

**NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
Indianapolis, Indiana
October 17-18, 2018**

**Resolution No. 1: Unrecognized Armed Hostilities Recognition
Origin: Internal Affairs Commission
Submitted By: Internal Affairs Commission**

WHEREAS, Membership eligibility in The American Legion is determined by the Congress of the United States of America through the establishment of specific dates of declared hostilities in which U.S. military personnel are activated for service; and

WHEREAS, On December 7, 1941, the United States was attacked by Japan in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, causing the United States to enter World War II; and

WHEREAS, From that date until December 31, 1946 the United States activated 16,112,566 U.S. military personnel, 405,399 of whom sacrificed their lives in service to the nation and another 670,846 were wounded; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. government set December 31, 1946 as the official end of the World War II era; and

WHEREAS, The next official military war conflict involving activated personnel was the Korean War; and

WHEREAS, The official U.S. government dates for the Korean War's duration span from June 25, 1950 through January 31, 1955; and

WHEREAS, During the Korean War timeframe, no fewer than 5,720,000 were activated for service, of whom 36,574 sacrificed their lives in service to the nation and another 103,284 were wounded; and

WHEREAS, The United States and South Korea never signed a peace treaty acknowledging the end of their conflict with North Korea; and

WHEREAS, The first American serviceman who died in Vietnam was recorded as June 1956 whose name has since been added to the Vietnam Wall as well two Army members killed in 1959 while assigned to the Military Assistance Advisory Group; and

WHEREAS, The next official war requiring activated U.S. military personnel was the Vietnam War; and

WHEREAS, The official U.S. government dates for the Vietnam War's duration span from February 28, 1961 through May 7, 1975; and

WHEREAS, During the Vietnam War timeframe, no fewer than 8,744,000 U.S. military personnel were activated for service, of whom 58,220 sacrificed their lives in service to the nation and another 153,303 were wounded requiring hospital care and 150,341 more were wounded and did not receive hospital care; and

WHEREAS, The next official war requiring activated U.S. military personnel was the Beirut, Lebanon, conflict from August 24, 1982 through July 31, 1984; and

WHEREAS, During the Beirut, Lebanon, timeframe 266 U.S. military personnel sacrificed their lives in service to the nation, and another 169 were wounded in the theater of battle; and

WHEREAS, The next official armed conflict requiring activated U.S. military personnel was the Grenada Crisis from October 25, 1983 through November 1, 1983; and

WHEREAS, During the Grenada Crisis timeframe, 19 U.S. military personnel sacrificed their lives in service to the nation, and 116 were wounded in the theater of battle; and

WHEREAS, The next official armed conflict requiring activated U.S. military personnel was the Panama Crisis from December 20, 1989 through January 31, 1990; and

WHEREAS, During the Panama Crisis timeframe, 23 U.S. military personnel sacrificed their lives in service to the nation, and 325 were wounded in the theater of battle; and

WHEREAS, The next official wartime conflict requiring activated U.S. military personnel was, and is, the Gulf War/War on Terrorism that started on August 2, 1990 and continues today; and

WHEREAS, The aforementioned events are the only official periods of war, or armed hostilities, acknowledged by the U.S. government since World War II; and

WHEREAS, In between the aforementioned events during so-called “peacetime eras,” the U.S. military has been involved in at least 12 known armed hostilities resulting in numerous U.S. personnel combat deaths and wounds; and

WHEREAS, These 12 combat operations unrecognized by the U.S. government occurred at the direction of the then current president of the United States, with full knowledge and consent of the then current U.S. Congress; and

WHEREAS, The first of these armed hostilities requiring activated U.S. military personnel was the Greek Civil War, fought in Greece from 1946 to 1949 between the Greek government army and supported by activated military personal of the United States and the United Kingdom against the Democratic Army of Greece, the military branch of the Greek Communist Party; and

WHEREAS, During the Greek Civil War, one member of the U.S. Armed Forces sacrificed their life in service to the nation, and another five were non-combat deaths; and

WHEREAS, The second unrecognized war era with armed hostile military operations where U.S. military personnel were activated for service was the Chinese Civil War in the aftermath of World War II; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. military equipped, trained, transported, liberated and supplied the Kuomintang-led government with approximately \$4.43 billion in its resistance to the Communist Party of China; and

WHEREAS, During the Chinese Civil War 14 members of the U.S. Armed Forces sacrificed their lives in service to the nation, 150 U.S. non-combatants lost their lives in the war and 51 were wounded, totaling 215 U.S. military casualties; and

WHEREAS, The third unrecognized war era with armed hostile military operations and involving activated U.S. military personnel is known as the Cold War; and

WHEREAS, The Cold War was a period spanning from approximately 1947 until 1991 when the Soviet Union collapsed; and

WHEREAS, Although no direct large-scale military fighting occurred between the United States and Soviet militaries, activated U.S. military personnel served in multiple regional Cold War conflicts resulting in at least 32 members of the U.S. Armed Forces who sacrificed their lives in service to the nation, and no fewer than 12 additional casualties; and

WHEREAS, The fourth such unrecognized war era with armed hostile military operations requiring activated U.S. military personnel is known as the China Cold War; and

WHEREAS, The China Cold War started when the Kuomintang-led government of the Republic of China retreated to the island of Taiwan until 1972 after President Richard Nixon conducted a landmark state visit to China; and

WHEREAS, During China Cold War military operations no less than 16 members of the U.S. Armed Forces sacrificed their lives in service to the nation; and

WHEREAS, The fifth unrecognized war era with armed hostile military operations requiring activated U.S. military personnel was the 1958 Lebanon Crisis which involved more than 14,000 U.S. personal and resulted in one member of the U.S. Armed Forces who sacrificed their life in service to the nation and five U.S. non-combat deaths; and

WHEREAS, The sixth unrecognized war era with armed hostile military operations requiring activated U.S. personnel was the April 1961 “Bay of Pigs” invasion; and

WHEREAS, This mission was the failed military invasion of Cuba undertaken by a Central Intelligence Agency-sponsored U.S. military group that included at least one member of the U.S. Armed Forces who sacrificed their life in service to the nation and 19 non-combat deaths; and

WHEREAS, The seventh unrecognized war era with armed hostile military operations requiring activated U.S. military personnel was the Cuban Missile Crisis, October 16-28, 1962; and

WHEREAS, The Cuban Missile Crisis directly related to homeland protection against a Soviet ballistic missile deployment in Cuba; and

WHEREAS, One member of the U.S. Armed Forces sacrificed their life in service to the nation and 19 others died as non-combatants during the Cuban Missile Crisis; and

WHEREAS, The eighth unrecognized war era with armed hostile military operations requiring activated U.S. military personnel was the Dominican Civil War in 1965; and

WHEREAS, This operation resulted in 27 members of the U.S. Armed Forces who sacrificed their lives in service to the nation, 20 non-combat related deaths and 283 wounded; and

WHEREAS, The ninth unrecognized war era with armed hostile military operations requiring activated U.S. military personnel was the Iran Hostage Crisis from November 4, 1979 through January 20, 1981; and

WHEREAS, The Iran Hostage Crisis involved U.S. military intervention that resulted in 8 members of the U.S. Armed Forces who sacrificed their lives in service to the nation; and

WHEREAS, The tenth unrecognized war era with armed hostile military operations requiring activated U.S. military personnel was the Salvadoran Civil War; and

WHEREAS, The Salvadoran Civil War lasted more than 12 years, across the terms of two U.S. administrations, that resulted in 22 members of the U.S. Armed Forces who sacrificed their lives in service to the nation, 15 non-combat deaths and 35 other casualties; and

WHEREAS, The eleventh unrecognized war era with armed hostile military operations requiring activated U.S. military personnel started on April 5, 1986, when the La Belle discotheque in West Berlin, Germany, was bombed, killing two U.S. soldiers and wounding 79 other members of the U.S. Armed Forces, which triggered what became known as the Libyan Conflict; and

WHEREAS, Libyan Conflict operations included numerous air strikes by the U.S. military forces and resulted in two members of the U.S. Armed Forces who sacrificed their lives in service to the nation; and

WHEREAS, This led to the twelfth unrecognized war era with armed hostile military operations requiring activated U.S. personnel, known collectively as the Persian Gulf Conflicts spanning between July 24, 1987 through September 26, 1988; and

WHEREAS, These U.S. military protection missions of Kuwaiti-owned oil tankers represented the largest U.S. naval convoy operation since World War II; and

WHEREAS, These Persian Gulf events resulted in numerous military operations and at least 39 members of the U.S. Armed Forces who sacrificed their lives in service to the nation and 31 wounded; and

WHEREAS, Since what has been misinterpreted as the “end” of the Korean War on January 31, 1955 the U.S. has had nearly 100 activated U.S. military personnel sacrificed their lives in service to the nation in South Korea, to go along with more than 132 in-country U.S. wounded; and

WHEREAS, On April 27, 2018 during a day-long summit South Korean President Moon Jae-in and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un pledged to formally end the Korean War; and

WHEREAS, Since January 1, 1947 through all of these unrecognized war eras requiring activated U.S. military personnel, described herein, no fewer than 778 U.S. combat and non-combat members of the U.S. Armed Forces have sacrificed their lives in service to the nation and no fewer than 797 have been wounded; and

WHEREAS, Since January 1, 1947 all of the aforementioned unrecognized war era events requiring activated U.S. military personnel who were wounded and killed serving their nation were under orders from the commander-in-chief and with consent of the United States Congress proving that the United States has been conducting deadly wartime service to protect the nation consistently since December 7, 1941; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion has gone on record as supportive of these hostile military operations by the United States and its allies since the beginning of World War II; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion has aided, assisted and comforted the families of those men and women who were called to serve or volunteered to serve during all of these mentioned unrecognized armed hostile events, and continues to provide such support to veterans of those events; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion commends the heroic actions of all military personnel who risked their lives in defense of freedom during each of these unrecognized armed hostile events requiring activated U.S. military personnel; and

WHEREAS, In accordance with the history, tradition and purposes of The American Legion, it is fair, proper and reasonable that the privilege of membership in The American Legion should be extended to all military personnel who served on active military duty during all of these mentioned armed hostile events requiring activation of U.S. military personnel; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 17-18, 2018, That all of these aforementioned previously unrecognized armed hostile events requiring activation of United States military personnel are acknowledged; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion recognizes the nearly 1,600 casualties of the U.S. Armed Forces in service to the nation; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion calls on the Congress of the United States to declare that the United States of America has been continuously engaged in a state of war from December 7, 1941 to such date in the future as the United States government may determine that there has been an end to armed hostilities; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the United States Congress direct the Department of Veterans Affairs to qualify as “war-time veteran” all military service personnel who served honorably under federal government Title 10 orders for at least one day during said period.