NINETIETH NATIONAL CONVENTION
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
Phoenix, Arizona
August 26, 27, 28, 2008

Resolution No. 323: To Clarify the Conditions and Issuance of National Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) Awards
Origin: Convention Committee on Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation
Submitted by: Convention Committee on Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation

WHEREAS, The Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service Program furthers the "individual obligation to the community, state and nation," one purpose for which The American Legion was founded; and

WHEREAS, The Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service Program also fosters the aspiration of "consecrating and sanctifying our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness," for which The American Legion was also founded; and

WHEREAS, The need continues to thank and recognize the volunteers involved in Voluntary Service at VA hospitals and to stimulate the recruitment of others; and

WHEREAS, Young people are invited to participate in volunteerism through the VolunTeen Program, and their efforts should be acknowledged and commended; and

WHEREAS, This recognition is done, among other ways, through tangible means; and

WHEREAS, The time has come to clarify these mechanisms; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Phoenix, Arizona, August 26, 27, 28, 2008, That the request of VAVS awards be conducted after the Chief of Voluntary Service of the VA hospital facility has certified with his/her signature the number of hours accrued by the volunteer and both request and certification are forwarded to the National Headquarters at 1608 K Street, NW, Washington, DC 20006, to the attention of the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Division; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the petition for the awards and the resulting shipment from National Headquarters be channeled through the office of the Department Adjutant; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the National Headquarters will only send bars that represent the highest number of hours earned if the Departments have delayed in progressively requesting said awards; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the request for those awards for which the VA is responsible be done directly to VA from Department Headquarters; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That VolunTeens be awarded a 8' 11 ½" certificate, pin and bars once they have met the conditions set forth in the Voluntary Service Handbook; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That volunteers in VA medical centers receive 100 hour 8' 11 ½" certificates; 300 hour 8' 11 ½" certificates, pins and bars; 500 hour 8' 11 ½" certificates and bars; and, after this, a Volunteer Hospital Worker pin when they meet 1,000 hours, with a corresponding bar, and thereafter, bars in increments of 1,000 up to a maximum of 20,000 hours; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the 100, 300, and 500 hour certificates are signed by the Chairman of Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission and then mailed to the respective volunteers local VA Medical Center for signature by the VAVS Program Manager (Chief of Voluntary Service) and presentation to the volunteer; and, be it further

RESOLVED, Service Stars are to be ordered directly from Emblem Sales by the Department Headquarters; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That all Departments of The American Legion be notified of the contents of this resolution.