million, or 2.4 percent, above the enacted FY18 level. In addition to this amount, \$921.4 million is provided in OCO funding for projects in countries with ongoing U.S. operations and the European Deterrence Initiative. These funds will provide for the construction of facilities to enable our military to fight current and emerging threats, to support increased troop levels, and to sustain services for military families. This includes operational facilities, training facilities, hospitals, family housing, National Guard

readiness centers, barracks, and other important resources. In total, 147 military construction projects across the country and overseas receive funding in the bill.

- *Military Family Housing* – The bill provides \$1.6 billion to fund construction, operation, and maintenance of military family housing for FY19. This is \$173 million above the FY18 level. The funding will ensure quality housing is sustained for all 1.4 million military families currently served by the program.

- *Military Medical Facilities* – The bill includes \$361 million for construction and alterations for new or existing military medical facilities. This funding will allow for continued support and care for 9.8 million eligible beneficiaries, including our wounded troops abroad.

- *DOD Education Facilities* – The bill includes \$368 million for essential safety improvements and infrastructure work at four DOD Education Activities facilities located within the U.S. and overseas.

- *Guard and Reserve* – The bill includes \$467 million for construction or alteration of Guard and Reserve facilities in 20 states and territories, the same as the budget request.

- *NATO Security Investment Program (NSIP)* – The bill provides \$171 million, the same as the budget request, for infrastructure necessary for wartime, crisis, and peace support and deterrence operations, and training requirements. The funds will support responses to the challenges posed by Russia and to the risks and threats emanating from the Middle East and North Africa.

- *Guantanamo Bay* – The legislation continues language to prohibit the closure of the Guantanamo Bay Naval Station and a provision to prohibit funding for any facility within the U.S. to house detainees. The bill also includes \$69 million in funding to build a new high-value detention facility at Guantanamo Bay.

On June 13, the House Appropriations Committee approved by a recorded vote of 48-4 the bill **HR 6157**, legislation to fund the Department of Defense (DOD) for FY 2019. Funding for the upcoming fiscal year totals \$674.6 billion – discretionary funding is set at \$606.5 billion, an increase of \$17.1 billion over FY 2018 funding – with \$68.1 billion for Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO)/Global War on Terrorism funding. Funding totals for major DOD accounts include:

- *Military Personnel and Pay* – The legislation includes \$144 billion to provide for 1.338 million active-duty troops and 817, 700 Guard and Reserve personnel. This category fully funds a 2.6 percent pay raise for the military.

- *Operation & Maintenance* – A total of \$245.9 billion was approved for this account. The amount is \$9.3 billion above the request and \$24.1 billion above FY17.

- *Research and Development* – The bill contains \$92.4 billion for research, development, testing and evaluation of new defense technologies. This funding is \$2.9 billion more than current year funding.

- *Procurement* – A total of \$145.7 billion is proposed for this account. This amount is \$2.5 billion above the administration's request. These funds provide for the weapons and other equipment necessary to train, maintain the force, and conduct successful operations.

- *Defense Health and Military Family Programs* – This account contains \$34.4 billion for the Defense Health Program, an increase of \$318 million above the request. Also included in this account are: \$364 million for cancer research; \$318 million for sexual assault prevention and response; and, \$125 million for traumatic brain injury and psychological health research.

On June 21, the Senate Appropriations Committee approved **S 3109**, the FY 19 spending bill for the Department of Homeland Security. which received \$55.2 billion for its various programs. Specific appropriations amounts include:

- Customs and Border Protection – \$14.3 billion in discretionary funding, an increase of \$239 million over the previous year;
 - Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) – \$7.2 billion for this agency, a \$134 million increase;
 - Transportation Security Administration (TSA) – \$4.8 billion, \$83 million below FY 2018 amounts;
 - U.S. Coast Guard – \$10.2 billion, \$496 million above the budget request;
 - U.S. Secret Service – \$2.18 billion, \$173 million more than this year's spending;
- and,
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) – \$11.69 billion for disaster relief funds, including funds for first responder grants.

VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION

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.

As contained in PL 115-141, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) received a total \$81.5 billion in discretionary funding for FY 2018, \$7.1 billion above the FY 17 level. VA accounts would receive the following funding amounts:

- VA Medical Services – \$68.8 billion. 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; \$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.
 - Advance Appropriations for All Veterans Programs for FY 2019 – \$179 billion. Discretionary medical programs will be funded in FY 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 \$8 million.
 - Disability Claims Processing – \$2.9 billion was allocated to address the burgeoning claims backlog. This funding will support new staff to tackle claims and

appeals work, digital scanning of claims; and centralized mail. Funding for the Board of Veterans Appeals was increased by \$5 million to a total of \$161 million, to address the continuing appeals backlog.

- Construction – Major construction funding totaled \$432 million. 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 \$343 million.

- Construction Grants – The state extended care facilities (state veterans’ homes) account received \$110 million (a \$20 million increase over the previous year), with the state cemeteries programs receiving \$45 million, a total equal to FY 2017. 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 states veterans’ homes.

On March 27, President Trump enacted **PL 115-159**, entitled the *State Veterans Home Adult Day Health Care Improvement Act of 2017*. 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 June 6 in a White House ceremony, President Trump enacted **PL 115-182**, the *John S. McCain III, Daniel K. Akaka, and Samuel R. Johnson VA Maintaining Internal Systems and Strengthening Integrated Outside Networks Act* (or the *VA MISSION Act*, for short). The measure passed the House of Representatives on May 16, by a recorded vote of 347-70. A week later the Senate approved the measure by a vote of 92-5.

The major provisions of the legislation would:

Streamline VA’s Community Care Programs

- Consolidate 7 VA community care programs into one streamlined program;
- Remove arbitrary 30-day/40-mile barriers to veterans’ care in the community;
- Authorize access to walk-in community clinics for enrolled veterans who have previously used VA healthcare services in the last two years;
- Authorize local provider agreements to remove bureaucratic red tape and to meet veterans’ needs for care in the community;
- Create standards for timely payment to community care providers;
- Keep the cost of community care in line with the cost of VA health care to ensure a veteran does not pay more for outside care;
- Require VA to monitor the program and report to Congress on the care provided to veterans;
- Require the secretary to develop an education program to inform veterans and VA providers about veterans’ health care options;
- Establish a program to provide continuing medical education credits for community care providers on treating veterans;
- Require VA to establish and submit to Congress a strategy to ensure all VA and community care programs are operating efficiently and effectively based on a number of factors including veterans’ satisfaction and access guidelines and quality standards, among others;
- Strengthen the process for VA and partnering health care providers who prescribe opioids to veterans;
- Ensure providers removed or suspended from VA practice do not treat veterans in the community; and,

- Provide \$5.2 billion for the Veterans Choice Fund.

Improve VA Healthcare Delivery

- Remove barriers for VA healthcare professionals to practice telemedicine;
- Provide additional resources for hiring and retention of VA healthcare professionals;
- Strengthen peer-to-peer support for veterans undergoing care for trauma or in rural areas;
- Establish mobile deployment teams for underserved and rural facilities to provide specialized and routine health care;
- Allow VA to provide transplant procedures on a live donor; and,
- Allow the VA to modernize assets and infrastructure.

Expand Caregivers Program

- Expand eligibility for VA's Caregiver Program to veterans of all generations; and,
- Require VA to implement an information technology system to better support, assess and monitor the program.

On May 8 the House Appropriations Committee by a 47-0 vote approved **HR 5786**, the FY 2019 Military Construction, Department of Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies funding measure. On June 7 the Senate Appropriations Committee passed their version of the measure, **S 3024**, by a vote of 31-0. In the House bill, VA would receive a total \$85.3 billion in discretionary funding for FY 2019, \$9 billion above the FY 18 level. The Senate measure would provide \$86.4 billion for FY19. VA accounts would receive the following funding amounts:

- VA Medical Services – \$68.7 billion (House) and \$78.3 billion (Senate). Individual accounts which interest The American Legion include: \$8.6 billion in mental health care services (both); \$7.3 billion in homeless veterans treatment, services, housing, and job training (\$1.8 billion in Senate); \$511 million for women veteran services (\$525 in Senate); \$386 million for opioid abuse prevention; \$270 million in rural health initiatives (both); and, \$196 million in suicide prevention activities.

- Medical and Prosthetic Research – The measure provides \$732 million for this account in the House measure, an increase of \$10 million over FY 2018. The Senate legislation would provide \$779 million for this account.

- Advance Appropriations for All Veterans Programs for FY 2020 – \$197 billion in both measures. Discretionary medical programs will be funded in FY 2020 at \$75.6 billion. In addition, mandatory programs will be funded at \$121.3 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 will receive \$316 million for its operations, \$10 million more than the previous fiscal year, under the provisions of both measures.

- Information Technology (IT) – Both bills funded this account at \$4.1 billion, the same as FY 2018.

- Disability Claims Processing – \$2.9 billion was allocated in the House measure to address the burgeoning claims backlog, while the Senate would provide \$3 billion. This funding will support new staff to tackle claims and appeals work, digital scanning of claims; and centralized mail. Both bills set funding for the Board of Veterans Appeals at \$175 million, an increase of \$14 million, to address the continuing appeals backlog.

- Construction – Major construction funding was set at \$1.13 billion, an increase of \$607 million over the current fiscal year. 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 \$649

million, an increase of \$307 million, by the House, and \$707 million by the Senate; the Senate funding amount is for expenditure until FY 2023.

- Construction Grants – The state extended care facilities (state veterans' homes) account received \$150 million in both bills (a \$40 million increase over the previous year), with the state cemeteries programs receiving \$45 million, an amount equal to FY 2018. The American Legion continues to urge Congress to make substantial increases in both grant accounts to allow states to construct state cemeteries and states veterans' homes.

In an attempt to jumpstart the FY 2019 appropriations process, the House and Senate assembled a "minibus," a spending bill containing three of the 12 appropriations bills needed to fund the federal government for the upcoming fiscal year. The three measures contained in **HR 5895** are the FY19 spending bills for: the Energy Department and Water Development programs; the Legislative Branch; and Milcon/VA programs. These three measures are usually the least controversial of the annual spending bills. On June 8 the full House voted 235-179 to approve the minibus. The measure passed the Senate on June 25 by a vote of 86-5. The bill will now go to conference, with final passage anticipated prior to the October 1 deadline for the beginning of FY 2019.

On May 21, the House of Representatives passed a number of veteran-related bills. They included:

- **HR 1972**, the *VA Billing Accountability Act*, which authorizes VA to waive copayment requirements when the veteran is not billed in a timely manner. The bill passed by a voice vote;

- **HR 3642**, the *Military SAVE Act*, requires VA to carry out a pilot program to furnish community care to veterans who have experienced military sexual trauma. The measure passed by a voice vote;

- **HR 3832**, the *Veterans Opioid Abuse Prevention Act*, would allow for the greater sharing of information between VA and State-based prescription drug monitoring programs. This legislation passed the chamber by a recorded vote of 377-2;

- **HR 4245**, the *Veterans' Electronic Health Record Modernization Oversight Act of 2017*, would strengthen Congressional oversight of VA's electronic health record modernization program. The bill passed by a voice vote

- **HR 4334**, the *Improving Oversight of Women Veterans' Care Act of 2017*, would require VA to submit reports on access to gender-specific care in the community and environment of care standards for women veterans. The bill passed by a voice vote;

- **HR 4958**, the *Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2018*, would provide a cost-of-living adjustment for veterans disability, additional compensation for dependents, dependency and indemnity, and clothing allowance for certain disabled veterans. The measure passed by a voice vote;

- **HR 5215**, the *Veterans Affairs Purchase Card Misuse Mitigation Act*, would strengthen controls over government purchase card misuse. The measure passed by a voice vote; and,

- **HR 5418**, the *Veterans Affairs Medical Surgical Purchasing Stabilization Act*, would reform the VA Medical Surgical Prime Vendor (MSPV) purchase program. The legislation passed by a voice vote.

These measures now go over to the Senate for further action.

On June 15 President Trump signed into law **PL 115-184**, entitled the *Veterans Cemetery Benefit Correction Act*. This legislation requires the Department of the Interior to provide outer burial receptacles for veterans' remains buried in open cemeteries under National Park Service control. The use of outer burial receptacles in such cemeteries shall be in accordance with regulations or procedures approved by the Department of Veterans Affairs or the Department of the Army.

On July 10 the House Veterans' Affairs Committee approved a slate of veteran legislation. The bills were:

- **HR 2409**, which would allow servicemembers to terminate their cable, satellite television, and Internet access service contracts while deployed;
- **HR 2787**, the *Veterans-Specific Education for Tomorrow's Medical Doctors Act* or the *VET MD Act*, would establish in VA a pilot program instituting a clinical observation program for pre-med students preparing to attend medical school;
- **HR 5538**, would amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the inclusion of certain additional periods of active duty service for purposes of suspending charges to veterans' entitlement to educational assistance under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs during periods of suspended participation in vocational rehabilitation programs;
- **HR 5649**, the *Navy SEAL Chief Petty Officer William "Bill" Mulder (Ret.) Transition Improvement Act of 2018*, would amend titles 10 and 38, U.S.C., to amend the Social Security Act, and to direct the Secretaries of Veterans Affairs, Defense, Labor, and Homeland Security, and the Administrator of the Small Business Administration, to take certain actions to improve transition assistance to members of the Armed Forces who separate, retire, or are discharged from the Armed Forces;
- **HR 5693**, the *Long-Term Care Veterans Choice Act*, would amend title 38, U.S.C, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into contracts and agreements for the placement of veterans in non-Department medical foster homes for certain veterans who are unable to live independently;
- **HR 5864**, the *VA Hospitals Establishing Leadership Performance Act*, would direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish qualifications for the human resources positions within the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs,
- **HR 5882**, the *Gold Star Spouses Leasing Relief Act*, would amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to provide for the termination by a spouse of a lessee of certain leases when the lessee dies while in military service;
- **HR 5938**, the *Veterans Serving Veterans Act of 2018*, would amend the VA Choice and Quality Employment Act to direct the VA Secretary to establish a vacancy and recruitment database to facilitate the recruitment of certain members of the Armed Forces to satisfy the occupational needs of the VA, to establish and implement a training and certification program for intermediate care technicians in that Department, and for other purposes;
- **HR 5974**, the *VA COST SAVINGS Enhancements Act*, would direct the VA Secretary to use on-site regulated medical waste treatment systems at certain VA facilities; and,
- **HR 6066** would amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the productivity of the management of Department of Veterans Affairs health care.

These measures now go to the full House of Representatives for further action.

On July 23, the Senate voted 86-9 to confirm Robert Wilkie as the new secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs. This marked the first time since the VA was elevated to cabinet level that the agency's leader did not receive unanimous approval by the Senate. Mr. Wilkie will leave a position at the Defense Department to take over VA. His swearing-in ceremony took place on July ____.

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION

On January 8 President Trump signed into law **PL 115-105**, the *Jobs for Our Heroes Act*, which clarifies eligibility rules for active-duty service members 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.

FY 2018 funding for the Department of Labor (DOL) was included in PL 115-141. The Veterans Employment and Training Service (VET), which oversees veterans programs, received \$295 million, \$16 million above FY 2017 spending. Spending totals for individual programs include:

- *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 \$19.5 million; and,
- *National Veterans' Employment and Training Services Institute (NVTI)* was funded at \$3.4 million for its operations, which includes the training of DVOP and LVER personnel.

On May 21, the House of Representatives passed several measures dealing with veterans' employment and education programs. These bills included:

- **HR 4451**, the *Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Programs Reauthorization Act of 2018*, would reauthorize the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program (HVRP) as well as the Homeless Women Veterans and Homeless Veterans With Children Reintegration Grant Program (HVRP-W) for five years. The bill would also clarify eligibility for both programs to include incarcerated veterans and veterans using HUD-VASH vouchers. The bill passed the House by a recorded vote of 377-1;

- **HR 4830**, the *SIT-REP Act*, would require that in order for a school or training program to be approved for GI Bill benefits they must adopt a policy that disallows the school or training program from imposing a late fee, denial of access to facilities or other penalty against the veteran or eligible dependent due to a late payment from VA. This would only apply if the payments have not been received within 90 days of the beginning of the term and the Secretary would have the authority to waive this requirement. This legislation was approved by a 382-0 recorded vote; and,

- **HR 5044**, the *Service-Disabled Veterans Small Business Continuation Act*, would address a technical issue that has arisen from legislation that was passed last Congress related to rules for surviving spouses' ability to claim service disabled veteran owned small business (SDVOSB) status for the Vets First contracting program. The bill passed by a voice vote.

These bills now go to the Senate for passage.

On July 11 the House Appropriations Committee approved a draft FY 2019 funding measure for the Department of Labor (DOL). On June 26, the Senate Appropriations subcommittee with jurisdiction over companion legislation approved **S 3158**. The Veterans Employment and Training Service (VET), which oversees veterans programs, would receive \$299.7 million – \$4.6 million above FY 2018 spending – in the House bill, while

the Senate version would provide \$300 million. Spending totals for individual programs include:

- Jobs for Veterans state grants will receive \$180 million, which fund DVOP and LVER personnel, in both measures;
- Federal administrative costs will be funded at \$43.2 million in the House measure, \$42.1 million in the Senate version;
- Homeless Veterans Reintegration Programs would receive \$50 million in both bills;
- Transition Assistance Program (TAP) will be funded at \$23 million in the House version, and \$24.5 million in the Senate measure; and,
- National Veterans' Employment and Training Services Institute (NVTI) will be funded at \$3.4 million for its operations, which includes the training of DVOP and LVER personnel, by both bills.

ANNUAL NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACTIVITIES REPORT 2017-2018

In 1975, The National Executive Committee created the National Legislative Council to assist the work of the Legislative Commission. The Legislative Council is composed of a chairman that leads the council, vice-chairs for each department and the member Legionnaires assigned to each Member of Congress. The purpose of the National Legislative Council is to have Legionnaires that forge relationship with their assigned Member of Congress therefore offering sound judgment and advice on issues of importance to The American Legion, veterans, servicemembers, and their families.

In accordance with NEC Resolution No. 28 (October 1994), I am pleased to submit the following Annual Consolidated National Legislative Council Activities Report for 2016-2017.

1. Legislative Alerts sent out in the past year

1. Legion Needs Your Help Advocating For Medical Cannabis Research
11/01/2017
2. Legion's Call To Congress: Pass the VA MISSION Act of 2018
05/15/2018
3. The American Legion Needs Your Help Protecting TRICARE
07/03/2018

2. Grassroots Lobbying Activities in Washington, DC

Washington Conference – February 25 – February 28, 2018

National Commander's Testimony – February 28, 2018

3. National Legislative Council Meetings Held

The National Legislative Council does not hold national meetings. Rather, meetings are held by the individual departments at the vice-chairman of the respective state deems necessary. Most department meetings are held in conjunction with existing department conferences and conventions. Most departments hold between two and four meetings of the Legislative Council throughout the year along with many other informal meetings at a more local level.

4. Chairman's Oral Report to the National Legislative Commission (August 25, 2018)

Good Morning Chairman Dillard and Members of the Commission. Every year, per NEC Resolution No. 28, passed October 19-20, 1994, I am required to report to the National Executive Committee at their pre-convention meeting on the activities of the National Legislative Council.

The purpose of the report is to update the NEC on the grassroots efforts and activities of the council. In order to complete this report, my staff depends on the timely and detailed submissions of the individual departments in order to compile all of the information necessary. I am thankful to the vice-chairmen from the different departments for their timely and detailed submissions.

Not only do I wish to thank the Legionnaires on the council for their timely submissions, but I also wish to thank them for their hard work and dedication to the mission of The American Legion. The members of this council dedicate their time to work on issues with passion and knowledge, furthering the interests of The American Legion and ensuring they represent our veterans, servicemembers and their families.

This last year, three major alerts were sent to our members relating to the following priorities of The American Legion: 1). Passing the VA MISSION Act of 2018, 2). Urging Congress to support medical cannabis research for veterans, and 3). protecting TRICARE for retirees. Our efforts immediately reach 21,000 members, a slight increase from last year, and countless others through email forwarding and sharing of alerts through other social media platforms.

The passing of the VA MISSION Act was a significant legislative victory for our veterans and their families this last year. VA&R Resolution No. 363 (August 2016) urged Congress to enact legislation that provides the Department of Veterans Affairs the authority to consolidate its multiple care in the community programs. Through the efforts of our legislative council we were able to urge Members of Congress to support the legislation, and on June 6th, President Donald Trump signed this important piece of legislation into law. My staff informed me that when the action alert was sent to Legionnaires asking them to contact their Members of Congress, Legionnaires responded enthusiastically and were willing and able to answer the call to mobilize.

As The American Legion seeks complementary and alternative treatments and therapies for those veterans suffering from PTSD and TBI, The Legislative Council has been at the forefront of urging Members of Congress to support legislation that classifies Cannabis from a schedule I drug as a schedule II drug. While our efforts are still on-going, the work of our legislative council continues to add momentum. The legislative council has been critical in urging Congress to support bipartisan legislation by Chairman Roe and Ranking Member Walz on the VA Medicinal Cannabis Research Act of 2018.

It is because of these important issues that the efforts of The Legislative Council play such an important role in the work of The American Legion. As such, we are coming to the end of the 115th Congress. As with every new Congress, the National Legislative Council must be rebuilt. Therefore, each Department must be mindful of finding new liaisons for their Councils in those cases where there is a new Member of Congress or the current liaison is not available for reappointment.

I know that filling these spots is not always easy. It does not just take a strong Legionnaire. It takes someone willing to share the views of The American Legion with his or her Member of Congress, and it takes someone who has the respect of his or her Member. This relationship should not be confrontational, but rather, educational. It should help strengthen the relationship between the Legionnaire and the lawmaker.

We need to have a strong Council in place as we move forward into the 116th Congress. We owe it to veterans, current servicemembers, and their families to make absolutely certain that we are heard. Therefore, I ask you to help me amplify our voice, by keeping the Council as a vibrant grassroots organization.

I thank you all for listening to my comments and I look forward to working with everyone in advancing The American Legion's legislative agenda.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my remarks and I move for adoption of this report.

5. The American Legion Auxiliary

The American Legion Auxiliary continues to be an invaluable asset to The American Legion Family and its grassroots lobbying ability. The prolific letter and email writing, countless phone calls and numerous office visits by Auxiliary members never cease to amaze me. Only through a united effort of Legionnaires, Sons and the Auxiliary can our legislative goals be realized.

6. National Legislative Council Award

I am pleased to announce that one National Legislative Council member was selected for her outstanding contributions in advancing the legislative portfolio of The American Legion during this past reporting period: Robert L. Bowen (VA). The award was presented during the 2018 Washington Conference.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, motion to receive and file the report of the Legislative Commission. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded to receive and file the report of the Legislative Commission. Are there any questions? All those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed, nay. Carried.

Call on Walter Ivie from Texas for Media & Communications.

Oral Report: Media & Communications Commission Walter W. Ivie, Texas, Chairman

Madam Commander, members of the National Executive Committee, the Media & Communications Commission has no urgent matters nor resolutions to come before the NEC. I'd like to take a few minutes to give you a brief update on the activities of the Media & Communications Commission.

As of early August, the Media & Communications Commission shows an actual deficit of nearly \$100,000. This is due primarily to postage and paper costs which are nearly \$200,000 over budget. That can be mostly attributed to a 1.9 percent postal rate increase for periodicals by the U.S. Postal Service.

Additionally, magazine advertising revenue is being pulled down by the membership decline. To date, magazine advertising revenue is off by \$340,000. While those numbers illustrate the harsh reality of the membership slide, there are reasons to be optimistic. For example, we are seeing steady growth in digital advertising. We expect to see these gains to continue, especially in our e-newsletter program.

We have seen rapid growth in our three primary e-newsletters. The Online Update goes out to more than one million people. The Commander's Message email, is delivered twice monthly, to more than 900,000 readers. And the Centennial e-newsletter, grew from 10,400 subscribers to more than 616,000 subscribers.

Our national website continues to generate incredible growth in all key metrics, such as page views and unique visitors. And earlier this summer, The American Legion website won a bronze award from the Association of Media Publishing Annual Awards.

Today's changing media landscape is a challenging one. But the commission is pleased with how the staff has effectively transitioned to the digital side without sacrificing the quality of our beloved print magazine. That brings me to more good news. Recently, The American Legion Magazine was named once again as the nation's best read magazine by an independent audit of 170 publications. I want to thank the staff for their hard work again.

Madam Commander, on behalf of The American Legion Media & Communications Commission, I want to thank you for your continued support of our media program. That concludes my report.

**Report: Media & Communications Commission
August 27, 2018
Walter W. Ivie, Texas, Chairman**

The American Legion Media & Communications Commission built upon its print, digital, outreach, branding and other successes in the past year while instituting new strategies to combat the accelerating membership decline.

Perhaps most notable is that American Legion Magazine retained its spot as the No. 1 U.S. magazine in terms of reader frequency, according to an independent audit. In the independent audit — called GfK MRI Doublebase 2018 — The American Legion ranked first in both measured categories. American Legion Magazine placed first with 78.5 percent of subscribers reading at least three out of the four previous issues (and 71.3 percent who read four of the four most recent).

Additionally, The American Legion website (www.legion.org) won a Bronze Award for the national website at this summer's Association Media and Publishing annual contest.

Awards are the culmination of work by the Media & Communications staff members. They have developed print and electronic content in support of American Legion programs and initiatives, promoted the message and brand awareness to key external and internal stakeholders, developed brochures and other materials to departments and posts, and pursued other print and digital initiatives that promote the Legion.

By all key metrics the website continues to gain traffic. Consider some highlights:

- The number of page views grew from 1,315,575 three years ago to 3,756,146 in July 2018.
- The number of unique visitors increased from 318,397 three years ago to 511,230 in July 2018.
- The percentage of page views on mobile rose sharply since the redesign completed in spring of 2016. In the first six months of 2015, about 7 percent of all page views were on mobile devices. In the same time period in 2018, the percentage was 50 percent.

Additionally, Media & Communications Division staff members are working closely with Membership Division staff to develop, promote and deliver a new portfolio of traditional membership acquisition tools for local use, including web tutorials, flyers, posters, ads, videos and other materials housed in a new platform at legion.org/membership on the national website. The reformatted Online Extension Institute (now called Basic Training module) modernized and updated the training that American Legion members are encouraged to take on the website.

We have also worked to make videos more accessible to members. For example, we are putting videos on a site called Vimeo that allows members to download the videos and play them from their mobile devices. This allows recruiters, program champions and others to show videos to prospective members, potential donors and others who they meet.

American Legion staff members are also laser-focused on working with the National American Legion Press Association (NALPA) so that members can be better equipped to promote their programs, fundraisers, recruiting efforts and other activities at the post, district and department levels. Since staff members have been coordinating efforts with NALPA volunteers, the organization's membership has grown, training has increased, engagement is active and the number of contest entries has skyrocketed.

Turning to finances, the division is currently at an actual deficit of just under \$100,000, amid higher than budgeted costs for paper and postal increases.

Through the July issue of the magazine, production and distribution costs were roughly \$196,000 over budget, led by \$165,877 in postage and \$31,103 in paper costs. As

indicated a year ago, the U.S. Postal Service has implemented a 1.9 percent rate increase for periodicals, causing the increase in postage spending.

We also are experiencing increases in paper prices due to new tariffs on imported goods. An increase in the cost of our body paper stock amounts to \$10,000 more per issue. Likewise, the price for cover stock has risen, increasing cost per issue by \$1,000. Fortunately, our current contract with Lindenmeyr Central offers us some protection against rapid price increases.

On the bright side, we are just under budget (\$213) on printing costs and they will remain flat throughout this year, based on the contract renewal with LSC (formerly RR Donnelley) through 2019.

Meanwhile, advertising revenue has been affected by the membership decline and will continue to be a challenge until circulation numbers improve. Altogether, the division is \$340,539 behind budget in advertising revenue through the September magazine and July for electronic media. The deficit is almost exactly correlated to print, as online advertising is holding steady when compared to the goal. The magazine is \$338,725 behind budget for ad sales through the September issue.

Magazine ad sales have been cyclical throughout this year but now stand at \$5,330,380, about a half million dollars behind last year, to date. Advertising revenue for the national website, which had recorded \$115,956 in total sales through July, is down roughly \$30,000 from budget. The American Legion Online Update (ALOU) has sold \$134,337 in advertising and is \$35,000 behind budget.

There have been notable improvements in other areas of online advertising, including the Commander's Message email blast, Dugout and AdSense, which have helped stabilize the online revenue.

There is the potential for additional revenue gains in our e-newsletters, each of which have average open rates between 20 and 40 percent – significantly higher than the industry standard of 14 percent. Also notable is the surge in subscribers over the past year. For example, ALOU has grown from 672,703 to 1,002,588 (49.0 percent increase); the Commander's Message has increased from 654,543 to 925,506 (41.4 percent increase); and the Centennial newsletter went from 10,451 to 616,273 (5796.8 percent increase).

The division will continue to look for opportunities to convert its growing digital audience into additional advertising revenue and membership.

In conclusion, the American Legion Media & Communications Commission appreciates the work of the staff during this time of a rapidly changing media landscape. The commission looks to support and advance the organization's initiatives in marketing, corporate relationships, membership acquisition, brand awareness, fundraising support and content delivery. The entire commission deeply appreciates the confidence and support shown from the National Commander and the National Executive Committee.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, motion to receive and file the report of the Media & Communications Commission. ...*Second.*

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

Randy Goodman from Georgia, Membership & Post Activities.

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

Commander Rohan, members of the National Executive Committee and guests, thank you for the opportunity to serve this organization as the chairman of the Membership &

Post Activities Committee.

You have our written report. There are no pressing matters to bring before this body today. However, I would like to thank you for your leadership this current year as the number of 100 percent departments increased threefold from three to nine this year. It's obviously attributed to your leadership, and we want to thank you for that.

We are getting ready for 2019. 2019, as we turn 100, we want to be 100 percent in our membership target. So we are preparing, as I speak now, preparing district commanders in our district commander training at the Hilton Hotel. We're continuing that. We started it last year, and we're continuing on with training. It will be a focus for all of us this year as we move to realize our strategic plan for continued growth.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve. That concludes my report.

Report: Membership & Post Activities Committee
August 25, 2018
Randy Goodman, Georgia, Chairman

The Membership and Post Activities Committee met at 10:30 a.m. on August 25, 2018, in the Hilton Minneapolis, Minneapolis Ballroom, Salon E, Third Floor. There were 52 individuals in attendance.

Those in attendance received updates on the strategic plan, the DMS program, membership workshop, district revitalizations, post to national dues processing and the January Planning Session.

Nine departments – District of Columbia, France, Idaho, Mexico, Montana, Oklahoma, South Carolina, West Virginia and Wisconsin exceeded 100% of their goal. Plus, the Department of Alabama exceeded their 2017 membership total – which represents a culture of growth as outlined in the strategic plan.

The online renewal program continues to perform well, adding great value to the renewal process. To date the 2018 campaign has yielded 261,627 members who have renewed online. We expect 2019 results to be similar. Online renewal has been a great addition to the renewal campaign.

National Staff, working in conjunction with local volunteers, were directly involved in 2,500 posts being started or revitalized through the efforts of district revitalization teams in 2017 (staff efforts run from Jan 1 – Dec 31). We expect that number to meet or exceed 2,500 in 2018.

During the recent membership workshop in Indianapolis on August 9-11, 2018, the majority of the time was spent on training. The discussions were encouraging and very upbeat. A traditional goal was set of 1,718,548 members for 2019 – this is 12,805 members more than the departments 2018 membership total. This goal was derived from their total traditional membership as of July 22, 2018, which included a combination of the unencumbered DMS members, traditionally acquired members, DMS transfers and adding the number of posts within each department from 2018.

We extend our sincere appreciation to our parent Commission, Internal Affairs, and this Committee for your support, vision and involvement concerning the 2019 membership campaign.

With no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 11:17 a.m.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, motion to receive and file the report of the Membership & Post Activities Committee. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded to receive and file the report of the Membership & Post Activities Committee. Are there any questions? All in favor, say aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried.

I'll call on chairman Robert Newman for the Internal Affairs report.

Oral Report: Internal Affairs Commission
Robert E. Newman, Indiana, Chairman

Good morning, Commander Rohan, members of the National Executive Committee. You have received my written report. The Internal Affairs Commission has no business to go before the National Executive Committee during this pre-convention meeting.

As chairman of the National Internal Affairs Commission, on behalf of our members, I wish to extend to all members of this body my appreciation for your support and encouragement during this past year. Special thanks to National Commander Denise Rohan for her active support and her positive approach to our programs, with special emphasis on membership and training during this year. I appreciate you allowing me to serve as your commission chairman. This concludes my report.

Report: Internal Affairs Commission
August 25, 2018
Robert E. Newman, Indiana, Chairman

The Internal Affairs Commission and guests totaling 35 attendees met in the Hilton Minneapolis, Marquette VI Room, on Saturday, August 25, 2018. We reviewed 26 resolutions that went before the Convention Committee on Internal Affairs. We have no resolutions to go before the National Executive Committee during this pre-convention meeting.

The American Legion Riders have continued the tradition of service to America's veterans and their families with their unwavering support of The American Legion Legacy Scholarship for the children of fallen warriors. This year we averaged 220 bikes with 42 passengers for this year's run to Minneapolis from Hutchinson, Kansas. Over 160 people registered as non-riding supporters. At this point, they have raised \$352,133 and we expect more donations Tuesday August 27, 2018 on the convention floor.

From January 1, 2018 until August 7, 2018, the National Emergency Fund (NEF) has assisted 16 American Legion Posts and 52 American Legion family members with grant money totaling \$166,435. Disasters in 2018 covered flooding in Illinois and Kentucky and wildfires in California and Colorado. Included in those totals is the processing of 50 NEF applications from 2017's hurricanes Harvey and Maria. We started the year with a balance of \$5.2 million in the NEF fund and so far this year we have donations to bring the current balance to \$5.8 million.

As Chairman of the National Internal Affairs Commission, on behalf of all our members, I wish to extend to all members of this body my appreciation for your support and encouragement during the past year. A special thanks to our National Commander Denise Rohan for active support and her positive approach to our programs.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, motion to receive and file the report of the Internal Affairs Commission. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded to receive and file the report of the Internal Affairs Commission. Are there any questions? All those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried. Thank you. Randall Fisher from Kentucky, chairman of Veterans Employment & Education.

Oral Report: Veterans Employment & Education Commission
Randal A. Fisher, Kentucky, Chairman

Thank you, commander. Good morning, NEC, guests, past national commanders, staff, you already have the report in your folder and I'm just going to give you a brief update. Take me about two seconds.

On Monday, members of your Committee on Employment & Veterans Preference and Veterans Education, Other Benefits & Homelessness met at 8:30 a.m. August 25 at the Hilton. We listened to presentations from a variety of subject matter experts on the area of veterans employment, education, training, credentialing, homelessness and small business development. In attendance were 44 members of the commission, NEC liaison and many other guests. We had a roomful.

In addition, the commission handed out national employer and homeless veterans awards. We handed out six awards. The discussions included recommendations that would assist transitioning servicemembers, veterans and their spouses with searching and ultimately obtaining gainful employment and other related benefits. This concludes my report, madam commander.

Report: Veterans Employment & Education Commission
August 25, 2018
Randal A. Fisher, Kentucky, Chairman

Members of your Committees on Employment and Veterans' Preference and Veterans Education, Other Benefits and Homelessness met at 8:30am on August 25, 2018, in Hilton Minneapolis, Marquette VIII & IX, Second Floor, Minneapolis, Minnesota, to listen to presentations from a variety of subject matter experts in the area of veterans employment, education, training, credentialing, homelessness and small business development. In attendance were 44 members of the Commission, the NEC Liaison, and many other guests.

Speakers for the Commission meeting included: Adam Rocke, Vice President of Military Engagement, Fastport; Chris Cortez, Vice President of Military Affairs, Microsoft; Nancy Libersky, District Director, U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA); Michael Dovilla, Chief of Staff, U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM); Rebecca Burgess, Program Manager, American Enterprise Institute (AEI); Alan Powell, Founder, Herozona; Patrick Campbell, Policy Analyst, Office of Servicemember Affairs, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB); Colonel Tom Anderson, Deputy Director, Soldier for Life; Wendy Torres, Acting Executive Director, Office of Transition & Economic Development, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA); Jeff Schulman, Advisor, Stryde Solutions/GMG Savings; Carol Eggert, Senior Vice President, Military and Veterans Affairs, NBCUniversal; David Gaulin, Director, Military and Veterans Affairs, Comcast NBCUniversal; David Nguyen, Statewide Operations Manager, Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans (MACV); and Kathryn Monet, Executive Director, National Coalition for Homeless Veterans (NCHV).

In addition, the Commission handed out national employer and homeless veteran awards. The discussion included recommendations that would assist transitioning servicemembers, veterans and their spouses, with searching and ultimately obtaining gainful employment and other related benefits.

The Commission adjourned at 4:30 pm.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Motion to receive and file the Report of Veterans Affairs & Education Commission. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded to receive and file the report of the Veterans Employment & Education Commission. Are there any

questions? All those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried. Thank you. Ralph Bozella, Colorado, chairman of Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation.

Oral Report: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission
Ralph P. Bozella, Colorado, Chairman

Thank you, commander. Good morning, commander, members of the NEC and guests. We have no urgent matters to report from the VA&R Commission today. A written report has been filed. But I really feel the need to let you know that finally the Rocky Mountain Regional VA Medical Center in Aurora, Colorado, is open, activated and occupied. On the ribbon cutting day, there were many American Legion caps, including that of Past National Commander Bock, running around the place. And it was a joyous and glorious day. Very, very happy about that.

Our VA&R Commission met here in this building at the convention center on Saturday morning August 25. We are very pleased that the United States Senate has confirmed the nomination of Robert Wilkie as the new VA secretary. I know he will be speaking to our convention, I believe, on Wednesday morning. So we're real pleased about that. We're also pleased with the relationship that we are fostering with the new VA.

Our speakers on Saturday morning included Executive in Charge and Under Secretary for Health Dr. Richard Stone, who is a retired VA employee and, by the way, was one of our consultants on the VA&R Commission, and he contacted me right before I left for convention and submitted his resignation due to a conflict of interest.

We're very proud of Dr. Stone, one of ours, one of our own, to now be the under secretary for health. Tremendous relationship. Under Secretary for Benefits Dr. Paul Lawrence, spent some time with us. I had the opportunity to have an informal breakfast with him and discuss a lot of the issues surrounding benefits and Randy Reeves, under secretary for the National Cemetery Administration, along with Cheryl Mason, the chairman of the Board of Veterans Appeals. These were some of our speakers over the weekend.

The TBI/PTSD Committee met on Friday afternoon. We met over at the Minneapolis VA at the Brain Science Center. I want to thank Past National Commander Dan Ludwig and Department Service Officer Jeremy Wolfsteller for the work they did to set us up with that meeting, the tours that we had and the information that was provided to us there. It was a fantastic presentation that afternoon to learn about the Brain Sciences Center, which some of you know was a million-dollar endowment by the Department of Minnesota, American Legion, under the direction of Past Commander Ludwig when he was department commander.

I also want to recognize the work that Ryan Britch did, one of our staffers, in the TBI/PTSD area. In fact, on your chairs you've seen this packet of books. And what is on here, you remember "The War Within" which we did in 2012. This is the follow-up called "The Road Home." It's more positive, no longer focusing on the problems with PTSD but what's happening in a positive vein. There is a white paper that Ryan researched and wrote, and I think it's very well done. There's also "The System Worth Saving" update. I know that our committee chairman, Past National Commander Bill Detweiler, is in the audience. I also know he also appreciates the work of Commander Ludwig and Jeremy to set all that up for us.

We still have a very strong relationship with our new law firm Bergmann & Moore to train our service officers in Indianapolis and in Washington. They are now representing over 400 service officers on appeals of The American Legion claims. Chairman Paul Dillard gave us an update on the Mission Act. So I don't have to go into that. But I want you to know that our staff is working diligently to implement that program with the White House, VA and Congress.

When I think of staff, I have to introduce you to our new VA&R Director Chanin Nuntavong. He's a great young man. (*Applause*)

Many of you know former director Louis Celli is now the executive director of the Washington building. Commander, that concludes my report.

Report: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

August 25, 2018

Ralph P. Bozella, Colorado, Chairman

The National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission held its meeting in the Minneapolis Convention Center, Room 101, Section D & E, Level One, on Saturday, August 25, 2018. The Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission had a total of 95 call-ins. There were 23 members of the Commission, 11 members of the Health Administration Committee, 13 members of the Veterans Benefits Committee and 11 members of the National Cemetery Committee, 37 VA&R Council members and one NEC Liaison.

The following officials addressed the Commission: Dr. Richard Stone, Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Health/Executive-In-Charge, Veterans Health Administration. Dr. Stone thanked The American Legion for inviting him to speak during such a historic milestone in the history of the organization. He explained that since assuming his new role, he has developed three priorities to make VHA successful; restoring the trust, constructing a learning organization and modernizing the system. Dr. Paul R. Lawrence, Under Secretary for Benefits, Veterans Benefits Administration. Dr. Lawrence highlighted The American Legion's role in assisting veterans and being a key player to ensure the approval of the VA Accountability and Mission Act. Dr. Lawrence stated that VBA's priorities include, providing benefits to veterans, strong fiscal stewardship and fostering a culture of collaboration with all organizations. Ms. Cheryl L. Mason, Chairman of the Board of Veterans' Appeals, Department of Veterans Affairs shared her insights and efforts in implementing the Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act by February 2019. She explained the Rapid Appeals Modernization Program (RAMP) and the choices now available to veterans to help them expedite their appeals. Mr. Randy C. Reeves, Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs, National Cemetery Administration, highlighted his three priorities that include making sure no veteran is forgotten, ensuring access and services at a NCA facility and forming partnership to be able to serve veterans. Mr. Reeves discussed the Veterans Legacy Program, a grant based program with institutions of higher learning to conduct research at NCA cemeteries for the purpose of educating the community about the veterans buried at their local cemetery.

Denise H. Rohan, National Commander brought greetings to the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission.

At 11:15 a.m. the Commission divided into three break-out sessions. The Benefits Panel remained in Room 101, Sections D & E, Level One and heard from Cheryl L. Mason, Chairman of the Board of Veterans Appeals, Department of Veterans Affairs and David McLenachen, Director, Appeals Management Office, Department of Veterans Affairs. They shared insights and perspectives on the efforts they have been leading to date in preparation for full implementation of the Appeals Modernization Act effective February 2019. They both spoke enthusiastically about the opportunities provided to veterans during the transitional program known as the Rapid Appeals Modernization Program (RAMP). RAMP enables veterans to get their appeals reviewed by a higher level reviewer before the case gets to the board. This review option is particularly attractive because even if the prior appeal decision is upheld, the veteran can continue the appeal process to the Board of Veterans' Appeals. Both Chairman Mason and Mr. McLenachen urged the Department

Service Officers to explain the benefits of taking advantage of the new appeals options according to the Appeals Modernization Act of 2017.

The National Cemetery Committee met Room 101, Sections H & I, Level One and heard from Amerophan Callahan, Executive Cemetery Director, Fort Snelling National Cemetery and Mr. John Knapp, Deputy Director, Fort Snelling National Cemetery. They provided an over view of NCA services, eligibility requirements and ongoing initiatives to help improve access to NCA benefits. The committee also heard from Ms. Norka Rojas, Director of Interment Services, Arlington National Cemetery and Major Shannon Way, Strategic Planner, Arlington National Cemetery. Ms. Rojas provided an overview of Arlington to include eligibility, unique military honors, the demand for services and the challenges in scheduling honors. Major Way provided an update on their second national dialogue survey focusing on what the American public thinks should be the future of Arlington National Cemetery as the cemetery nears capacity levels. Over 96% of respondents would like to see Arlington Cemetery Continue to be an active cemetery well into the future. The respondents also stated that priority should be given to those killed in action and Medal of Honor recipients.

The Health Care Administration Panel met in Rooms 101, Section F-G, Level One and heard from Dr. Keita Franklin, Acting Director, Suicide Prevention Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, Veterans Health Administration and Guy Kiyokawa, Deputy Director, Defense Health Agency. Dr. Franklin discussed VA suicide data reports, the public Health approach and national strategy to suicide prevention.

Mr. Kiyokawa discussed the future of Military Health TRICARE, and VA/DoD Collaboration.

The committee reconvened as a full commission at 1:30 PM in Rooms 101, Section D&E, Level One and the commission heard from the following individuals: Dr. Nancy Bernardy, Associate Director for Clinical Networking, National Center for PTSD, Department of Veterans Affairs. Dr. Bernardy discussed the dangers of prescribing benzodiazepines to individuals diagnosed with PTSD. She stated that research actually shows that these prescriptions offer no help for PTSD and can actually exacerbate the symptoms. Dr. Bernardy feels that there are better and safer options for treating veterans who are suffering from PTSD.

Mr. John H. Windom, III, Director, Electronic Health Records Modernization, Department of Veterans Affairs. Mr. Windom shared the ongoing efforts and initiatives to finally create an electronic health care record that can be used by both VA and DoD. Over \$780 million has been committed for the implementation year one of the project. The plan is to implement the electronic record in phases beginning with VISN 20 in Portland, OR later this year. Ms. Anjum Ansari, Senior Product Manager, Government Marketing, Abbott Diabetes Care shared advances in glucose monitoring without the need to do a finger pricking. Research shows that frequency monitoring is closely associated with improvement which will be easier with this new digital technology which will also drive down hospital patient care.

Dr. Jeanne Mager Stellman, Consultant, TBI/PTSD Committee and Dr. Steven D. Stellman, Professor, Columbia University provided an update on The American Legion Vietnam Veteran Project. Dr. Jeanne Stellman announced that she has received funding for a follow-up project on the initial study. She is asking for the assistance of The American Legion in completing military data to include units and the locations where service members and units were deployed in theater.

Ms. Sabrina C. Clark, Director, Voluntary Services, Veterans Health Administration discussed the importance of the VAVS program and thanked The American Legion for our ongoing support. For fiscal year 2017 The American Legion had over 4,800 regular volunteers and 13, 800 occasional volunteers who donated over 798,271 hours saving VA over \$2.3 million.

During the VA&R Commission meeting, PNC William Detweiler, TBI & PTSD Committee Chairman reported on the TBI & PTSD Committee meeting on August 24, 2018. During the meeting, The TBI & PTSD Committee received a tour of the Brain Sciences Center from Dr. Brian Engdahl, the Director of the Domenici Research Center for Mental Illness. Dr. Engdahl provided a presentation on the Magnetoencephalography (MEG). The MEG is a neuro-imaging device that can map out brain activity by measuring the magnetic fields of the brain. Using this technique, a medical provider can observe the brain activity of an individual with PTSD and an individual without.

The Committee also heard from Chad Spangler, Director of the Outward Bound for Veterans Program. He provided a presentation on his organization's mission and how they assist veterans recovering from the psychological injuries of war. Outward Bound provides no cost wilderness expeditions to veterans designed to help them rebuild self-efficacy and sense of purpose through challenge and teamwork. Extensive research on Outward Bound for Veterans shows that their programs significantly improve overall mood and interpersonal relationships.

The Committee also heard from Dr. Michelle Madore, a clinical Neuropsychologist with the Repetitive Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (rTMS) Clinical Program, VA Palo Alto Health Care System. rTMS is a medical device that uses strong pulsating magnetic wave in order to activate circuits in the brain and improve mood. Research on rTMS shows significant improvements in depression, anxiety, and overall brain function.

The Certificate of Appreciation Committee met on Saturday, August 25, 2018 and considered no new nominations for this award. There was one Certificate of Appreciation given between the Mid-Winter Conference and the National Convention.

The minutes for the subcommittee meetings are available upon request from the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Staff offices.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Motion to receive and file the report of the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: Moved and seconded to receive and file the report of the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission. Are there any questions? All those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried. Thank you, Ralph. I now call on G. Michael Schlee from Maryland, chairman of National Security.

**Oral Report: National Security Commission
G. Michael Schlee, Maryland, Chairman**

Thank you, national commander. As I look around the room, first in peace, first in war and last on the NEC agenda. (*Laughter*)

You have the extensive report of our visit to Camp Ripley on Friday, our business session, our speakers program and the POW/MIA update. I definitely want to thank our staff, Joe, Freddie and Jeff. I want to particularly thank you, national commander, and members of the NEC for your enduring support for the National Security Commission. Thank you.

**Report: National Security Commission
August 25, 2018
G. Michael Schlee, Maryland, Chairman**

On Friday, August 24th, 38 members of the National Security Commission traveled to Minnesota National Guard Base, Camp Ripley. The visit began with a tour of the Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery where the Commission was introduced to Mr. Charles Bilbert who briefed the group on four paintings honoring four branches of the military he

created that were on display at the cemetery. Upon entering Camp Ripley the group was provided a command overview briefing by base leadership which highlighted the many training exercises performed on the installation's 52,000 acres. The group then visited and toured the Environmental Room where Camp Ripley provides extensive training on wildlife on and around Camp Ripley. After lunch the group toured the Combined Arms Collective Training Facility which provides troops, civilian law enforcement and emergency management agencies the means to provide realistic and efficient training. The visit culminated with a visit to the Minnesota Military Museum which is designed to capture the experiences of military men and women and interpreted for the public.

On Saturday, August 25th, the National Security Commission convened in the Minnesota Convention Center Room 101, Sections A-C. National Security Commission Chairman Michael Schlee opened the meeting by recognizing Past National Commanders Tony Jordan of Maine, Tom Bock of Colorado, and John Brieden of Texas. The National Security Commission was honored by their attendance and very appreciative of their participation in the National Security session.

The National Security Commission was honored by a visit from National Commander Denise Rohan. National Commander Rohan commended the brave work of the troops she visited during her travels throughout Europe and the Far East. She informed the Commission that when she asked what can The American Legion do for you, the troops always asked her to take care of their families. National Commander Rohan discussed the importance of family readiness programs and their important part of the National Security Pillar. She concluded her remarks by noting the important work of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) and reminded the members of the National Security Commission with family members listed as MIA to submit DNA samples to DPAA which are critical to identifying remains stored at their forensic lab located at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

The meeting was comprised of four guest presentations. The first speaker was Major General Neal Loidolt, Deputy Adjutant General of the Minnesota National Guard. MG Loidolt's presentation focused on the mission of the Army and Air Force National Guard as an operational guard. With an increasing operations tempo the National Guard is deploying as often as the Active Duty and this is challenging for traditional Guardsmen balancing this commitment with their civilian lives. MG Loidolt highlighted that 26,000 soldiers and airmen have deployed from the Minnesota National Guard since September 11th, 2001.

The second speaker was Special Agent Dan Bleakmore of the Department of State's Minnesota residence office. Agent Bleakmore provided the Commission with an overview of the efforts and challenges of the Department's embassy security office. These diplomats are often deployed to dangerous locations worldwide and is used as a weapon to defuse tensions to prevent the need for military action. The Commission was interested to learn what lessons were learned from the tragedy at the Benghazi embassy. The speaker explained that because diplomats often operate in hostile locations there will always be less than perfectly secure embassies and a level of risk is assumed. The Commission also asked about the effects of the budget cuts that have been implemented throughout the past two fiscal years. The speaker noted an increase in the number of agents leaving the Department as an unfortunate effect of the cuts.

The third speaker was Mr. Guy Kayakawa, Deputy Director of the Defense Health Agency. The DHA is a joint Combat Support Agency enabling the Army, Navy, and Air Force medical services to provide a medically ready force and ready medical force to Combatant Commands in peacetime and wartime. DHA directs ten joint shared services to include the TRICARE Health Plan which provides worldwide medical, dental and pharmacy services to more than 9.4 million uniformed service members, retirees and their families, health Information technology, medical logistics, research & development,

education & training, public health, facility management, budget & resource management, and contracting. Mr. Kayakawa discussed the efforts the agency is making to meet two of the SECDEF's three priorities: Restoring readiness and lethality and bringing business reforms to the Department of Defense. He also discussed DHA's process to streamline the Military Health System through 2021 which will mandate all Military Training Facilities adhere to the same policies, procedures, and standard clinical and business processes as established by DHA.

Chairman Schlee transitioned the meeting to the POW/MIA update and introduced the fourth speaker, Mr. Johnie Webb. Mr. Webb serves as the Deputy Director for External Relations and Legislative Affairs to the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA). Mr. Webb provided the Commission with an update on the turnover of remains from North Korea. Currently, DPAA is working to confirm the country of origin of the turned over remains by using isotopes in the teeth compared with isotopes in the water of different countries when DNA matching is not possible. Mr. Webb also provided the Commission with a report of DPAA's activities and identifications throughout fiscal year 2018. He also provided the Commission with a list of the numbers who remain missing from WWII. The Commission was very interested in future operations and Mr. Webb provided an overview for the upcoming year.

After the end of the speakers' remarks the Commission Chairman directed the seven National Security Committees to conduct a non-binding courtesy review of the resolutions assigned to their Committees, which will subsequently be acted upon by the Convention Committees on August 26th. Then the National Security Commission Committee held a brief business meeting and no matters were discussed for consideration by the National Executive Committee.

The National Security Commission thanks National Commander Denise Rohan, our National Executive Liaison Committee and the National Executive Committee for their support throughout the year and we will continue to work diligently to provide The American Legion with timely information and a focused national security policy and a viable foreign policy.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, motion to receive and file the report of the National Security Commission. ...*Second*.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded to receive and file the report of the National Security Commission. Are there any questions? All those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried. Thank you, Mike.

Do we have any interim committee appointments?

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, may I address the national adjutant?

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: Yes.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Mr. Adjutant, do you certify that the list of interim appointments is a true and correct list?

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: No, sir, there is one correction. Anthony D. Jordan is from Maine, not Indiana. Other than that, I so certify.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Thank you, Mr. Adjutant. Commander, I move that list of interim appointments as corrected be approved without being read. ...*Second*.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: It's been moved and seconded to approve the confirmation of the interim committee appointments, with correction. Are there any questions? All those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed, nay. Carried. Thank you.

**Interim Appointments
Minneapolis, Minnesota
August 27, 2018**

- Donald G. Hawkins (Wisconsin), American Legion Baseball Committee, Member
[Replaces Derrick A. Ater (Idaho) - resigned]
- Meagen L. Sweet (Indiana), American Legion Child Welfare Foundation, Inc., Executive Secretary (New appointment)
- Anthony G. Jordan (Maine), American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation, Treasurer
(Replaces David P. Rook – resigned)
- Dr. Gordon Browning (Maryland), Aerospace Committee, Vice Chairman [Replaces Anthony E. Heath (Massachusetts)]
- Gerald Rhoads (Virginia), Conventional Armed Forces Committee, 2020 Member
(Replaces Thomas E. Saunders – resigned)
- Thomas E. Saunders (Virginia), National Guard and Reserve Forces Committee, Vice Chairman (Replaces John F. Kokernak, Jr. – resigned)
- Thomas E. Saunders (Virginia), National Guard and Reserve Forces Committee, 2018 Member (Replaces John F. Kokernak, Jr. – resigned)
- Ralph P. Bozella (Colorado), Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission Executive Committee, Chairman (New appointment)
- George E. Cushing (Arizona), Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission Executive Committee, Member (New appointment)
- K. Robert Lewis (Connecticut), Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission Executive Committee, Member (New appointment)
- Phil Youngblood (Georgia), Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission Executive Committee, Member (New appointment)
- Kelly L. Ackerman (Montana), Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission Executive Committee, Member (New appointment)
- Patrick R. Rourk (New York), Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission Executive Committee, Member (New appointment)
- Anthony R. DiFrancesco (Pennsylvania), Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission Executive Committee, Member (New appointment)
- Eric W. Measles (California), Veterans Education, Other Benefits & Homelessness Committee, Chairman [Replaces John B. Sampson (New York) - resigned]
- Geraldine Hince (Texas), Veterans Education, Other Benefits & Homelessness Committee, Vice Chairman [Replaces Eric W. Measles (California) - resigned]
- William J. Schmitt (Vermont), Employment & Veterans Preference Committee, 2018 Member (Replaces Keith O. Arlund – 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?

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 to approve the list of cancellation of posts and/or squadron charters without being read. Are there any questions? All those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried.

**Confirmation of Cancellation of Post and/or Squadron Charters
Minneapolis, Minnesota
August 27, 2018**

On May 10, 2018, at the Spring Meetings in Indianapolis, Indiana the National Executive Committee approved the cancellation of ninety-four (94) Posts. The research done on each Post prior to any recommendation made as an attempt to see whether these Posts could be revitalized is based on the following criteria:

Community Size

Veteran Population

Forty-Seven (47) Posts have been submitted and recommended for cancellation consideration during the 2018 National Convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

* See Merging Post Information Below *

| Department | POST # | Name | Location |
|-------------------|---------------|---|-----------------|
| ARIZONA | 0020 | Willcox | Willcox |
| | 0085 | Avra Valley Picture Rocks Marana | Avra Valley |
| ARKANSAS | 0094 | Belser-Abowitz | Arkansas City |
| FLORIDA | 0408 | Okeechobee Correctional Institution | Okeechobee |
| IOWA | 0187 | Oakland | Oakland |
| | 0359 | Kite | Casey |
| | 0623 | Ott-Stedman | Alpha |
| | 0646 | Joseph Thuman | Nodaway |
| | 0693 | Massena | Massena |
| | 0734 | Camanche | Camanche |
| MARYLAND | 0137* | Morrell Park <i>(to merge with Southwest Post 0332)</i> | Baltimore |
| | 0195* | August J. Raveio <i>(to merge with Southwest Post 0332)</i> | Rosemont |
| MICHIGAN | 0333* | Cadillac <i>(to merge with Grosse Pointe, Inc. Post 0303)</i> | Detroit |
| MISSOURI | 0126 | Arrowood-Beyers-Cummings, Inc. | Aurora |
| | 0200 | LaBelle | LaBelle |
| | 0911 | Satellite Service | Jefferson City |
| MONTANA | 0131* | Alberton <i>(to merge with Kristofor Stonesifer Post 0124)</i> | Alberton |

| | | | |
|-----------------------|-------|---|------------------|
| | 0139* | Troy <i>(to merge with Austin Reedy, Inc. Post 0097)</i> | Troy |
| NEW YORK | 0797 | Major James A. McKenna, Inc. | Long Island City |
| | 0783 | Maspeth | Maspeth |
| NORTH CAROLINA | 0152* | Johnson-Lineberger <i>(to merge with Rhyne-Cannon Post 0266)</i> | Mount Holly |
| | 0537 | Darrell Wilson, Inc. | Mooreville |
| NORTH DAKOTA | 0218 | Klauss-Becker | Lehr |
| | 0280* | Reiquam-Randall <i>(to merge with William G. Carroll Post 0026)</i> | Glenburn |
| | 0305* | Standing Rock Women's Veterans <i>(to merge with Richard Blue Earth Post 0142)</i> | Fort Yates |
| OHIO | 0148* | Keith Cretors <i>(to merge with Schnell-Westfall, Inc. Post 0184)</i> | St. Paris |
| | 0328* | J.C. Trigg Memorial <i>(to merge Fort McKinley Memorial Post 0613)</i> | Dayton |
| | 0337 | Earl Conner | Quaker City |
| | 0443* | Northwest <i>(to merge with Memorial Post 0614)</i> | Columbus |
| | 0559 | Buckeye Road | Cleveland |
| | 0666* | Community <i>(to merge with St. Clairsville Post 0159)</i> | Maynard |
| | 0691* | Pierpont <i>(to merge with Percy D. Hyatt Post 0226)</i> | Pierpont |
| | 0770* | Sgt. Donald R. Long <i>(to merge with Brooks-Mason Post 0157)</i> | Columbus |
| | 0805* | Springboro <i>(to merge with Ralph P. Snook Post 0186)</i> | Springboro |
| OKLAHOMA | 0006* | Conley-Goodbear <i>(to merge Bergner-Eaton Post 0091)</i> | Thomas |
| | 0216 | Eugene Greer | Oklahoma City |

| | | | |
|---------------------|-------|---|--------------|
| | 0224* | Kitchens-McDowell <i>(to merge with Mendenall-Mott Post 0144)</i> | Wetumka |
| PENNSYLVANIA | 0041 | Allegheny | Pittsburgh |
| | 0047* | George A. Amole <i>(to merge with BG Elmer S. Friedberg Post 0244)</i> | Pottstown |
| | 0064 | Clifford O. Mullin | Coatesville |
| | 0124* | John Yanascok <i>(to merge with Steever R. Day Post 0326)</i> | Lykens |
| | 0199 | Parsons | Wilkes-Barre |
| | 0729 | Homestead Gray's | Homestead |
| | 0783 | West Mifflin | West Mifflin |
| TENNESSEE | 0199* | Atomic, Inc. <i>(to merge with Clinton, Inc. Post 0172)</i> | Oak Ridge |
| | 0241 | White-Shannon-Watson | Saltillo |
| TEXAS | 0209* | Baker-Lively <i>(to merge with Gary Johnston Post 0198)</i> | Seymour |

**SAL Charters of The American Legion Presented to
the National Executive Committee for Cancellation
Minneapolis, Minnesota
August 27, 2018**

On May 10, 2018, at the Spring Meetings in Indianapolis, Indiana the National Executive Committee approved the cancellation of eighteen (18) Squadrons.

Forty-two (42) Squadrons have been submitted and recommended for cancellation consideration during the 2018 National Convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

* See Merging Squadron Information Below *

| <u>Department</u> | <u>Sqdn #</u> | <u>Name</u> | <u>Location</u> |
|-------------------|---------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| ILLINOIS | 0285 | Ralph M. Noble | Galesburg |
| | 0391 | Lombard | Lombard |
| | 0445 | Bradford | Bradford |
| | 0491 | McHenry | McHenry |
| | 0796 | Coal City | Coal City |
| | 1288 | Bolingbrook | Bolingbrook |
| | 1291 | South Suburban | Crete |
| IOWA | 0017 | Roy L. Chopek/Walter "Bud" Ott | Iowa City |
| | 0039 | Jennings-Bradshaw | Belle Plaine |
| | 0057 | George C. Luckey | Vinton |

| | | | |
|---------------------|-------|--|------------------|
| | 0068 | Russell E. Marshall | Corydon |
| | 0115 | Shaeffer | Storm Lake |
| | 0250 | Parkinson | Lenox |
| | 0421 | Wapsie | Central City |
| | 0562 | Cumming | Cumming |
| | 0632 | Dalleher | Melcher |
| | 0639 | Carl Jacobsen | Eldridge |
| | 0668 | Holtz-Geers | West Point |
| | | | |
| MARYLAND | 0137* | Morrell Park <i>(to merge with Southwest Sqdn 0332)</i> | Baltimore |
| | 0195* | August J. Raveio <i>(to merge with Southwest Sqdn 0332)</i> | Rosemont |
| | | | |
| NEW YORK | 0797 | Major James A. McKenna | Long Island City |
| | 0783 | Maspeth | Maspeth |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| OHIO | 0128 | Feeney-Bennett | Middleport |
| | 0229 | Glenford Dugan | Nelsonville |
| | 0240 | Troy-Webster | Lucky |
| | 0307 | Agnew-Shinnabarger | Pioneer |
| | 0328* | J.C. Trigg Memorial <i>(to merge with Fort McKinley Memorial Sqdn 0613)</i> | Dayton |
| | 0342 | Edgar A. Orr | Thornville |
| | 0396 | Burriss-Smith | Smithfield |
| | 0427 | Bond Hill-Roselawn | Cincinnati |
| | 0504 | George W. Carver | Youngstown |
| | 0544 | Wallace C. Anderson | Cedarville |
| | 0590 | Downey-Pogue-Scott | Ironton |
| | 0640 | Chesapeake Memorial | Chesapeake |
| | 0665 | Priddy-Walters | West Manchester |
| | 0699 | Elmer Dade Memorial | Leavittsburg |
| | | | |
| OKLAHOMA | 0216 | Eugene Greer | Oklahoma City |
| | | | |
| PENNSYLVANIA | 0041 | Allegheny | Pittsburgh |
| | 0047 | George A. Amole | Pottstown |
| | 0124* | John Yanascok <i>(to merge with Steever R. Day Post 0326)</i> | Lykens |
| | 0199 | Parsons | Wilkes-Barre |
| | | | |
| TEXAS | 0209* | Baker-Lively <i>(to merge with Gary Johnston Sqdn 0198)</i> | Seymour |

Technical Motion

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, I would like to make at this time a technical motion and move that the national adjutant be instructed to review the minutes of the NEC meeting and make any necessary corrections without changing the intent of the NEC meeting and to proceed and edit and distribute those minutes. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: You've heard the motion and the second. Are there any questions? All those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Carried. Mr. Adjutant, are there any announcements?

Announcements

Daniel S. Wheeler, Virginia, National Adjutant

Those of you who are expecting reimbursement checks, if you have not yet received them, George Buskirk and Shawn Long have checks that have not been distributed. Reimbursement checks not distributed during this meeting can be picked up in the Finance Office located on the lower level in Room L100J. That completes the announcements.

Closing Remarks

Denise H. Rohan, Wisconsin, National Commander

You got all that. All righty. Coming to the end. Again, I want to say thank you, thank you to all of you for your hospitality, your friendship, your mentoring and your support. To all the commission and committee chairmen, members of those committees and commissions, thank you also for all the hard work that you have done. All of that would not be possible without the amazing staff that we have at locations in Indianapolis and Washington, D.C. I would like to take a moment to say thank you to all of our staff. (*Applause*)

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: May I address the NEC?

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: Yes, you may address the NEC.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: This is for information purposes only, but I think it's necessary. There are certain departments that have not turned in their appointments yet to Debbie in the headquarters office. I know we've got until Friday. So I'm just giving you another shot, because we must have those lists of appointments and disappointments by then: Alabama; Iowa; Nevada; Ohio; Oklahoma; Philippines; Rhode Island; Utah; and Washington. Those are the ones that are missing. So please get them in.

And if Tom Bock and Paula Stephenson are here, see me after this meeting, I appreciate it. Thank you. Have a nice day.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: Thank you. Are there any other announcements or unfinished business that we need to go over? I just want to add the fact that I did grow up in Iowa. And there was a famous movie that was filmed there, and one of the lines from that movie was "If you build it, they will come."

We had a great family that was started 100 years ago. It was built on those four pillars. And they came. They came here to Minneapolis. We are here 100 years later. We built it, and they came. What is even more important is that all the information you gained here to make sure that you take it back to your departments and share it whenever and however possible, because that's also part of the building of our great American Legion Family.

Again, thank you for everything that you have done to get us to the point that we are right now. Thank you for the privilege of serving as your national commander. I will now call on Chaplain Robert Vick from Florida for a benediction.

Benediction**Robert A. Vick, Florida, National Chaplain**

Before I pray, I have something I want to say. Our commander has received accolades from senators, congressmen, state officials, American Legion people. Everyone who knows her loves her and respects her. But I think it's time that we determine what God has to say about her and how God has used her in the way He has and how He has blessed us by giving her to us.

I'm kind of an amateur historian. I like the history of our country. When I think of the history of our country, I think about trailblazers like the man who came to Washington, D.C., with the crazy idea that he wanted to buy the Alaska Territory from Russia for what amounted to about 1 cent per acre, and the naysayers came out of the woodwork. They all said: That's a useless piece of property; it's nothing but a frozen tundra, and the only thing there are a few Eskimos and polar bears; we don't need that. It's no benefit to this country. But he didn't back down. He was a trailblazer. He held out until we bought Alaska, and what a blessing it has been to our country. One of our greatest states, has more natural resources probably than the rest of the United States. And we bought it for a penny an acre because somebody, like this lady, didn't take no for an answer, didn't believe the naysayers when they said it couldn't be done.

Now, here stands a woman, the distaff of our sex, a lady, and her theme is "Family First." I'm really for that. My family is extremely important to me. And when I think about her motto as Family First, I think about the fact that we, as her family, look to her as our organization mother. She's a trailblazer. She broke the glass ceiling. She has done something that no one else will ever do.

We'll have future commanders that are females, but they won't be the first. She is the one and only who will ever fill the position she now holds as the first female to adequately and very effectively lead The American Legion.

I want to say to her, and to you, what God has to say about a virtuous woman. And because this is primarily addressed to a man in reference to the type of wife to look for, I'm going to change it for a moment and address it to her as being the mother of us all in her position. It's found in the book of Proverbs. I'm going to do something that the young people do with ease, and if I fall through on this, you'll understand I was born about 50 years too early to be effective with these confounding machines.

Who can find a virtuous commander? For her price is far above rubies. The heart of her family does safely trust in her so that they shall have no need of spoil. She will do them good and not evil all the days of her life. She seeketh wool and flax and works willingly with her hands. She is like the merchant ship; she bringeth her food from afar. She rises also while it is yet night and giveth meat to her household and a portion to her maidens.

She considereth a field and buyeth it with the fruit of her hands, and she plants a vineyard. She girds her loins with strength and strengthens her arms. She perceives that her merchandise is good, and her candle does not go out by night.

She lays her hands to the spindle and her hands hold the distaff. She stretches out her hand to the poor, yea she reacheth forth her hands to the needy. She's not afraid of the snow for her household for all her household are clothed in scarlet. And sometimes blue. And sometimes white. And sometimes gold. She maketh herself coverings of tapestry. Her clothing is silken purple. Her family is known in the gates where they sit among the elders of the land.

She maketh fine linen and sell it that she delivers girdles under the merchant. Strength and honor are her clothing. And she shall rejoice in time to come. She opened her mouth with wisdom, and in her tongue is the law of kindness. She looks well to the ways of her household and eateth not the bread of idleness. Her family rises up and call her blessed. And also they praise her. Many daughters have done virtually, but thou excellest them all.

Commander, as your national chaplain, thank you for permitting me to serve with you. It has been my honor. I salute you. I will say to you, my dear lady, I pray that you receive all the accolades that you have earned in this life and in the life to come. God bless you, my sister, my mother.

Heavenly Father, thank You very much for the opportunity to have known the people that I know in The American Legion. We all have friends who will last as long as we live and then on to eternity. We shall all know them because You've told us when we are there we will know as we are known, which means that these folks will recognize me and I will recognize them. Thank You for Your mercy. Thank You for loving us when we're not lovable. Forgive us our sins, because there are many. Strengthen us to do Your will. Bless our veterans. God bless The American Legion. And God bless Commander Rohan and her family. I pray this prayer in that name that's above all names. Amen and amen.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: With the colors of our nation in place, hand salute.

...The National Executive Committee stood and rendered a salute to the colors.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN: Two. I now declare this Pre-Convention NEC adjourned. Thank you.

...At 10:02 a.m., Monday, August 27, 2018, the Pre-National Executive Committee Meeting of The American Legion was adjourned.

PROCEEDINGS
of the
National Executive Committee
of
THE AMERICAN LEGION
POST-CONVENTION MEETING
Thursday, August 30, 2018

...At 1:00 p.m., Thursday, August 30, 2018, the Post-Convention Meeting of the National Executive Committee was called to order, National Commander Reistad presiding.

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: This meeting of the National Executive Committee will come to order. Ladies and gentlemen, please rise and join me in a salute to our colors by the numbers. Hand salute.

...The National Executive Committee stood and rendered a salute to the colors.

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: Two. For the invocation I call on Father Philip Salois of Massachusetts. Ladies and gentlemen, please uncover.

Invocation
Father Philip G. Salois, Massachusetts, National Chaplain

Let's bow our heads and ask for God's blessing. Heavenly Father, we gather here together for the Post-National Executive Committee Meeting. As we begin the ceremonies, we ask You to bless each and every one of us here. Most especially send Your blessings upon our new national officers, our national commander and our national vice commanders, and all those who will be appointed today. We ask You to bless The American Legion as we begin our second century of The American Legion. Bless our legacy and bless the future that we are moving towards. Let us also remember all of our men and women in uniform, especially those who are in places of great distances from us, places of great danger, watch over them and protect them. A moment of silence for our POW/MIAs. In Your holy name, oh, Lord, we pray. Amen.

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: Thank you, Father Salois. Please remain uncovered. I now call on National Adjutant Dan Wheeler.

POW/MIA Remembrance Ceremony
Daniel S. Wheeler, Virginia, National Adjutant

At this time we pause to remember those who are listed as prisoners of war or missing in action from wars in which we have been engaged. 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 POW/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.

**Pledge of Allegiance and
Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion**

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: Ladies and gentlemen, please remain standing and join me in reciting 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 REISTAD: Please be seated. I now call on the national adjutant to call roll.

Roll Call

National Officers

National Commander

Brett P. Reistad, Virginia

National Adjutant

Daniel S. Wheeler, Virginia

National Vice Commanders

Paul I. Spedaliere, Connecticut

James E. Wallace, Michigan

James E. Pisa, Alaska

John F. Milburn, Maryland

Steve Sweet, Mississippi

Past National Commanders

Clarence M. Bacon, Maryland (Excused)

John P. 'Jake' Comer, Massachusetts

Miles S. Epling, West Virginia (Excused)

Robert S. Turner, Georgia

Dominic D. DiFrancesco, Pennsylvania (Excused)

Bruce Thiesen, California

William M. Detweiler, Louisiana (Excused)

Daniel A. Ludwig, Minnesota

Joseph J. Frank, Missouri (Excused)

Anthony G. Jordan, Maine (Excused)

Butch L. Miller, Virginia

Hon. Alan G. Lance, Sr., Idaho (Excused)

Richard J. Santos, Maryland

Ronald F. Conley, Pennsylvania (Excused)

Hon. John A. Brieden, III, Texas

Thomas L. Bock, Colorado

Paul A. Morin, Massachusetts (Excused)

Martin F. Conatser, Illinois

Robert W. Spanogle, Michigan (Excused)

David K. Rehbein, Iowa

Clarence E. Hill, Florida

Jimmie L. Foster, Alaska

Fang A. Wong, New York (Excused)

James E. Koutz, Indiana

Daniel M. Dellinger, Virginia

Michael D. Helm, Nebraska

Harold D. Barnett, Georgia

Charles E. Schmidt, Oregon

Denise H. Rohan, Wisconsin

National Executive Committeemen

| Department | Committeeman | Alternate |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Alabama | Willis Frazier | |
| Alaska | Stephen L. Huisman | |
| Arizona | Judith S. Beischel | |
| Arkansas | Mary V. Erdman | |
| California | Lawrence Van Kuran | |
| Colorado | Thomas J. Florez | |
| Connecticut | D. Joseph Jackson | |
| Delaware | Robert L. Michael | |
| D.C. | George E. Roundtree (Excused) | Carlton T. Durham (Excused) |
| Florida | Dennis R. Boland | |
| France | James M. Settle | |
| Georgia | Charles F. Wessinger | |
| Hawaii | David R. Carlson (Excused) | Marvin R. Siegfried (Excused) |
| Idaho | Robert L. Skinner | |
| Illinois | Bernard A. Stegmuller | |
| Indiana | Jerry L. Jordon | |
| Iowa | Jerry D. Sebben | |
| Kansas | David O. Warnken | |
| Kentucky | Joseph M. Flynn | |
| Louisiana | Charles D. Aucoin | |
| Maine | | Randall G. Kluj (Excused) |
| Maryland | Lewis E. Trott, Jr. | |
| Massachusetts | Louis E. Bault, 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 | Robert M. Klostermeier | |
| 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) | Michael D. Strauss |
| South Dakota | James Huls | |
| Tennessee | Don E. Mathis (Excused) | Earl C. Watson (Excused) |
| Texas | C. W. Sparks, Jr. | |

| Department | Committeeman | Alternate |
|-------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Utah | Terry D. Schow | |
| Vermont | Marlys A. Lemnah | |
| Virginia | Michael F. Mitrione | |
| Washington | Ken C. Lee | |
| West Virginia | William W. Kile | |
| Wisconsin | Robert L. Shappell | |
| Wyoming | Terry E. Miller | |

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: Thank you. I now call on Past National Commander John P. 'Jake' Comer to the floor podium for a special order of business.

Special Order of Business
Past National Commander John P. 'Jake' Comer

Thank you, commander. I have a very important duty to perform, as I try to do each year. Would Denise Rohan please come forward. My responsibility is to place on her head the cap of past national commander.

Denise, we are very honored and privileged as a group to welcome you to the club. You've done an outstanding job on behalf of every Legionnaire in this nation, and it gives me great pleasure to present this. (*Applause*)

Minutes of the Previous National Executive Committee Meeting

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: Thank you, Past National Commander Comer. I now call on the national adjutant for the reading of the minutes of the preceding meeting.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, I move that the minutes be approved without being read and printed in digest form and distributed when ready.*Second*.

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: I have a motion and a second. Is there any discussion? All in favor, so indicate by the usual sign. All opposed? The motion is carried. The minutes of the preceding meeting are approved without being read.

Disposition of Letters or Communications

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: I now call on the national adjutant for disposition of letters or communications.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: Mr. Commander, there are no letters or communications

Resolutions, Motions and Petitions

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: I now call on the chairman of the NEC Resolutions Subcommittee for receipt of resolutions, motions and petitions.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, we have no resolutions, motions or petitions at this time.

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: I now call on the national adjutant for reading of recommended appointments.

Appointments to National Offices, Commissions, Committees or Subcommittees

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: Mr. Commander, the following are the recommended appointments: National Adjutant: Daniel S. Wheeler, Virginia; National Judge Advocate: Kevin J. Bartlett, Michigan; National Treasurer: George Buskirk, Indiana; Chaplain: Philip Salois, Massachusetts; Historian: Frederick S. Doten, Nevada; Sergeant-at-Arms: Willie D. Ransom, Virginia.

Resolutions Subcommittee: Chairman: David O. Warnken, Kansas; Vice Chairman: William W. Kile, West Virginia; Members: Thomas J. Florez, Colorado; Dennis R. Boland, Florida; Marlin A. Ronning, Minnesota; Robert D. Liebenow, Oregon; Dennis C. Haas, Pennsylvania.

Subcommittee on Committees: Chairman: Charles D. Aucoin, Louisiana; Vice Chairman: D. Joseph Jackson, Connecticut; Members: Mary V. Erdman, Arkansas; James Huls, South Dakota; Terry D. Schow, Utah; Michael F. Mitrone, Virginia.

The American Legion Department Advisory Committee: Chairman: William M. Detweiler, Louisiana; Vice Chairman: David O. Warnken, Kansas; Members: Thomas L. Bock, Colorado; Harold D. Barnett, Georgia; Ronald F. Conley, Pennsylvania.

Advisory Committee to the National Commander: Chairman: Paul A. Morin, Massachusetts; Vice Chairman: Denise H. Rohan, Wisconsin; Members: Thomas L. Bock, Colorado; David K. Rehbein, Iowa; William M. Detweiler, Louisiana; John P. 'Jake' Comer, Massachusetts; Paul A. Morin, Massachusetts; Daniel A. Ludwig, Minnesota; Robert L. Morrill, New York; Gaither M. Keener, Jr., North Carolina; Charles E. Schmidt, Oregon; Ronald F. Conley, Pennsylvania; Daniel M. Dellinger, Virginia.

Convention Commission: Ex-officio member: Jeffrey L. Olson, Minnesota.

Overseas Grave Decoration Trust: Chairman: Brett P. Reistad, Virginia; Vice Chairman: Denise H. Rohan, Wisconsin; Members: Charles E. Schmidt, Oregon; Denise H. Rohan, Wisconsin; Brett P. Reistad, Virginia.

100th Anniversary Observance Committee: Ex-officio member: Frederick S. Doten, Nevada. Mr. Commander, that completes the recommended appointments.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, I move to approve these appointments. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: I have a motion and second. Is there any discussion? All in favor so, indicate by the usual sign. All opposed? Motion is carried and the recommended appointments are approved.

As national commander, I recommend the appointment of Willie D. Ransom of Virginia as National Sergeant-At-Arms. Is there a motion?

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Mr. Commander, I so move that that appointment be approved. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: I have a motion and a second. Is there any discussion? All in favor, so indicate by the usual sign. All opposed. The motion is carried and the recommendations are approved.

...*National Vice Commander Sweet assumed the Chair.*

**Installation of Officers
Brett P. Reistad, Virginia, National Commander**

At this time I call forth three distinguished Legionnaires for validation of their appointment: Willie D. Ransom of Virginia; Frederick S. Doten of Nevada; and Father Phillip G. Salois of Massachusetts. Would you three please come forward?

Each of you will assist the National Executive Committee and others in carrying out your objectives over the next 12 months. You're entrusted with important duties and each of you shall perform essential functions throughout the year to preserve the integrity of The

American Legion. As you stand before this executive body, I will remind each of you of your duties and obligations.

First, I want to present Father Philip G. Salois of Massachusetts, who was selected to serve as national chaplain. Chaplain Salois, to you is given a spiritual leadership of this great veterans organization. You will, I know, lend dignity and respect to your office. You should remain in close confidence with the commander and the other national officers of The American Legion. You should be ready upon occasion to take your part in performing such divine and nonsectarian services as may be necessary adhering to such ceremonial rituals as may be recommended by the National Headquarters from time to time. Into your keeping we place the spirit of comradeship of this organization. May harmony and unity prevail.

Next is Frederick S. Doten of Nevada, who was appointed to the office of national historian. Mr. Doten, I remind you that your office is an important one. To you is given the responsibility of preserving and compiling the records of this organization. The future can only be judged by the past. Your duties include collecting all records and data of value and interest for the National Headquarters of The American Legion, and you shall compile during your term of office a complete history of the year's activities. Further, you shall assist department and post historians so as to coordinate and unify the work of these officials. Be mindful that the lamp of recorded experience may do much in guiding the footsteps of those who follow. Ever remember that without the recorded history of this organization, Legionnaires who serve after we are gone will not know of our organization's great accomplishments and policies.

The final office is that of national sergeant-at-arms. I want to introduce Willie D. Ransom of Virginia who will serve in that capacity over the next year. Mr. Ransom, you are the sentinel or tiler, the outer guard of this organization. You will guard especially against the loss of one of The American Legion's greater possessions: Our deep and abiding spirit of comradeship. You will learn the identity of and introduce to the commander all visiting comrades and guests. You're responsible that no one shall remain a stranger in our midst. Be ready at all times to assist your commander. Into your hands is given charge of the stand of colors which you will properly display at all national meetings and on ceremonial occasions.

Now, after hearing these obligations, will all of you raise your right hands and repeat after me, giving your names: I do solemnly pledge myself to perform faithfully and impartially the duties of the office of The American Legion I am about to assume. And I further pledge to uphold the principles outlined in the National Constitution and preamble of The American Legion in service to our veterans, their families, their communities, state and nation. Staff directors, please adorn newly appointed officers with their new caps. Please lower your hands. *(Applause)*

Congratulations, my fellow Legionnaires. I know each of you will justify the trust reposed in each of your offices. I look forward to working and sharing with you many experiences over the next 12 months as each of us continue to serve America's veterans. You may be seated at this point. Thank you.

To the National Executive Committee, I commend you on the selections you approved. You have chosen them to guide the destiny of this organization, and it's our duty to aid and assist them in every way. This is the legacy we have inherited, and we will not fail in this mission to keep The American Legion an organization of free men and women veterans that has been faithful to its principles and ideals for more than 90 years.

...National Commander Reistad resumed the Chair.

Introduction of National Commander's Aide

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: Ladies and gentlemen, I would like you to meet the man who will be my aide, Kenneth Knight. Ken, please stand and be recognized. *(Applause)*

Ratification of Legislative Portfolio

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: I now call on the chairman of the Subcommittee on Resolutions for the ratification of the legislative portfolio.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Mr. Commander, members of the NEC, pursuant to Rule 8B of the National Executive Committee, I move that the 336 resolutions with legislative intent adopted by the 100th National Convention be ratified for distribution as part of the legislative program through the 116th Congress. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: I have a motion and a second. Is there any discussion? All in favor, so indicate by the usual sign. All opposed. Motion carried, and the recommendations are approved.

**RESOLUTIONS 100TH NATIONAL CONVENTION
AUGUST 28-30, 2018**

Pursuant to Rule 8-b of the National Executive Committee, the following 336 resolutions, with legislative intent adopted at the 100th National Convention. This list of resolutions will constitute part of The American Legion’s legislative program through the 116th Congress.

**The Following Resolutions Were Adopted At
The 100th National Convention In Minneapolis, Minnesota
August 28-30, 2018**

AMERICANISM

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| Res. No. | 111 | English Language Be Declared as the Official United States Language |
| Res. No. | 112 | Funding for Drug Trafficking Prevention Programs |
| Res. No. | 113 | Locate Missing Children and Prevent Child Victimization |
| Res. No. | 114 | Support for the U.S. Department of Justice’s Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention |

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

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| Res. No. | 26 | Award Congressional Gold Medal to the Crew of the USS Indianapolis |
| Res. No. | 50 | Increase Income Tax Deduction for Volunteer Mileage |
| Res. No. | 86 | Award Congressional Gold Medal to the 23 rd Headquarters Special Troops and the 3133 rd Signal Service Company |
| Res. No. | 108 | Support for Legislation to Introduce Atomic Veterans Service Medal |
| Res. No. | 109 | Support for Review of Minority Awards of Medal Honor WWI |
| Res. No. | 110 | Support for Congressional Gold Medal for Signal Corps Female Telephone Operators of WWI |

NATIONAL SECURITY

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| Res. No. | 5 | Publicize and Promote the Armed Services Retirement Homes |
| Res. No. | 34 | Support for Department of Defense Stabilization activities |
| Res. No. | 35 | National Defense Budget |
| Res. No. | 37 | Taiwan Defense Arms Sales |
| Res. No. | 38 | Taiwan Straights Dialogue |
| Res. No. | 98 | Continuation of Military Death Benefits During Government Shutdown |
| Res. No. | 117 | Japan Arms Sales |
| Res. No. | 118 | Sustaining United States Commitments in the Indo-Pacific |

VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION

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| Res. No. | 11 | Agent Orange and kidney Disease |
| Res. No. | 18 | Amend Set Dates of Agent Orange Illness |
| Res. No. | 48 | Dependency and Indemnity Compensation for Surviving Spouses |
| Res. No. | 49 | Exempt Certain Income from VA Pension Rate Determination |
| Res. No. | 53 | Means Test for married Veterans |
| Res. No. | 58 | Compensation for Veterans Requiring Hearing Aids for Service Connected Hearing Loss |
| Res. No. | 59 | Automatic Waiver for Over-Payment of \$300 or Less |
| Res. No. | 64 | Department of Veterans Affairs Dental Care for Rating of 50% or More |
| Res. No. | 73 | Allow Beneficiaries to Retain \$900 of their Benefits while in Medicaid-Covered Nursing Homes |
| Res. No. | 74 | Amend the Eligibility Requirements and Extend the Eligibility Time Period for Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance |
| Res. No. | 75 | Increase Maximum Coverage under the Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance |
| Res. No. | 79 | Improve Special Monthly Compensation (K) Award |
| Res. No. | 85 | Designate Prisoner of War, Purple heart and Medal of Honor Recipients as Priority Group I Veterans |
| Res. No. | 93 | Agent Orange |
| Res. No. | 115 | Outdoor and Adaptive Sports Programs for Veterans |

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION

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| Res. No. | 100 | Accountability of the Department of Defense's Transition Assistance Program (TAP) |
| Res. No. | 101 | Support for Continuation of Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program |
| Res. No. | 102 | Expansion of the Department of Defense's Transition Assistance Program(TAP) to include Ancillary Programs and Services |
| Res. No. | 103 | Support and Expand Department of Defense Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program |
| Res. No. | 104 | GI Bill Fairness for Activated National Guard Servicemembers |
| Res. No. | 105 | Support and Expand Warrior Transition Advancement Course (WARTAC) |

**The Following Resolutions Were Adopted In The Spring Meetings Of
The National Executive Committee
May 9-10, 2018**

NATIONAL SECURITY

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| Res. No. | 9 | Military Commissaries |
| Res. No. | 10 | Expedited Citizenship Applications for Deported Veterans |

VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION

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| 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 |

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION

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| 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. | 14 | Oppose the Cessation of The Department of Defense Hiring Heroes Program |

**The Following Resolutions Were Adopted At The Fall Meetings Of
The National Executive Committee
October 11-12, 2017**

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

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| Res. No. | 9 | Transfer Custodianship of Pershing Hall Building and Artifacts to the American Battle Monuments Commission |
| Res. No. | 11 | National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass for Honorably Discharged Veterans |

VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION

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| Res. No. | 12 | Department of Veterans Affairs Drug Pricing Policy |
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VETERANS EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION

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| 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 In Reno, Nevada
August 22-24, 2017**

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

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| Res. No. | 88 | National Veterans Memorial and Museum |
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NATIONAL SECURITY

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| Res. No. | 17 | Counter Transnational Organized Crime |
| Res. No. | 19 | Homeland Security and the Opioid Epidemic |
| Res. No. | 20 | National Cybersecurity Strategy |
| Res. No. | 22 | POW/MIA Policies |

VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION

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| 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. | 16 | Department of Veterans Affairs Automobile Allowance Program |
| 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

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| 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**

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

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| Res. No. | 16 | National Global War On Terrorism Memorial |
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VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION

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| 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

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| Res. No. | 21 | Support State and National Funding for Troops to Teachers Program |
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**The Following Resolutions Were Adopted At The Fall Meetings Of
The National Executive Committee
October 12-13, 2016**

AMERICANISM

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| Res. No. | 19 | Flag Code Amendment |
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INTERNAL AFFAIRS

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| Res. No. | 9 | Award Congressional Gold Medal to the Chinese American Veterans of World War II |
| Res. No. | 11 | Support and Defend Veteran and Military Memorials |

VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION

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| 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

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| Res. No. | 20 | Oppose Efforts to Downgrade Low-Level Wage Positions within the Department of Veterans Affairs |
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**The Following Resolutions Were Adopted At
The 98th National Convention In Cincinnati, Ohio
August 30-September 1, 2016**

AMERICANISM

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| 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. | 281 | Prevention of Child Sexual Exploitation |

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| 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. | 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. | 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. | 299 | Pledge of Allegiance |
| Res. No. | 300 | Star Spangled Banner |
| Res. No. | 301 | Eliminate Damages and Attorney Fees in Establishment Clause Lawsuits |
| Res. No. | 302 | Oppose Flag Code Changes for Hoisting, Lowering or Passing of The Flag, The National Anthem, and The Pledge of Allegiance |
| Res. No. | 303 | Constitutional Amendment to Protect The Flag of The United States |

NATIONAL SECURITY

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| Res. No. | 16 | Second Amendment |
| Res. No. | 17 | Position on the Operational Reserve |
| Res. No. | 20 | Fully Enforce Immigration Laws |
| Res. No. | 22 | Guard and Reserve Space-A Travel |
| Res. No. | 23 | Support for the Department of Homeland Security and Coast Guard |
| Res. No. | 24 | Illegal Immigration Policy |
| Res. No. | 25 | Support for the Non-Federal Roles of the National Guard |
| Res. No. | 28 | Reserves and National Guard Retirement Benefit Fairness |
| Res. No. | 29 | Commercial Shipbuilding for Defense |
| Res. No. | 32 | Support Domestic Energy Production |
| Res. No. | 33 | Rare Earth Elements |
| Res. No. | 45 | Policy on the Arctic Region |
| Res. No. | 85 | Support for Military Quality of Life Standards |
| Res. No. | 90 | South China Sea Island Building |
| Res. No. | 91 | Cybersecurity and Identity Theft |
| Res. No. | 93 | Codify Burial Eligibility for Arlington National Cemetery |
| Res. No. | 94 | Earned Military Benefits |
| Res. No. | 96 | Support Full Funding and Resourcing for the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps |
| Res. No. | 98 | Support for the Global War on Terrorism |
| Res. No. | 100 | Military Commissaries |
| Res. No. | 102 | Oppose Tricare Fee Increases |
| Res. No. | 105 | Reference Veterans Service Organizations at Discharge |
| Res. No. | 107 | Support Armed Services Retirement Homes |

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| Res. No. | 109 | Support for Pain Management Research, Treatments and Therapies at DOD, VA and NIH |
| Res. No. | 173 | Secure National Borders Against Illegal Drugs |
| Res. No. | 174 | Security of Overseas Embassies |
| Res. No. | 176 | Authorize and Fund Tricare for Reserve Components and Dependents |
| Res. No. | 200 | Extended Care Health Option (ECHO) |
| Res. No. | 201 | Enhanced Funding for USAID |
| Res. No. | 202 | Military Retiree Mail at Overseas Embassies |
| Res. No. | 204 | Policy on Latin and Central America |
| Res. No. | 205 | Foreign Policy Objectives |
| Res. No. | 206 | Middle East/Gulf States Foreign Policies |
| Res. No. | 207 | Policy on the United Nations |
| Res. No. | 208 | Prohibit Foreign Investments in U.S. Defense Industry |
| Res. No. | 209 | Space-A Travel for Unemployed and Disabled Veterans and Dependents |
| Res. No. | 210 | Support for the American Battle Monuments Commission |
| Res. No. | 211 | Securing Pakistan's Nuclear Arsenal |
| Res. No. | 213 | Support for Foreign Exchange Education Program |
| Res. No. | 214 | Global Trade Policies |
| Res. No. | 216 | Support for the United States Air Force |
| Res. No. | 218 | Support for the Selective Service Registration Program |
| Res. No. | 219 | Support Full Funding for the Department of the Army Budget |
| Res. No. | 222 | Policy on Africa |
| Res. No. | 223 | Policy on Cuba |
| Res. No. | 224 | Support for Concurrent Receipt of Military Retirement Pay and VA Disability |
| Res. No. | 225 | Fully Fund NASA |

VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION

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| Res. No. | 1 | Department of Veterans Quadrennial Plan for Budget |
| Res. No. | 2 | Reinstate Enrollment of Priority Group 8g Veterans into The Department of Veterans Affairs' Patient Enrollment System |
| Res. No. | 3 | Department of Veterans Affairs Accountability |
| Res. No. | 6 | Department of Veterans Affairs Construction Programs |
| Res. No. | 8 | Department of Veterans Affairs Preservation of National Historic Properties |
| Res. No. | 11 | Medical Marijuana Research |
| Res. No. | 35 | Agent Orange |
| Res. No. | 37 | Improvements to Department of Veterans Affairs Women Veterans Programs |
| 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 |
| Res. No. | 41 | State Veterans Home Funding for Construction Grants |
| Res. No. | 42 | Oppose any Reductions to the Department of Veterans Affairs' Budget due to Sequestration |
| Res. No. | 43 | Department of Veterans Affairs Child Care Program |
| Res. No. | 44 | Department of Veterans Affairs Rural Healthcare Program |
| Res. No. | 51 | WWII Veterans Hospital and Medical Entitlements |

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| Res. No. | 52 | Department of Veterans Affairs Means Test |
| Res. No. | 53 | Veterans Discounts on Federally Funded Public Transportation |
| Res. No. | 54 | Designate Waldenstrom's Macroglobulinemia as a Presumptive Condition for Veterans who Served in Combat Theaters |
| Res. No. | 55 | Radiation Exposure |
| Res. No. | 57 | Prevent Exploitation of Veterans and Family Members applying for benefits, to include Aid and Attendance |
| Res. No. | 59 | Stopping Non-Attorney Representatives from Charging Fees to provide Appellate Service to Veterans |
| Res. No. | 62 | Veterans Transportation System and Benefits Travel |
| Res. No. | 63 | Department of Veterans Affairs Choice Program |
| Res. No. | 64 | Department of Veterans Affairs Beneficiary Travel Program |
| Res. No. | 83 | Virtual Lifetime Electronic Record |
| Res. No. | 112 | All Veterans Receive "Wartime" Benefits for active Military Service between February 28, 1961 and August 5, 1964 |
| Res. No. | 114 | Department of Veterans Affairs Provider Agreements with Non-VA Providers |
| Res. No. | 115 | Department of Veterans Affairs Recruitment and Retention |
| Res. No. | 117 | Disability and Death Pension Program |
| Res. No. | 118 | Environmental Exposures |
| Res. No. | 119 | Exempt Purple Heart and Medal of Honor Recipients from VA Prescription Co-Payment |
| Res. No. | 120 | Extend Department of Veterans Affairs Mortgage Protection Life Insurance to Service-Connected Veterans who are Permanently and Totally Disabled |
| Res. No. | 121 | Extend the Presumptive Period for Service Connection for Gulf War Veterans with Undiagnosed Illnesses |
| Res. No. | 122 | Gulf War Illnesses |
| Res. No. | 123 | Increase the Transparency of the Veterans Benefits Administration's Claim Processing |
| 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 |
| Res. No. | 127 | Prostate Cancer Research and Treatment |
| Res. No. | 128 | Protection of Religious Rights and Ceremonies at National Cemetery Administration National and State Cemeteries |
| Res. No. | 129 | Provide the Department of Veterans Affairs the Ability to Purchase Medications Located Outside the United States |
| Res. No. | 130 | Radiation Exposure |
| Res. No. | 131 | Recognize Operations in Lebanon (1958, Grenada (1983), and Panama (1989-1990) as Periods of War for Department of Veterans Affairs Pension Purposes |
| Res. No. | 132 | Request Congress Provide the Department of Veterans Affairs Adequate Funding for Medical and Prosthetic Research |
| Res. No. | 134 | Service Dogs for Injured Service Personnel and Veterans with Mental Health Conditions |
| Res. No. | 136 | Strategic Capital Investment Planning Program |
| Res. No. | 137 | Support Legislation to Place Mariner Medal Recipients in Priority Group 3 for the Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care |

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| Res. No. | 138 | Support Medicare Reimbursement for the Department of Veterans Affairs |
| Res. No. | 139 | Support Presumption of Service Connection for Hepatitis C |
| Res. No. | 141 | Department of Veterans Affairs Enhanced-Use Leasing |
| Res. No. | 142 | Department of Veterans Affairs Mental Health Services |
| Res. No. | 143 | Department of Veterans Affairs Nursing Home Capacity |
| Res. No. | 145 | Veteran Treatment Courts |
| Res. No. | 146 | Veterans Receive Same Level of Benefits |
| Res. No. | 148 | Oppose Legislation Authorizing Legion-Accredited Representatives to Claims Directly on behalf of the Department of Veterans Affairs |
| Res. No. | 160 | Complementary and Alternative Medicine |
| Res. No. | 161 | Agent Orange Presumption for Service in Southeast Asia since 1975 |
| Res. No. | 162 | In Vitro Fertilization |
| Res. No. | 163 | Legislation to provide Reporting, Tracking, and Action Dealing with Sexual Assaults at Department of Veterans Affairs Facilities |
| Res. No. | 165 | Traumatic Brain Injury and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Programs |
| Res. No. | 166 | Department of Veterans Affairs Involvement in the Department of Homeland Security |
| Res. No. | 178 | Assured Funding for VA Medical Care |
| Res. No. | 179 | Extend the Filing Period of An Appeal Notice to the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims |
| Res. No. | 180 | Designate Hypertension as a Presumptive Condition for Veterans Exposed to Agent Orange |
| Res. No. | 181 | National Cemetery Administration |
| Res. No. | 182 | Non—Department of Veterans Affairs Emergency Care |
| Res. No. | 183 | Presumptive Conditions for Former Prisoners of War |
| Res. No. | 185 | State Veteran Home Per Diem Reimbursement |
| Res. No. | 186 | Department of Veterans Affairs Dental Care |
| Res. No. | 187 | Department of Veterans Affairs Disability Compensation |
| Res. No. | 188 | Department of Veterans Affairs' Role in National Emergency Preparedness |
| Res. No. | 194 | Department of Veterans Affairs Veteran Integrated Service Networks |
| Res. No. | 230 | Policy for those Serving November 4, 1979 through January 20, 1981 to be Considered Wartime Veterans |
| Res. No. | 236 | Department of Veterans Affairs to provide Interim Benefits for Pending Claims over 90 days |
| Res. No. | 238 | Suicide Prevention for American Veterans Act |
| Res. No. | 243 | Compensation for Veterans Requiring Hearing Aids for Service Connected Hearing Loss |
| Res. No. | 244 | Exempt Purple Heart and Medal of Honor Recipients from VA Prescription Co-Payment |
| Res. No. | 245 | Extend Eligibility for National Cemetery Administration Medallion |
| Res. No. | 246 | Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans |
| Res. No. | 251 | Grant a 10% Rating for Veterans who must Take Daily Medication for Hypertension |

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| Res. No. | 252 | Support Legislation to Pay Interest on Claims Granted by the Board of Veterans' Appeals |
| Res. No. | 253 | Eliminate the benefit Payment Loophole for certain Incarcerated Veterans |
| Res. No. | 255 | Reducing Eligibility for Dependency Indemnity Compensation (DIC) Payment for 100% Disabled Veterans from 10 Years to 5 Years |
| 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. | 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. | 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 |
| Res. No. | 364 | Department of Veterans Affairs to Develop Outreach and Peer to Peer Programs for Rehabilitation |
| Res. No. | 365 | Fit to Serve Initiative |
| Res. No. | 366 | Honoring those Who have Earned the Medal of Honor |
| Res. No. | 367 | Include Korean War Veterans in Priority Group 6 for Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care |
| Res. No. | 368 | Increase the Transparency of Asbestos Claims |
| Res. No. | 370 | Licensed Professional Mental Health Counselors and Marriage Family Therapists |
| Res. No. | 372 | Oppose Closing or Privatization of Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care System |
| Res. No. | 373 | Oppose Lump Sum Payments for Department of Veterans Affairs Disability Compensation |
| 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 |
| Res. No. | 378 | United States Census to include Veterans Information |
| Res. No. | 379 | Veteran Caretaker Stipend |
| Res. No. | 380 | Exempt Funds Related to Interment Services at Cemeteries from any Future Sequestration |

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION

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| Res. No. | 58 | Support Legislation that Prohibits Discrimination against Veterans in Federal Contracts |
| 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 |

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| 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 |
| Res. No. | 81 | Transition Assistance Program Employment Workshops for National Guard and Reserve Members |
| Res. No. | 149 | Support “Buy American” Policy at the Department of Veterans Affairs to Create Jobs and Opportunities for Veterans |
| Res. No. | 150 | Expanding Post 9/11 GI Bill for Entrepreneurship |
| Res. No. | 151 | Status of Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Business after the Death of the Veteran Owner |
| Res. No. | 152 | Affirm Support for Emerging-Internet-Based and Peer-Financed Alternative Capital Options for Veteran-Owned Small businesses |
| Res. No. | 153 | Support Effort of the Small Business Administration’s (SBA) Office of Veterans Business Development |
| Res. No. | 154 | Support Reasonable Set-Aside of Federal Procurements and Contracts for Businesses Owned and Operated by Veterans |
| Res. No. | 155 | Improve Transition Assistance Program |
| Res. No. | 156 | Veterans Entrepreneur Training Program |
| Res. No. | 170 | Oppose the Department of Labor’s Restructuring of Disabled Veterans’ Outreach Program Specialist and Local Veterans Employment Representative Roles |
| Res. No. | 254 | Raise on VA Home Loans for Two Legally Married Eligible Veterans |
| Res. No. | 269 | Surviving Spouse Mortgage Eligibility |
| Res. No. | 274 | Support Employment Services for Spouses of Servicemembers Killed in the Line of Duty |

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| Res. No. | 304 | Support Accountability for Institutions of Higher Learning |
| Res. No. | 305 | Support the Development of Veterans On-The-Job Training Opportunities |
| Res. No. | 306 | Allow Military Retirees to apply for Position in Federal Law Enforcement after Age 37 |
| Res. No. | 307 | Support Legislation to Amend Title 38 United States Code, to Prohibit Discrimination and Acts of Reprisal by Employers against Veterans that Seek Treatment for Their Service-Connected Disabilities |
| Res. No. | 308 | Amending the Eligibility for the Transfer of The Post-9/11 GI Bill Educational Benefits |
| Res. No. | 309 | Supporting the U.S. Economy and increase U.S. Energy Security through a Canadian-American Pipeline |
| Res. No. | 311 | Federal and State Incentive for Employers to use Veterans' Preference |
| Res. No. | 313 | Support Elimination Funding Fees for Government Guaranteed Loans |
| Res. No. | 314 | Support Elimination of The VA Home Loan Funding Fee |
| Res. No. | 315 | Support Employment and Reemployment Rights of National Guard and Reservist Returning from Deployment |
| Res. No. | 316 | Support Employment of Veterans in the Public and Private Workforce |
| Res. No. | 317 | Enforcing Veterans' Preference Hiring Practices in Federal Civil Service |
| Res. No. | 318 | Ensuring the Quality of Servicemember and Veteran Student's Education at Institutions of Higher Education |
| Res. No. | 319 | Expanding Veterans Employment and Homeless Services within The Department of Veterans Affairs |
| Res. No. | 320 | Support for Expansion of Oil Refineries |
| Res. No. | 321 | Support Extended Time for Mortgage Payments for Servicemembers |
| Res. No. | 322 | Support Joint Services Transcript Evaluation of Military Training and Experience of Veterans, Active –Duty, Reserve and National Guard Personnel |
| Res. No. | 324 | Support Funding for Homeless Veterans |
| Res. No. | 325 | Support Funding and Changes to VA's Grant and Per Diem Program |
| Res. No. | 326 | Support Funding for Additional Housing for Homeless Veterans with Families |
| Res. No. | 327 | Support further Assessment and Evaluation of Institutions of Higher Learning to Enable Veterans to make Informed Education Choices |
| Res. No. | 328 | GI Bill Medical Transferability Rights |
| Res. No. | 329 | Support Home Loan Guaranty Program |
| Res. No. | 330 | Homeless Veterans Assistance |
| Res. No. | 331 | Support Housing Preference for Low-Income Veterans in The Department of Housing and Urban Development |
| Res. No. | 332 | Support Funding for The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and Veterans Affairs (VA) Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) Homeless Program |

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| Res. No. | 333 | Support Increase in Reporting Fees for Educational Institutions |
| Res. No. | 334 | Support Legislation to Increase Telework (Telecommuting) Opportunities for Service-Disabled Veterans and Military Spouses |
| Res. No. | 335 | Support Major Enhancements for The Montgomery GI Bill |
| Res. No. | 336 | Support Legislation that would Change The 12-Year Delimiting Date for Eligibility to Chapter 31 Benefits (VA's Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Program) |
| Res. No. | 338 | Support Licensure and Certification of Servicemembers, Veterans and Spouses |
| Res. No. | 339 | Support the Rollover of Ira Account Penalty of Tax Liability of a Permanent and Total 100 Percent Service-Disabled Veteran with Individual Unemployability |
| Res. No. | 340 | Support Permanent Authorization for the Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) Program |
| 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. | 346 | Support an Investigation of Hiring Practices in the Federal Government |
| Res. No. | 347 | Veterans Education Debt Forgiveness |
| Res. No. | 348 | Support Legislation that Bolsters the Hiring of Veterans in the Public and Private Sectors |
| Res. No. | 349 | Support Legislation to improve the Post-9/11 GI Bill |
| Res. No. | 351 | Support Tax Credit for certain Employers |
| Res. No. | 352 | Transitional Housing Allotments for returning Combat Veterans |
| Res. No. | 353 | Support a Veteran-Centric Website for Employment |
| Res. No. | 354 | Work Opportunity Tax Credit Program |
| Res. No. | 355 | Veterans Employment Initiative |
| Res. No. | 356 | Veterans Home Loans |
| Res. No. | 357 | Support Veterans Housing Repair and Modification for Pilot Program |
| Res. No. | 358 | Support Veterans' Preference in Public Employment |

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: I now call on the national judge advocate to read the dates of meetings that occur over the next year.

Dates of Future Meetings

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE BARTLETT: These have previously been confirmed and are read for informational purposes.

Fall Meetings

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|---|---------------------|
| Training for Newer Department Adjutants | October 13-14, 2018 |
| Commanders and Adjutants Conference | October 15-16, 2018 |
| Commissions and Committees | October 15-16, 2018 |
| National Executive Committee | October 17-18, 2018 |

Washington Conference

February 24-27, 2019

Spring Meetings

| | |
|------------------------------|---------------|
| Commissions and Committees | May 6-7, 2019 |
| National Executive Committee | May 8-9, 2019 |

Homecoming Information

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: Thank you. For those of you who are planning ahead, I don't have the exact information, but the homecoming that I am planning to have will be at Indianapolis Post 64. It will be on a Saturday leading into the Fall Meetings. And we will provide additional information. It will be a casual event. So no reason to wear a coat and tie to this.

Introductions

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: At this time I'd like to introduce two Legionnaires who will campaign for the office of national commander in future years. James Oxford of North Carolina and Paul Dillard of Texas. Please Stand. (*Applause*)

We will now entertain the introduction of new NECmen, people attending the NEC in a voting capacity for the first time. In the interests of time, please hold your introductions to only new NECmen.

WISCONSIN: Bob Shappell, NECman from Wisconsin. Alternate, Dale Oatman.

CALIFORNIA: Comrade commander, introducing NEC from California, Larry Van Kuran.

DELAWARE: Robert Michael, Delaware, new NEC. And Alternate, Jeff Crouser.

ARIZONA: New NEC from Arizona, Judith Beischel. Alternate is Andy Jaime.

IDAHO: New NEC from Idaho, Bob Skinner. Alternate NEC couldn't be here, but you probably all know him, Ron Derrick.

FRANCE: My new NEC from the Department of France, James Settle, and Alternate NEC Hans Stockenberger from China Post.

OHIO: Department of Ohio, new NEC, Robert Klostermeier. Alternate, Stephen Masowick.

OKLAHOMA: Tim Smith, Oklahoma.

WYOMING: Terry Miller from Wyoming. New alternate NEC is Doug Uhrig.

ALASKA: Steve Huisman, new NEC. James Van Horn, the Alternate, he's already gone home.

MONTANA: David Driver, NEC from Montana.

LOUISIANA: Charles Aucoin from Louisiana; I'd like introduce my new Alternate NEC, Rudy Bourg.

MARYLAND: Lewis Trott, new NEC from Maryland.

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: Anyone else? Great. Welcome everyone.

I now call on the national adjutant for announcements.

Announcements

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: At the conclusion of this Post-NEC Meeting, new NEC members from the following departments should report to Matt Herndon and Chanin Nuntavong at the rear of the room to pick up your portfolios: Alaska, Steven Huisman; Arizona, Judith Beischel; California, Larry V. Kuran; Delaware, Robert Michael; District of Columbia, George Roundtree; France, James Settle; Idaho, Robert Skinner; Kentucky, Joseph Flynn; Maryland, Lewis Trott; Massachusetts, Louis Brault; Montana, David Driver; Ohio, Robert Klostermeier; South Carolina, Gary Mitchell; Wisconsin, Robert Shappell. Also, the new national vice commanders, sergeant-at-arms, historian, chaplain and aide please meet with the members of Media & Communications over in this corner to have your photo taken for the magazine immediately following the meeting. Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: Is there any unfinished business to come before this committee at this time?

Technical Motion

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, we have no unfinished business. I'd like to make a technical motion and move that the national adjutant be instructed to review the minutes of the NEC meeting and make any necessary corrections without changing the intent of the NEC meeting and to proceed and edit and distribute these minutes. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: I have a motion and I have a second. Is there any discussion? If not, all in favor, so indicate by the usual sign. All opposed. The motion is carried and recommendations are approved.

Before we conclude, I just want to remind everyone that there will be a reception this afternoon from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. in the Hilton Salon A through D on the third floor. It's casual. Look forward to having you there.

The national commander, national vice commanders and aide should proceed as a group to the commander's briefing which will be in the Minneapolis Hilton Symphony III Room, 2nd Floor, immediately after this meeting. I now call on National Chaplain Philip Salois for the benediction. Please uncover.

Benediction

Philip G. Salois, Massachusetts, National Chaplain

Bow our heads and pray for God's blessing. Dear Lord, as we go our separate ways this afternoon, as we begin our journeys back to our homes and our communities, we ask You to send a very special protective blessing upon each and every one of us and also our modes of transportation; that they be safe and they return us back to our loved ones, our families and our communities and our local American Legion posts and departments.

Bless again our new officers that You have selected to lead this organization into the new 100th year of The American Legion. Bless them and keep them healthy, keep them strong so that we can continue the mission of The American Legion. And with this, we make Your prayer in Your holy name, amen.

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: Legionnaires, please join in me a salute to the flag of United States of America: One.

...*The National Executive Committee stood and rendered a salute to the colors.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: Two. Is there a motion to adjourn the meeting?

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: So moved.
...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: Any discussion? All in favor, so indicate by the usual sign. All opposed. I now call this meeting adjourned.

...At 1:37 p.m., Thursday, August 30, 2018, the Post-National Executive Committee Meeting of The American Legion was adjourned.

Abbreviations

| | |
|------------|---|
| AEA..... | Adoption Exchange Association |
| ALOU..... | The American Legion Online Update |
| CDL..... | commercial driver's license |
| DHA | Defense Health Agency |
| DHS..... | Department of Homeland Security |
| DMS | Direct Membership Solicitation |
| DNA | deoxyribonucleic acid |
| DOD | Department of Defense |
| DPAA..... | Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency |
| DVOP..... | Disabled Veterans Outreach Program |
| EMT | emergency medical technician |
| FBI | Federal Bureau of Investigation |
| FY | fiscal year |
| HEP C..... | hepatitis C |
| HR | House Resolution |
| HUD | Department of Housing and Urban Development |
| LVER | Local Veterans Employment Representative |
| MEG..... | Magnetoencephalography |
| MG | major general |
| MIA..... | missing in action |
| NALPA..... | National American Legion Press Association |
| NASA..... | National Aeronautics and Space Administration |
| NATO..... | North Atlantic Treaty Organization |
| NCA | National Cemetery Administration |
| NEC..... | National Executive Committee |
| NEF..... | National Emergency Fund |
| NIH..... | National Institutes of Health |
| OCO | Overseas Contingency Operations |
| PL | Public Law |
| PNC..... | past national commander |
| POW..... | prisoner of war |
| PSA | public service announcement |
| PTSD..... | Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder |

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| PUFL | Paid Up for Life |
| RAMP | Rapid Appeals Modernization Program |
| ROI | return on investment |
| rTMS | Repetitive Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation |
| SEAL | United States Navy Sea, Land, and Air Team |
| SECDEF | United States Secretary of Defense |
| TBI | Traumatic Brain Injury |
| URL | uniform resource locator |
| USAA | United Services Automobile Association |
| USAID | United States Agency for International Development |
| VA | Department of Veterans Affairs |
| VA&R | Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation |
| VASH | Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing |
| VAVS | Department of Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service |
| VBA | Veterans Benefits Administration |
| VHA | Veterans Health Administration |
| VISN | Veterans Integrated Service Networks |
| WWI | World War I |
| WWII | World War II |

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