

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

Resolution No. 9: Honoring the National Motto of “In God We Trust”

Origin: Americanism Commission

Submitted By: Americanism Commission

WHEREAS, The Preamble to our American Legion’s Constitution begins with the sentence, “For God and Country”; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion has always begun all official meetings with a prayer and closed them with a benediction; and

WHEREAS, Through the history of our nation, there are numerous references to biblical quotations throughout our federal government buildings including the White House, Senate Chamber, House Chamber, Supreme Court and every state in the union can attest to the same in their respective buildings; and

WHEREAS, An act of Congress on April 22, 1864, formally put the motto on coins, having first appeared on the short lived two cent bronze piece coined in May 1864; and

WHEREAS, By 1866, “In God We Trust” was appearing on the \$5, \$10 and \$20 dollar gold pieces, the 5 cent piece, the 25 cent piece, the 50 cent piece and the dollar silver piece; and

WHEREAS, In 1955, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed into law specifying “that at such a time as new dies for printing currency are adopted, the dies shall bear the inscription “In God We Trust” and thereafter the inscription shall appear on all United States currency and coins”; and

WHEREAS, On July 30th, 1956, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed Public Law 84-851 codifying “In God We Trust” as the national motto; and

WHEREAS, In 2002, Public Law 107–293 reaffirmed the reference to “one Nation under God” in the Pledge of Allegiance and that God remains in our motto as codified in title 36 United States Code § 302; and

WHEREAS, The founding fathers based their way of life on religious convictions; and

WHEREAS, There is an old adage that soldiers knew which states “There are no atheists in a fox hole”; and

WHEREAS, Throughout our nation’s history where we experienced a declaration of war, a conflict or tragedy or national disaster, every leader’s speech has referenced “God” in making their address; and

WHEREAS, In this day and age with its seemingly ever increasing senseless acts having no real rationale, we need to recognize the importance of keeping and honoring “In God We Trust” in our lives from birth to death; 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 honor July 30 each year as National Motto Day, upon which special attention is called to the history and heritage of “In God We Trust”; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion support the honoring of our nation’s motto by encouraging the posting of “In God We Trust” as our national motto in public spaces; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That Resolution No. 290 of the 98th National Convention of The American Legion, Cincinnati, Ohio, August 30, 31, September 1, 2016, is hereby superseded and rescinded.