

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

**Resolution No. 15: Expedited Citizenship Through Military Service  
Origin: National Security Commission  
Submitted By: National Security Commission**

WHEREAS, The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services offers naturalization after one year of military service, waiving the three and five year requirements; and

WHEREAS, Between 2009 and 2016, the Military Accessions Vital to the National Interest Program (MAVNI) allowed approximately 10,400 non-citizens to join the military and lend critical language and medical skills to our country's defense; and

WHEREAS, Various reports from the citizenship organizations, national and local news sources, and firsthand accounts from members of Congress have confirmed that hundreds, possibly thousands, of veterans have been deported for committing certain crimes, many non-violent and substance abuse related, after serving in the United States Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, Many have been sent to countries they have not known since early childhood and many live in Mexico, along the U.S. border, to be close to loved ones and support networks; and

WHEREAS, The overwhelming majority of deported veterans who have been interviewed consider the U.S. their home; and

WHEREAS, Many deported veterans have said they believed their service automatically conferred citizenship upon them; and

WHEREAS, The list of immigrants who have made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of their new country is long and distinguished; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion supports military service as a path to citizenship for immigrants; 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 The American Legion urges the United States Congress to implement measures within the Department of Defense to ensure the process of naturalization through honorable military service is completed prior to discharge.**