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

Resolution No. 357: Mandatory Funding for the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Veterans Affairs (VA) Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) Homeless Program
Origin: Convention Committee on Other Economic Matters
Submitted by: Convention Committee on Other Economic Matters

WHEREAS, The Homeless Veterans Comprehensive Assistance Act of 2001 (P.L. 107-95) codified the HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) program, which provides permanent housing subsidies and case management services to homeless veterans with mental and addictive disorders; and

WHEREAS, Under the HUD-VASH program, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) screens homeless veterans for program eligibility and provides case management services to enrollees; and

WHEREAS, HUD allocates rental subsidies from its Housing Choice Voucher program to the VA, which then distributes them to the enrollees; and

WHEREAS, A decade ago, there were approximately 2000 vouchers earmarked for veterans in need of permanent housing. Today, less than half that amount is available for distribution; and

WHEREAS, The Veterans Benefits, Health Care, and Information Technology Act of 2006, P.L 109-461, again authorizes appropriations for additional rental assistance vouchers for veterans beginning with 500 vouchers in fiscal year 2007 and increasing the number to 2,500 by fiscal year 2011; and

WHEREAS, At a time when the number of homeless veterans on any given night hovers at approximate 200,000, the need for safe, affordable, and permanent housing is imperative; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Phoenix, Arizona, August 26, 27, 28, 2008, That The American Legion support funding for vouchers for the HUD-VASH program be set aside and transferred to the VA Secretary from amounts made available for rental assistance under the Housing Choice Voucher program.