PROCEEDINGS

of the

National Executive Committee

of

THE AMERICAN LEGION

National Headquarters
Indianapolis, Indiana

October 16-17, 2013

Table of Contents

Wednesday, October 16, 2013

Invocation 1
POW/MIA Remembrance Ceremony 1
Pledge of Allegiance 1
Roll Call 2
Opening Remarks: National Commander Daniel M. Dellinger, Virginia 3
Administration of Oath of Office to the National Chaplain 5
Greetings: Mrs. Nancy Brown-Park, National President, American Legion Auxiliary 6
Introduction of National Officers 6
Announcements 7
Report: Subcommittee on Resolutions 7
Memorial Resolutions 8
    Joseph E. Ross, Colorado 8
Reports:
    National Judge Advocate 9
    Finance Commission 27
     Revenue Enhancement Committee 31
Resolutions:
    No. 2: National Paid-Up-For-Life Membership Plan 34
    No. 3: Scheduling of the National Commander's Annual Congressional Testimony 38
    No. 4: Emergency Assistance to Veterans, Active Duty Personnel and Their Families 39
    No. 5: Restatement of The American Legion Retirement Plan for Employees of the National Headquarters and Subordinate Groups Thereof 40
    No. 6: Affinity Charge Card Program 40
    No. 7: The American Legion National Commander's Public Relations Award 41
    No. 8: Oratorical Contest National Finals 41
    No. 9: American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year Award Scholarship 43
    No. 10: Junior Air Rifle National Championships 44
    No. 11: National Forensic League (NFL) Sponsorship 45
    No. 12: Agreement with the National Veterans Legal Services Program (NVLSP) 2013-2014 46
    No. 13: 2014 Enhancements to the National Headquarters Computing Environment 47
Presentation: Kevin McDugle, Soldier's Wish 48
Reports:
    National Convention Corporation of Texas 49
    National Convention Commission 50
    Economic Commission 53
Resolutions:
    No. 25: Support RallyPoint to Accelerate Recruitment of New Legion Members and Assist Veterans with Professional Networking and Career Opportunities 64
    No. 26: Expanding Post 9/11 GI Bill for Entrepreneurship 65
    No. 27: Veterans GI Bill Education Improvement 65
    No. 28: Support Eligible Veterans to Receive a First Time Homebuyer Tax Credit or Tax Credit for Adaptive Housing Improvements 66
Report: Internal Affairs Commission 67

Resolutions:
No. 23: Award Congressional Gold Medal Posthumously to Harry Colmery 76
No. 24: Pershing Hall Artifacts and Memorabilia 78
National Emergency Fund Donations 79
Report: Membership and Post Activities Committee 80

Wednesday Afternoon Session

Report: National Security Commission 83
No. 14: Modify Battlefield Helmet 88
No. 15: Rescinding Obsolete Resolutions Dealing with National Security 88
Reports:
Commission on Children & Youth 89
Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission 94
Resolutions:
No. 16: Dependency and Indemnity Compensation for Surviving Spouses 105
No. 17: Congress to Provide Back Pay to Veterans and Their Dependents for any Government Lapse in Appropriations 106
No. 18: State Veterans Home Funding for Construction Grants 107
No. 19: Rescinding Resolutions from the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission 107
No. 20: Service Officers Participation in the Transition Goals, Plans and Success (GPS) Program 108
No. 21: Improvements to Department of Veterans Affairs' Women Veteran Programs 109
No. 22: Research to Develop a Blood Test to Detect Colorectal Cancer 110
Reports:
Public Relations Commission 111
Americanism Commission 115
Resolution No. 31: Appointment of Joseph E. Caouette (NH) as Chairman Emeritus of the National Americanism Commission 123
Operation Comfort Warrior Donations 124
Report: *The American Legion Magazine* Commission 125
Report: Foreign Relations Commission 127
Confirmation of Committee Appointments 128
Announcements 129

Thursday, October 17, 2013

Invocation 131
Pledge of Allegiance 131
Roll Call 131
Report: Legislative Commission 134
Report: National Historian 147
Reports of the National Vice Commanders:
Douglas Wooddell, Colorado 149
Robert E. Newman, Indiana 150
William A. Rakestraw, New Jersey 151
Wayne D. Satrom, North Dakota 152
Paul E. Dillard, Texas 153
Eligibility of National Officers 154

Confirmation of Interim Appointments 155
Confirmation of Cancellation of Post and/or Squadron Charters 155
Confirmation of Dates for Future Meetings 157
Significant Gifts to the National Headquarters Library and Museum 158
Report: Subcommittee on Committees 159
Final Report: Subcommittee on Resolutions 162
No. 1: Liaison Committees 162
No. 29: Uniform Code of Procedure for the Organization of National Conventions of The American Legion 163
No. 30: Rescinding of Non-Legislative Resolutions Related to Commissions and Committees 172
Closing Remarks: Daniel M. Dellinger, National Commander, Virginia 180
Benediction 181

Abbreviations 183
Index 187

PROCEEDINGS

of the

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Wednesday, October 16, 2013

... At 9:02 a.m., Wednesday, October 16, 2013, the National Executive Committee was called to order by National Commander Daniel M. Dellinger.

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: Will everyone please rise. Colors of our country being in place, hand salute. Two.

... The National Executive Committee rendered a salute to the Colors.

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: I'll now call on Dr. Daniel McClure, national chaplain, for the invocation and the POW/MIA Remembrance Ceremony. Please uncover.

Invocation
Dr. Daniel A. McClure, Iowa, National Chaplain

Let us pray together. Father, we thank You for the time that we're able to spend today. We think that we're doing the business of our country and business that would please You. We just ask now for Your wisdom, we ask that we might be civil to one another in all points; Father, that we might accept reports, that we might give reports, and do everything with clarity.

Father, thank You for such a group of individuals with tremendous, tremendous, tremendous experience. Ask now that You might bless the meetings today and the meetings tomorrow. We ask these in the name of our Lord. Amen.

POW/MIA Remembrance Ceremony

NATIONAL CHAPLAIN MCCLURE: Resolution 288 adopted at the 67th Annual National Convention requires a designation of a POW/MIA chair at all official meetings of the American Legion. This is a symbol of the thousands of American POW/MIAs still unaccounted for from all wars and conflicts involving our nation.

With the POW/MIA flag positioned to my left, let it serve as a reminder for all of us to spare no effort to secure the release of any American prisoners, the repatriation of the remains of those who have been killed in action, and a full accounting of those who are still missing. Let us rededicate ourselves to this vital endeavor. Amen.

Pledge of Allegiance
and Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: I now call on Ronald A. Miluszewski from the Department of Virginia, national sergeant-at-arms, to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance. *... The National Executive Committee recited the Pledge of Allegiance followed by the Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: I now call on Daniel S. Wheeler from Virginia, our national adjutant, for roll call.

Roll Call
National Officers

National Commander
Daniel M. Dellinger, Virginia

National Adjutant
Daniel S. Wheeler, Virginia

National Vice Commanders
Douglas W. Wooddell, Colorado
Robert E. Newman, Indiana
William A. Rakestraw, Jr., New Jersey
Wayne D. Satrom, North Dakota
Paul E. Dillard, Texas

Past National Commanders

Keith Kreul, Wisconsin (Excused)
Clarence M. Bacon, Maryland
John P. 'Jake' Comer, Massachusetts
Hon. H.F. Gierke, North Dakota (Excused)
Miles S. Epling, West Virginia
Robert S. Turner, Georgia
Dominic D. DiFrancesco, Pennsylvania (Excused)
William M. Detweiler, Louisiana
Daniel A. Ludwig, Minnesota
Joseph J. Frank, Missouri
Anthony G. Jordan, Maine
Butch L. Miller, Virginia
Hon. Alan G. Lance, Sr., Idaho (Excused)
Richard J. Santos, Maryland
Ronald F. Conley, Pennsylvania
Hon. John A. Brieden, III, Texas
Thomas P. Cadmus, Michigan
Thomas L. Bock, Colorado
Paul A. Morin, Massachusetts
Martin F. 'Marty' Conatser, Illinois
Robert W. Spanogle, Michigan
David K. Rehbein, Iowa
Clarence E. Hill, Florida
Jimmie L. Foster, Alaska
Richard M. Pedro, New York
Fang A. Wong, New York
James E. Koutz, Indiana

National Executive Committeemen

Department	Committeeman	Alternate
Alabama	Willis Frazier	
Alaska	James E. Pisa	
Arizona	S. Paul Griffin (Excused)	Richard W. Perry
Arkansas	James V. Bynum	
California	Alan C. Lennox	
Colorado	Francis W. McCurdy	
Connecticut	Richard W. Anderson	
Delaware	Larry J. Marcouillier	
D. C.	Arturo Rivera	
Florida	Dennis R. Boland	
France	John H. Miller (Excused)	H. Ownby
Georgia	Charles F. Wessinger	
Hawaii	Marvin R. Siegfried	
Idaho	Thomas E. Mattice	
Illinois	Larry W. Moore	
Indiana	Paul I. Steward	

Iowa	Bruce C. Feuerbach
Kansas	David O. Warnken
Kentucky	Randall Coffman
Louisiana	Charles D. Aucoin
Maine	Paul A. L'Heureux
Maryland	David E. Winpigler
Massachusetts	Steven M. Jimmo
Mexico	Michael D. Wood
Michigan	John H. Skinner
Minnesota	Raymond DeZurik
Mississippi	Robert E. Gosa
Missouri	Charles W. Goodin
Montana	Mervin G. Gunderson
Nebraska	Jerry Landkamer
Nevada	Dale R. Salmen
New Hampshire	Earlon L. Beale
New Jersey	Daniel E. McCole
New Mexico	Felix M. Trujillo
New York	Stanley H. Clark
North Carolina	Jerry L. Hedrick
North Dakota	Curtis O. Twete
Ohio	William K. Balser
Oklahoma	John Wesley Benge
Oregon	Charles E. Schmidt
Pennsylvania	Richard A. Coccimiglio
Philippines	Herbert J. Scholten
Puerto Rico	Ildefonso Colon, Jr.
Rhode Island	David A. Golde
South Carolina	Mickey C. Taylor
South Dakota	Paul A. Evenson
Tennessee	Charles R. Dornan
Texas	James E. Prendergast
Utah	Terry D. Schow
Vermont	Royal E. Sheeley
Virginia	Thomas E. Saunders
Washington	William R. Bob Wallace
West Virginia	William W. Kile
Wisconsin	David L. Gough
Wyoming	William R. Wright, III

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: That completes the roll call with a quorum.
NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: A quorum is present.
... National Vice Commander Newman assumed the Chair.

Opening Remarks
Daniel M. Dellinger, Virginia, National Commander

Good morning, national officers, past national commanders, members of the National Executive Committee, and guests all. If this past month has not proven the importance of the membership of The American Legion, nothing will.

Our elected officials in Washington have not done their job. While we still don't know for certain how long this shutdown will last, it will take strong and large

organizations, like The American Legion, to constantly remind lawmakers, the president, and the American people about the disproportionate impact that these political games are having on veterans and our national security.

Next week, October 23, we will mark the 30th anniversary of the war on terrorism. Obviously I'm not speaking about 9/11, but the infamous date when the suicidal maniac blew up a Marine barracks in Beruit, and the terrorists declared war on us. Officials in Washington might not have acknowledged that we were at war until two decades ago, but it's clear that terrorists were at war with us. And you know something? They still are. The scary part is that the government shutdown, and most definitely sequestration, makes America far more vulnerable to attack.

Officials have assured us at the annual remembrance ceremony that the Beirut memorial will not be affected by the shutdown, but I'm still not certain about that. Who would have thought that the federal park officials would open the National Mall to people protesting the right of illegal aliens while veterans are harassed and prevented from visiting war memorials that were built in their honor.

While I do salute the president for the signing of the bill to provide death benefits to our fallen heroes, I was disgusted when his press secretary called the bill a gimmick. It is not okay for the government to have even considered outsourcing the solemn obligation to the Fisher Foundation or any other organization. The government is repeatedly breaking President Lincoln's promise to care for him who has borne the battle and for his widow and orphan. The one lesson we can learn from the death benefit bill is that when Congress and the president want to get something done, they can. Ladies and gentlemen, this ride is going to get much rougher if they don't reach an agreement very soon.

VA Secretary Eric Shinseki warned Congress on October 9 that if the shutdown continues, millions of American veterans will stop receiving about $6 billion in monthly benefits on November 1. Moreover, college students relying on the GI Bill benefits are also impacted by the shutdown.

Just as the VA was starting to make progress in reducing the backlog, Secretary Shinseki said the department has lost ground that it had fought hard to take. The Defense Finance and Account Services say military retirement pensions will be paid, but there is still a lot of understandable anxiety and concern among those who count on those pensions to survive. How did we get to this place? Simple. Politics has replaced patriotism. Defending America is a constitutional responsibility that should be job one for any elected official. You cannot defend America without supporting the good people who have sworn an oath to do it. This is even more essential in a country with an all-volunteer force.

The Navy was scheduled to hold its Fourth Annual Wounded Warrior Hiring and Support Conference for today and tomorrow in Raleigh, North Carolina. Last week, a lieutenant commander sent a message to a member of our staff announcing that the conference had been postponed until a date in March or April because of the government shutdown. She ended her email with "Thank you for your flexibility."

Now put yourself in that wounded warrior's position. Chances are you won't be receiving your disability payment next month because of the shutdown. Don't try to use your GI Bill benefits and, oh, by the way, you can wait another six months to interview for that job that you wanted. This is not the thanks of a grateful nation. It was George Washington that said the willingness upon which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional to how they perceive the veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by our nation.

Despite all of the bad news coming from our nation's capitol, in recent months there's been reason for optimism. So many people are affected by this fiscal crisis that our elected leaders have no choice but to notice and listen. Every day your National Headquarters has been issuing one, sometimes two, sometimes even more official

statements reminding the public and the media what's at stake. We've held press conferences both at the National World War II Memorial and yesterday at the Indiana War Memorial. Legionnaires have risked arrest as they bypass barricades to help World War II veterans gain access. While I do not plan to filibuster before you today, you can rest assured that I will speak on this issue until I can speak no more. *(Applause)*

There are a few other items of business we need to take care of before we get into the meat of our meeting. As you know, we're only as strong as our numbers. For that reason, during the commanders and adjutants meeting, I brought this up. This is an Eagle Incentive Award for six departments that do well in membership this year. The competition will be based on the same six categories as the Big 12. The top department in each of these categories who has the largest percentage increase in membership from the October date to the May date will win this eagle. The increase is based on traditional membership and, as I said, starting from this last 55 percent goal date that ended in May.

It's a very nice eagle. It would look great on somebody's shelf. But in order to achieve this, along with the five-year membership plan and beyond, we need you all to take ownership. It isn't just the commanders and it isn't just the adjutants, it's also the men and women that sit in this room. We're all stakeholders in this. We all have to work together to increase our membership back to our all-time high.

So it's essential that you become a part of the team and make sure you work with your department commanders, because you are the leadership. The vice commander who is leading at that time will receive one of these. Doug's already said he's got it, but, I don't know. Somebody else told me they wanted it. *(Laughter)*

Administration of Oath of Office
National Chaplain

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: Moving on to the next order of business, I would like to call Dr. Daniel A. McClure of Iowa to come forward. Although Dr. McClure had a prior commitment which prevented him from attending the post-Convention NEC meeting in Houston, it's time for him to be sworn in as the national chaplain. But this doesn't mean that his prayer this morning didn't count. *(Laughter)*

Chaplain McClure, you will assist the National Executive Committee and others in carrying out our objectives. You are entrusted with important duties and shall perform essential functions throughout the year to preserve the integrity of The American Legion.

As you stand before this executive body, I remind you of your duties and obligations. To you is given the spiritual leadership of this great veterans organization. You will, I know, lend dignity and respect to your office. You should remain in close confidence with me and the other national officers of The American Legion. You should be ready upon occasion to take your part in performing such divine and nonsectarian services as may be necessary, adhering to such ceremonial rituals as may be recommended by National Headquarters from time to time. Into your keeping we will place the spirit of comradeship of this organization. May harmony and unity prevail.

Now after hearing this obligation, please raise your right hand and repeat after me. I, Dan McClure, do solemnly pledge myself to perform faithfully and impartially the duties of The American Legion which I'm about to assume. I further pledge to uphold the principles outlined in the National Constitution and the Preamble of The American Legion in the service to our veterans, their families, their communities, state, and nation.

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: Congratulations. *(Applause)*

... National Commander Dellinger resumed the Chair.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, motion to receive and file your report. *... Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: We have a motion on the floor and a second. Any discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor of the motion to receive and record, signify by saying aye. Opposed. The motion carries.

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: We have with us the leader of the world's largest veterans auxiliary. The president of The American Legion Auxiliary, Mrs. Nancy Brown-Park from the Department of California. Please rise and give her a warm American Legion welcome. *(Standing ovation)*

Greetings: National President, American Legion Auxiliary
Mrs. Nancy Brown-Park, California

Thank you very much. Thank you, commander. All I can say, and I said to Janet on the way in, is I want one of those big chairs. That's the best! *(Laughter)*

I'm here to bring greetings from the largest women's patriotic organization, The American Legion Auxiliary. Yesterday we stood in support with the commander of The American Legion to stop the shutdown. We've called our members, we've reached out to them to say it's time for you to call Congress in support.

This year I have a goal to secure the future of The American Legion Auxiliary, and what better way to do that than membership. So we have a goal to reach by 2019 a million members. I think together, as a family, we can reach that goal, stop the slide, and serve those veterans, those active duty today that are serving, so we can serve them 40 years from now.

My theme is "Pass It On." I truly believe we're in a crossroads in this organization; that it's time for us to pass on the legacy of this amazing group of people. We all have a lot of experience, we have a lot to give. This isn't our organization, this belongs to the next generation. I think together, commander, as a Legion family, we can all make a difference.

I want to thank you for this opportunity to bring greetings. I want to just point out really quickly a shout-out to my department, California. Their support has gotten me here. I want to introduce you to my national vice president, Janet Jefford, who will be in my shoes next year and continue that membership growth. *(Applause)*

And my amazing husband, the First Dude, Jim Park. *(Laughter and applause)*

This is a pretty awesome room. This is pretty exciting to see this. This is amazing. Commander, thank you very much for this opportunity. I'll see you in Disneyland.

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: Thank you very much. Thank you for coming this morning. We're looking forward to working together as an American Legion family to further our goals. Thank you. *(Standing ovation)*

Introduction of National Officers

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: The next order of business, it gives me great pleasure to introduce the officers for the 2013-2014 year. First, I will start with the national vice commanders.

Douglas W. Wooddell from Colorado. Robert E. Newman from the Department of Indiana. William A. Rakestraw from New Jersey is under the weather this morning. Hopefully he'll be back with us tomorrow. Wayne D. Satrom, North Dakota. Paul E. Dillard, Department of Texas. *(Applause)*

Dr. Daniel A. McClure, national chaplain, Iowa. Charemon Dunham, national historian, South Dakota. In the back of the room, Ronald A. Miluszewski, Department of Virginia, national sergeant-at-arms. *(Applause)*

Reading of Minutes of Previous Meetings

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: Now call on the national adjutant to read the minutes of the previous meeting.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Mr. Commander, the minutes have been printed in digest form and distributed. I move they be approved without being read. ... *Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: We have a motion on the floor and a second. Is there any discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor of the motion, signify by saying aye. Opposed. Motion carries. Next we will have announcements from the national adjutant.

Announcements

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: The National Commander's Dinner honoring the NEC is tonight at the Sheraton City Centre Indianapolis. The reception will be held in the Circle Suites at 6:00 p.m. Dinner will be served in the Meridian Ballroom at 7:00 p.m. NECmen who have not yet submitted names of attendees will find a bright yellow form on their desk. This needs to be completed and returned to Kevin Long who is at the back of the room. The cutoff for seating requests is 10:00 a.m. this morning. If you have a yellow form, please complete it and turn it in immediately. Tickets will be available for pick-up after lunch on the third floor south in the front offices.

You may have noticed the huge George Foreman poster in the hallway as you entered the building. It's bigger than life, just like George himself. Foreman was our 2013 PDCC Good Guy Award winner and personally autographed it in front of many American Legion witnesses. If you've not already bought a raffle ticket for it, please do so. If you win, we will ship it free to your destination. We will conduct this drawing in this room tomorrow. Proceeds will go to the National Commander's Project, the National Emergency Fund, and the George Foreman Youth and Community Center. If it's too big for your home, it would look great inside an American Legion post or perhaps a department headquarters. Tickets are available at the reception desk on the first floor and will also be sold at the Sheraton before this evening's banquet. That completes the announcements.

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: I now call on Jerry L. Hedrick, North Carolina, chairman of the Resolution Subcommittee.

Oral Report: Subcommittee on Resolutions
Jerry L. Hedrick, North Carolina, Chairman

Mr. Commander, your Subcommittee on Resolutions has been in session for two days going through resolutions. We have 30 resolutions that will be presented coming from the commissions or committees who will make the reports. Any resolution seeking National Executive Committee approval will follow a report of the commission. All resolutions that have been disposed of by other action or held for further study are to be reported to you as an addendum. Mr. Commander, would you prepare the NEC for memorializing resolutions.

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: Please uncover.

Memorial Resolutions
Joseph E. Ross, Colorado

Whereas, It has pleased almighty God, the Great Commander, to summon to His immortal legions our beloved comrade, Joseph E. Ross, Department Vice Commander 1989 to 1992; Department Commander 1992 to 1993; National Executive Committee Alternate Member 1995 to 2001; National Executive Committee Member 2001 to 2007; and

Whereas, We humbly bow to the will of Divine Providence, while ever cherishing in our hearts the memory of his distinguished service to our country and his outstanding contributions to American Legion comradeship; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the National Executive Committee of The American Legion, in regular meeting assembled on this 16th Day of October in the year of our Lord 2013, does mourn the passing of our distinguished Legionnaire, Joseph E. Ross, that we commend to all men his works and to God his spirit; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That in token of our common grief, a copy of this resolution be presented to his family.

Similar resolutions presented to the families of: Wesley R. Wharton, California; Charles E. Haas, Sr., Connecticut; Charles F. 'Chuck' Moreland, Florida; Robert 'Bill' Sweet, Indiana; Theodore P. 'Ted' Crawford, Montana; Ralph L. Stone, New Jersey; Dennis T. Golda, Rhode Island; Milo N. 'Mike' Trout, Washington.

The pains of death are past,
Labour and sorrow cease,
And life's long warfare closed at last,
Thy soul is found in peace.

James Montgomery

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HEDRICK: May their souls rest in peace. Thank you very much, Mr. Commander.

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: Please be seated. The Chair now recognizes Past National Commander Tom Bock for purpose of a eulogy.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER BOCK: Thank you, commander, and national officers, members of the National Executive Committee, past national commanders.

I rise to remember Joseph E. Ross, 'Joe' as we all knew him. He served on this committee for twelve years, six as alternate and six as National Executive Committeeman, and he had a lot of fine times here. You always remember Joe with his big smile, positive attitude, and always his firm handshake. His family is doing well, and they send thank you to you all for your kind remarks and expressions of sympathy with cards and letters and prayers.

But to remember Joe is to remember Joe. I think he was a charter member of the "Five and Under Club" that used to meet about lunchtime on the first day of the NEC in front of the elevators as they dispersed to lunch. There were requirements for that club; you had to be shorter than five feet. *(Laughter)* And Joe was a charter member of that club.

He traveled with me the last couple weeks of my campaign for national commander when we visited six states in the South, and we carpooled through those states. That's where he earned the title of the "Babe Magnet." He may have been short in stature, but the ladies were ultimately attracted to Joe, regardless of where he went.

I remember the golf tournament we participated in in Tennessee. He said, "I don't feel like playing golf today, but I would like a cart just to ride along." Yeah, we figured out why. He followed the beer truck with the young ladies blowing them kisses and waving all over the golf course. *(Laughter)* Yeah, that was the Babe Magnet.

We used to room together over at the Athletic Club when we could stay over there. Three of us would be in the room, so we would have an extra mattress brought in. They didn't bring in a rollaway bed, they put the mattress on the floor. Joe would sit on the edge of the mattress and dangle his feet. We used to short-sheet his bed, but he never noticed. *(Laughter)*

He brought a lot of charm and a lot of professionalism and a lot of laughter to this great organization, and we will sorely miss him. As I said, his family thanks you for your expressions of sympathy and cards and letters.

Mr. Commander, as a personal note, I would also like to thank the members of the NEC and this great organization for the cards and letters we received after the loss of our daughter, Kimberly, last August, just prior to Convention. We surely appreciate the sympathy and the expressions of love and the prayers. It's always a tough time. I do not recommend losing your children first. I don't recommend you going right away. But the cards and letters just piled up, and we're so grateful for the friendship that you all expressed to us. Thank you so much. Thank you. *(Applause)*

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: I will now call on our national judge advocate, Philip B. Onderdonk, from Maryland, for the purpose of a report.

Oral Report: National Judge Advocate
Philip B. Onderdonk, Jr., Maryland

Mr. Commander, national officers, members of the NEC, thank you for your patience. I'm a little slow, but it will get fixed later this year. Bad hip. The report of the National Judge Advocate, once again. I have a very short time for a 34-page report. Don't worry, I'm not going to read it all.

First, we did 222 contracts this year. That gets rid of 16 of the pages real quick.

Litigation. The Dr. Newdow case in California. This is a Pledge of Allegiance case where he wants the words "under God" taken out. The case has been to the Supreme Court, sent back. It went to the District Court, and this time they said the Pledge was constitutional. We expected him to appeal, but he didn't. The appeal time has now run out so, as far as we're concerned, the case is over. The American Legion was an amicus in favor of the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Jeffrey Steich versus American Legion Post. Pennsylvania has a procedure where you can start the case merely by filing a praecipe for a summons. You don't actually have to file a complaint or tell anybody what the case is. Now it's supposed to sit there for only a short time and then have a complaint filed. In this case, it's been there for years and years. Now, in that case, the court is supposed to dismiss it. They haven't, so I have to keep it as an open case.

The Paulson case. This is the Mount Soledad War Memorial which contains a cross. Plaintiffs have attempted to have the cross removed and destroyed. The judge ordered the cross removed or the City would pay penalties of $5,000 a day. The matter is currently in both federal and state courts and is proceeding. The United States Congress has enacted and the president signed a statute which would turn the memorial over to a local entity according to the federal government. This hasn't happened yet. There seems to be some resistance in the Department of Justice. Why, we don't know. In any event, the federal judge has now ruled the cross does not violate the Constitution. The Supreme Court said the case was not yet ripe to be heard in the Supreme Court, and the parties must consult

on a settlement. The funny thing is, the Department of Defense now wants to sell the monument to the highest bidder. We will be keeping an eye on that.

Lucey versus Prudential Insurance. The American Legion is an amicus in this case. Prudential Insurance provides insurance to active duty military. If you die, the family gets a check for $400,000. At least that's what's supposed to happen. What the insurance company's been doing is giving the family a checkbook with a balance of $400,000 so they get to keep the money and make the interest. They pay half a percent interest on that money, but they're earning over 5 percent. We think that's unconscionable and have joined as an amicus to get that practice stopped. There's another item in the background. If the person is killed in combat, the federal government appropriates $400,000, gives it to the insurance company to give to the veteran's family. Well, if you pay premiums, I think maybe in that case you ought to get $800,000, but we haven't gone there yet. You understand where I'm coming from, though. Insurance company's making money on this one.

Lionel Guerra versus Eric Shinseki. Again we're an amicus, pro bono on behalf of the veteran. The veteran has two 70-percent ratings, two 40-percent ratings, a 30-percent rating, and they won't give him a hundred percent. But he is incapacitated. We think this is unconscionable, again, and join to support the veteran. The matter is continuing. They court tried to say that they had to file what the secretary said because of the Chevron case on the priority of the interpretation of the federal government office. We think this is nonsense given the fact that the federal government is supposed to give veterans every benefit they can and any doubt on any regulation. The Henderson versus Shinseki case, another case which we participated in, is our authority for that.

American Legion versus Legion Riders USA Veterans Motorcycle Association and Jack Adams. Trademark case down in South Florida. They tried to set up their own corporation, run their own operation, use The American Legion emblem and change The American Legion emblem. They said The American Legion couldn't stop them. Well, we don't have control over departments and posts per our charter, but under trademark law it's constant and continuous control and you better follow the rules, or I may be able to turn my office into a profit center after all, because in a trademark case the loser pays the fees. We have judgments in two cases, this one of them, totaling 66,000. We probably will not be able to collect it because the people don't have the money, but I keep hoping somebody will inherit something. Hey, I'm a lawyer, you know. *(Laughter)* We have won the case completely, and they have had to dissolve their corporation.

American Legion versus the Hamms. This is a case here in Indiana. They had a ride to support an injured police officer. They made up a photo mélange of pictures and right in the center they put the emblem of The American Legion. Now, the individual who did it meant well but didn't have authority. So the Hamms and the post, Post 117, have gotten into a dispute. The person who made the mélange of pictures was suing to get it back. We said, "You can have the pictures back, but you're not getting the emblem." So at the moment that case has been moved to a different county because of venue rules, and the discussions are going forward between the Hamms and the post. We are keeping our presence known just in case because we're not going to let the trademark get out in the public domain. The last hearing was scheduled for August 20, but it's been postponed to the spring. That gives you an idea how the court thinks the case is supposed to be handled.

American Legion versus Legion Riders Chapter 1, New Mexico. Very similar to Florida, they thought they could write their own rules, have their own emblem, tell the post what to do, and weren't subject to The Legion. They have agreed to all our positions, and the judge confirmed it in an order. That's, again, one of the orders for fees.

American Legion currently is joined with The American Legion Auxiliary in a trademark case against the Columbine Girls State in Colorado. They set up their own

corporation, which is fine. It's very nice to have a subsidiary corporation. There are a lot of good reasons for doing it. But a subsidiary means you follow what your boss tells you to do. It's real easy to do that in a stock corporation because you know who owns the stock. In a membership organization it's a little different; hence, we came up with the five rules for SAL, Riders, and subsidiary corporations. I wrote them based on departments, but they also apply at the post level, and in the Auxiliary, the department and unit level. We own their trademark because it's so close to ours. The rules are: 1. The Legion will approve all officers, directors, appointees, trustees. Period. They can have an election and name who they want, but if the Legion doesn't like them, they don't take office. Volunteer positions are filled the same way; that's Rule 2. Rule 3. There will be monthly reports including financial reports. And, if nothing happens in like December and January for the Girls State or baseball or Boys State, the secretary of the subsidiary corporation needs to write a letter to the department adjutant saying, "We didn't do anything this month and, by the way, here's our financial report." We used to call it negative reporting in the Army; right? I'm sure the other services had similar rules. Rule 4. The department or post or whatever fiscal officer, treasurer or finance officer will be a signator on all accounts. Not so they can take over and pay the bills, but so they can get the records if and when needed because, under today's privacy laws, if you're not on the account, you don't get the records. Period. Rule 5. The Legion, the Auxiliary, will approval all articles of incorporation, constitutions, bylaws, trusts, et cetera. They are not negotiable. The Colorado Columbine Girls State has tried to push the department around, tried to lie and do all kinds of things. At one point they tried to put in a director who was not eligible to be in the Auxiliary. So we now have a rule on them that any reports will be under oath. Because if we get a report where they lie again, we'll take it to the prosecutor. The National Auxiliary and the National Legion have joined on that.

Hewett versus The City of King, North Carolina. This was a really silly case, in my opinion, because the City of King set up a monument and memorial with 11 flags on it. They had the service flags and the state flags and U.S. flags, then they put up the Christian flag. Now, I have no problem with that but a lot of people do because it's a government property and the First Amendment. So there's a lawsuit. There's also a veterans memorial right next to it of a soldier kneeling before a cross. This is the part we've joined the case to protect, and only that part, because we figured they are going to lose on the flag. Everybody does. On the kneeling veteran, we want it protected. But because of some of the statements and some of the confusion in the case, we are recommending to the post, and I think the post has agreed, that what should happen to the veterans memorial is the cross should be changed to a rifle stuck in the ground with a helmet on top of it. So it's very clear we're not getting into First Amendment issues.

Kingdomware Technologies is another case we're an amicus in. Kingdomware was a computer corporation providing computer services. I'm an old so-and-so, so I don't really understand the ins and outs of computers. But there's a veterans preference for veteran-owned companies, especially disabled veteran-owned companies, in the federal government for contracting. In this case, the VA, once they found out that Kingdomware, who was accredited and had gone through all the registration, had, one, canceled the procurement without even looking at the veterans preference, and kept their old supplier. This is a total violation of federal law. This is the VA. So we have joined with them to fight that. You might have seen some of the press, we got very good press on that. That was not the reason for it.

Jane Doe and John Doe versus Acton-Boxborough Regional School District. In Massachusetts, this is another "under God" case in the Pledge of Allegiance, and we are an amicus on the appeal.

Angela Capizzi-Mullan versus Deandre Barnes and American Legion Post 153 Home Association and The American Legion. This is a nasty case in South Philadelphia,

PA. Apparently, this is what the plaintiff says, the bar manager allowed his son to run a nightclub after hours which, of course, violates the liquor law. They let an 18-year-old drink, who went out and drove on South Broad Street, which is four lanes each way or maybe six lanes each way, I can't even remember, it's been so long since I've been there. Four. Thank you. Appreciate the information. I won't get it wrong again. He hit a young ballet student from Hungary who was headed for school about 6 o'clock in the morning. Early school, but I guess ballet students do it early. They have a very famous ballet school there that I didn't know they had, but it's there. She lived five days on life support. Parents got there, they unplugged her, and she died. Now, this is both a serious injury case with a measure of damages of pain and suffering, even though she's drugged up, and it's a death case. What the family lost. I would estimate 12 million or more. I hope the post has got a lot of insurance. We're going to get out of the case because we do not control the post. They are alleging *respondeat superior*, the doctrine that the post does what we tell it to do, and we all know that's not true.

I hope they had enough insurance because that's one of the wrinkles of corporate law that I need to remind everybody about. If you are undercapitalized and underinsured, that kind of sounds like a Legion post, and you have a major judgment that you can't pay, the plaintiff can go to the court and get a court order piercing the corporate veil, which means the assets of every individual member are now available to pay that judgment. Boats, retirement houses, et cetera. Not your retirement money, until it gets into your bank account, then it's subject to it. It could get very, very nasty. And don't really expect any sympathy from the family because they lost a daughter. A really nasty accident. I should also tell you the 18-year-old is in jail in Camp Hill, Pennsylvania, for drinking under age and for hit-and-run. Not only did he hit and eventually killed the girl, he tried to run away. We all know how that works.

In other legal matters, I'll be very brief. 938 opinions. 286 manuscripts. 28 opinions, I believe it was for The Auxiliary, attending all the meetings of the Retirement Committee, 401(k) Committee, and various other duties on request from the national adjutant and the national commander. Mr. Commander, that completes my report, but I need to get in to one other issue, sir.

On your desks was an American Legion Questionnaire on Potential Conflicts of Interest. This is required by the IRS since we are a tax-exempt organization. The Congress passed a law and required it of publicly held corporations. The IRS, bless their pointed heads, made it applicable to tax-exempt organizations, so we're stuck with it.

The people who need to fill it out are NECmen and alternates, because they have a vote or the possibility of a vote; national vice commanders; national commander. It is strongly recommended that past national commanders complete one and other national officers. Now you cannot disclose too much. If there's any doubt, put it down. "My wife is secretary for the department, or I'm an adjutant to my post." Put it down. It's not a conflict, but you can't be challenged if you put it down.

There was a senator from Alaska who was making disclosures on some of the money he had raised for an election. The attorney general didn't think he'd done it right, started a lawsuit, and they tried to play all kinds of dirty games, but the senator won. However, as he won, he lost his election. So he's on a fishing trip in Southern Alaska and the plane crashed and he died in the crash.

I say, when in doubt, put it down. It's not going to be a conflict. If it is, we'll be in touch privately and quietly. But I do request them. I've already got over a dozen of the forms. Let me have them after the meeting or drop them off by my office. Thank you, Mr. Commander.

Report: National Judge Advocate
P. B. Onderdonk, Jr., Maryland

Contracts

The following two hundred twenty-two (222) contracts have been reviewed or prepared:

(1) Articles of Agreement by and between The American Legion and The American Legion National Convention Corporation of Ohio, Inc., covering the convocation of the 2016 Convention of The American Legion in the City of Cincinnati, State of Ohio, have been executed.

(2) A Memorandum of Agreement by and between The American Legion and National Veterans Legal Services Program, whereby National Veterans Legal Services will provide consultations, informal training of Department Service Officers, BVA staff and claims/representatives, case work review, briefings on proposed changes in law and regulations and assistance in methods for prompt adjudication of veterans' appeal cases.

(3) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and AdoptaPlatoon (AAP), whereby a link has been established to Operation Crayon referring to AAP which provides morale-lifting mail and care package support to service members deployed overseas.

(4) A Service agreement by and between The American Legion and Powerware Global Services, whereby Powerware Global Services replaces and services the battery in the computer room.

(5) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and Data Processing Services, Inc., whereby Data Processing Services will add 15 disc drives to the computer system and create and add drives to the computer system storage capacity.

(6) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and Neighborhood E-mail, whereby Neighborhood E-mail will assist in cleaning of in-house data base and E-mail files.

(7) A Service Agreement by and between The American Legion and Fuller Engineering Service Corporation, whereby Fuller Engineering will provide maintenance on the Liebert Equipment in the computer room.

(8) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and Dell Marketing L.P., whereby The American Legion will market the Dell Federal Member Computer Discount Purchase Program to its various associations, employees, members and affiliates.

(9) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and KBM (KnowledgeBase Marketing-Mutual of Omaha) for marketing of insurance products for Legion members.

(10) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and Norlight Telecommunications, Inc., whereby Norlight Telecommunications, Inc. will provide a dedicated internet port and service of same for The American Legion's computer system.

(11) Housing contract between The American Legion and Marymount University to provide for lodging and food service for American Legion Boys Nation held in July 2013.

(12) A Memorandum of Understanding by and between The American Legion and The United States Army Recruiting Command (USAREC), whereby The American Legion will assist the United States Army Recruiting Command to improve the recruiting environment for Army recruiters and USAREC will provide

information regarding American Legion activities and special community events to local units, bulletins and newsletters.

(13) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and the James G. Elliott Co., Inc. for integration into the JGECO M-PANEL Services software.

(14) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and ProSidian Consulting, LLC, for research services to assess perceptions of and satisfaction with Women Veterans health care.

(15) A contract by and between The American Legion and Office Max to provide office supplies, office furniture, technology and similar products.

(16-17) Two (2) List Protection Agreements by and between The American Legion and the following companies have been executed to cover the protection of magnetic tapes used for mass-mailings to the general membership of The American Legion:
Resource One
Association Group Insurance Administrators (AGIA)

(18) A Service Agreement by and between The American Legion and Sigma Micro Corporation for The American Legion's Technical Services Rate Retainer (TSRR) subscription for hardware, operating system and environment support.

(19) A Service Agreement by and between The American Legion and Budget Truck Rental, LLC for truck rental discount program.

(20) Maintenance Agreement by and between The American Legion and Comtech Group for the IBM Software subscription for the AS400 and RS6000 computer software.

(21) Maintenance Agreement by and between The American Legion and City Wide of Indianapolis for structural and environmental services (cleaning) at the Geiger facility.

(22) A Contract by and between The American Legion and Communications Products, Inc. for software upgrade for the existing server running Windows Server.

(23) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and Voice Data Systems, LLC, for Nortel CS1000 Telephone System.

(24) Maintenance and Sales Agreement by and between The American Legion and Ikon Office Solutions, Inc. for equipment maintenance.

(25) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and Dydacomp Development Corporation for an updated version of mail order manager software used by Emblem Sales.

(26) Annual Maintenance agreement by and between The American Legion and Eaton Power Quality Corporation to provide maintenance and perform preventative maintenance checks on the Uninterruptible Power System (UPS) which regulates the power spikes to the AS400 and is the battery backup in case of a power outage.

(27) A License Agreement, by and between The American Legion and Lansa Inc. for software.

(28) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and Caremark Pharmacy Discount Prescription for discount prescription program.

(29) A Purchase Agreement by and between The American Legion and Managing Editor, Inc. (MEI) for K4 Publishing System software to be used by the Magazine Division.

(30) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and The Seven Company, LLC, a consulting service to obtain and present sponsorships, marketing agreements and marketing loyalty program agreement for The American Legion.

(31) A Service Agreement by and between The American Legion and Koorsen Fire & Security for fire alarm and detection systems.

(32) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and Sears Commercial to promote products provided by Sears Commercial as a discount benefit to Legion members and employees.

(33) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and Pitney Bowes Software, Inc. for software products.

(34) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and Vanguard Car Rental USA Inc. (Alamo and National), which offers car rental discount programs to Legion members.

(35) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and Fundamentals Company, Inc. to provide a fundraising opportunity through the sale of magazine subscriptions for Legion members and their families.

(36) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and Bulkley Dunton Publishing Group for the purchase of paper to The American Legion.

(37) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and Time Warner telephone and data lines services which includes firewall management, internet "pipe," main voice lines, data line to DC office and data line to the Geiger facility.

(38) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and Swift Trip, LLC, Legion Family Travel. Discount travel services for Legion members and their families.

(39) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and Mid America Marketing Cancer Care Plus Insurance Program, underwritten by Family Heritage Life available to Legion members.

(40) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and Reader's Digest Association to help utilize the DMS Program.

(41) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and AT&T to upgrade the internet services to the Geiger facility.

(42) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and OfficeMax for discounted office supplies and print and document services for Legion and SAL members.

(43) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and RoadCare Plus for a discount, full-service roadside assistance program for Legion members.

(44) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and Honeywell Building Solutions for integrator and/or digital video manager software products.

(45) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and USAA to provide financial products and services to members of the U.S. military and their families.

(46) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and Bowe Bell and Howell, the service provider for the cutters in the Geiger facility lettershop.

(47) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and Michael Peterson for his CD/DVD developed for The American Legion Family.

(48) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and Ski Landscape Ground Maintenance Renewal which provides grounds maintenance and snow removal for the Geiger facility.

(49) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and Mapsys System & Solution to renew the IBM Maintenance Agreement for peripheral equipment attached to the AS400.

(50) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and Anchor Software, LLC, software used for mass mailings.

(51) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and Travel Leaders provides travel management services and travel reservation fulfillment.

(52) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and Mid-America Elevator Co., Inc. for maintenance of the elevators at 700 N. Pennsylvania Street building.

(53) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and VDS, an upgrade and maintenance support to the Avaya phone system.

(54) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and TWTelecom for internet circuit upgrades.

(55) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and Xerox for CF 495 Printer and maintenance services and deliverables of their products.

(56) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and AT&T for mobile device and service plan discounts.

(57) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and HearPO a discount program provider for hearing services and products for Legion/SAL members, their families and Legion employees.

(58) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and @mire, inc. for work on the Digital Archive used by the Legion Library.

(59) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and PrideStaff SW Houston for temporary staff used by Emblem Sales at the 2013 national convention.

(60) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and West Point Association of Graduates United States Military Academy for advertising in their newsletter.

(61) A Cosponsorship Agreement by and between The American Legion, U.S. Small Business Administration, Syracuse University Institute for Veteran and Military Families and Veterans Infosource Project aba Women Veterans Business Center for an entrepreneurial course for "HEROES" to be held in conjunction with its annual conference in Houston, TX for women veterans and military families.

(62) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and Brinks Service for armored car services for the 2013 National Convention.

(63) An Agreement by and between The America Legion and AdMate Software System for software for the magazine division.

(64-70) Agreements by and between The American Legion and Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre for guest room commitment for the Legion Membership and Post Activities 2013, the National Membership Conference 2013, Service Officers School 2014, Spring NEC Meetings 2015, Fall NEC Meetings 2015, Spring NEC Meetings 2016, Fall NEC Meetings 2016.

(71) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and SIRVA Worldwide, Inc. for a market plan to promote Legion programs on the Legion website.

(72) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and Motel 6 LLC to promote a member discount program on the Legion website.

(73) An Agreement by and between American Legion Baseball and Crowne Plaza, Philadelphia-Cherry Hill for accommodations during the Mid-Atlantic Region Legion Baseball.

(74) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and Cleveland County ALWS Baseball, Inc. for the baseball tournaments.

(75) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and International Cruise and Excursions Gallery, Inc. d/b/a Government Vacations Rewards for a discount travel service for our members.

(76) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and Creative Street Media for the 100th Anniversary Media-Magazine Division.

(77) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and Military Advantage, Inc. (Military.com) for exchanging editorial content for mutual postings on respective websites.

(78) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and DBA Patriot Promotions to organize and operate the Warrior Appreciation Night (WAN).

(79) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and Galt House for accommodations for the Kentucky Derby.

(80) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and Nancy Hays Entertainment, Inc. to provide entertainment for the National Commander's Banquet at the 2013 National Convention.

One hundred-forty-two (142) Subcontractor Standard List Protection Agreements by and between The American Legion and the following companies have been executed to cover the protection of magnetic tapes used for mass mailings to the general membership of The American Legion:

4 Warranty
A.M. Mailing Services, LLC
Aberdeen American News-South Dakota
Able Card, LLC
Acxiom
AEGON Direct Marketing
ALG Worldwide Logistics, Inc.
Alliance for Audited Media
Analytics IQ. Inc.
ASC (The College Board)
Asendia USA
Audit Bureau of Circulations
Avis and Budget Car Rental
Bankers Life & Casualty Company
Beta Graphics
Business Mailing Center
Careington International
Caremark, LLC Confidentiality
CD-COM Systems Midwest, Inc.
CES Mail Communications, Inc.
Class B, Inc.
Colonial Penn Life Insurance Company
Commander Printed Products
Commercial Letter, Inc.
Cooperative Print Solutions
Corporate Express Document & Print Mgmt.
Creative Marketing Concepts
Crell Direct Mail
Cross Country Lending, Inc.
Daily Freeman Journal
Database 101
Datagraphic
Data-Mail, Inc.
Dayton Technologies
DMRA
Easy Purl, Inc.
E H Direct
Edge Direct
Entiera
Epsilon
Equifax Direct Marketing Solutions, LLC
E-Target Media
Fahlgren Mortine
Fair Isaac Corporation
First National Bank of Omaha
Fiserv Solutions, Inc.
Focus USA
Freedom Graphic Systems
Fry Communications, Inc.
Fulfillment Xcellence, Inc.
FXI
G E Financial Assurance
Gallagher Benefit Services
Global Card Services
GMAC
Goldleaf Data Corporation
HearPO Corp
HNE Printers/Daily Reporter
Hutchinson Company
info USA, Inc.
Instant Web, Inc. DBA (IWCO)
International Cruise & Excursions, Inc.
International Data Management
Itasca Marketing
Jano Graphics
JH Marketing Services
KDM
Knowledge Base Marketing, GP
Konik and Company
Kramers Mailing Service
Life Line Screening
Lighthouse List Company
Long Term Care Associates, Inc.
LTCR Analytics IQ, Inc.
LTC Affinity Direct
Magnet Direct
Mail Computer Services Direct
Mail Manager
Mailing Services of Pittsburgh
Mainstreet Media
MCS Direct
Media 1, LLC
Merkle, Inc.
Metropolitan Technologies, Inc.
Midwest Direct Mailers
Military Advantage
MMP Direct and Printing
Moore Wallace Response Marketing
Morgan Printing, Inc.
Mutual of Omaha
Name-Finders List
National General Insurance
Nfocus Consulting, Inc.
North Mail, Inc.
On line Insurance Services, LLC
PacifiCare

Peachtree Data, Inc.
PEP Direct, Inc.
Perma-Graphics, Inc.
PipMail
Print Communications, Inc.
Printing Partners, Inc.
Production Services Associates, LLC
Propco Marketing
PSA
Quadriga Art, Inc.
R.R. Donnelley & Sons Company
Richardson Sports
Ripon Printers
River's Edge Printing
Royle Printing Company
SB MailWorks
SCI Management, LLP
Signature Offset
SIRVA Affinity Group Services
Specialty Print Communications
Stephens Direct
Strategic Marketing and Mailing
The Mailing House
The Heritage Company
The Hertz Corporation
The JAY Group, Inc.
The Willow Group
Torrington Telegram-Wyoming
Transamerica
TransAmerica Affinity Services, Inc.
Transcom
TransContinental Direct
Travalution, LLC
True North Companies
US Monitor
V12 Group
Valid UDA, Inc.
Valley Printworks
Ventura Printing
VERTIS
Veterans Online, LLC
Virtual DBS
Vision Printing & Graphics, LLC
Wiland Direct
Wilson Sporting Goods Co.
Woodward Communications, Inc.

Litigation

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

THE REV. DR. MICHAEL A. NEWDOW, et al.,
Plaintiff,

v. NO. CIV. S-05-17 LKK/DAD

THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al.,
Defendants.

This case is a continuation of the earlier Newdow flag case which was resolved in the Supreme Court by a ruling that the plaintiff had no standing to bring the case.

Now, the plaintiff has had additional parties join him and has renewed his attack on the words "under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The district court for the Eastern District of California on September 14, 2005 ruled that the California law requiring the saying of the Pledge of Allegiance in classrooms was unconstitutional, even though the usual accommodations were present in the statute for those who did not believe they could say the pledge. The court felt it was controlled by earlier Ninth Circuit opinions. The court further ruled that the saying of the pledge at the city counsel or in the U.S. Congress was constitutional.

American Legion intervened as an amicus curiae. It seems clear that now that Newdow has plaintiffs that don't have his standing problems, since they are the custodial parents of the children for whom they are suing, the matter will again be heard by the

Ninth Circuit and ultimately, hopefully, the Supreme Court. In the most recent decision the district court ruled for the defendants. At this late date, it is very doubtful there will be an appeal.

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA COUNTY OF SCHUYLKILL

Daniel Jeffrey Steich
Plaintiff S-2371-2005
v.
THE AMERICAN LEGION
POST NO. 575, ET AL

Defendants

The case was filed in Pennsylvania by filing a Praecipe for Summons and Summons. Under Pennsylvania law, a complaint need not be filed for several years unless the defendant insists. We see no reason to start spending the money. Accordingly, we are keeping an eye on the case. It cannot go forward until the plaintiff does file his complaint. The court has sent notice it intends to terminate this case unless a party fills out a Statement of Intention to Proceed before October 1, 2008. Despite this, the case is still pending.

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

Philip K. Paulson,

Petitioner Case No. GC 849667

v.

Charles Abdelnour, in his
Official capacity as the City
Clerk of the City of San Diego;
Mikal Haas, In his Official
Capacity as Registrar
of Voters for the County
of San Diego;
And Does 1 to 10, Inclusive,

Respondents

This case involves the Mount Soledad War Memorial which contains a cross. Plaintiffs have sued in an attempt to have the cross removed and destroyed. A judge ordered the cross removed or the city would pay penalties of five thousand dollars ($5,000) per day. The matter is currently both in the Federal courts and in the California Supreme Court. American Legion was instrumental in obtaining a stay of the penalty order in the US Supreme Court. American Legion has filed its amicus brief in conjunction with the Department of California in the California Supreme Court. The United States Congress has enacted and president signed a statute which would turn the memorial over to the federal government. Hopefully, this will put an end to the state litigation. Nonetheless, we will proceed until we know the veteran's memorial is secure. A Federal Judge ruled the cross did not violate the constitution. The plaintiffs have

appealed. We are assisting in opposing the appeal as an amicus. The Supreme Court ruled the case was not yet ripe and remanded. We are continuing to support the memorial. The trial court has ruled the parties must consult about a settlement. Department of Defense now wants to sell the monument to the highest bidder.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS
WESTERN SECTION

Kevin Lucey, et at

Civil No. 10-30163-Map

v.

Prudential Insurance Co.

The American Legion is an amicus on the side of the plaintiffs against Prudential Insurance, which has the contract to underwrite the SGLI. When a service member dies on active duty, Prudential does not give a check to the beneficiary, usually the wife, as required by the law establishing the program. Prudential gives the beneficiary a checkbook with no guidance. Hence, the insurance company gets to keep all or part of the money ($400,000.00) for many months. It adds approximately ½ of 1 % interest per year to the account, but earns considerably more than 5% on the money. Plaintiffs want Prudential to follow the law, as we do. The VA objected to our joining the case. As a result, we discovered the VA had authorized the deviation from the requirements of the law.

Prudential has essentially admitted all the relevant facts. Hence, we expected a settlement. It did not happen. The judge, without briefing, totally reversed his position, so the case continues. We, like the plaintiffs and the other amici are filing further briefs. We have petitioned the judge to unseal the file and are negotiating with Prudential on this.

IN THE
SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

Lionel Guerra,
Petitioner,
v. No. 11-773
Eric K. Shinseki,
Secretary of Veterans Affairs,
Respondent.

This case involves The American Legion proceeding as an amicus curiae with pro bono counsel on behalf of a veteran. The veteran has a number of disabilities from his combat injuries. These are: A 70% rating for an upper-extremity gunshot wound; a 70% rating for post-traumatic stress disorder; a 40% rating for injuries to his left leg and thigh; a 40% rating for injuries to his right leg and thigh; and a 30% rating for neuropathy. While none of his disabilities was individually rated at 100%, the total of the individual disabilities is 100%.

The VA would not give Mr. Guerra 100%. The Federal Circuit determined that he was not entitled to 100% disability because it was giving deference to the administrative decision of the VA.

This decision violates the pro-veteran canon of the U.S. law and the veterans' law. The Federal Circuit relied upon the *Chevron* case, which under the administrative

procedure law would give deference to the administrative agency where the matter was ambiguous.

In this case, the Supreme Court has already ruled in the number of cases that in an ambiguous situation involving a veteran that the court should rule in favor of the veteran. This is based upon, inter alia, ***Henderson v. Shinseki***, another case in which The American Legion appeared as an amicus.

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

THE AMERICAN LEGION,

Plaintiff,

Civil Action No. 12-14276-CV-Martinez/Lynch

v.

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

LEGION RIDERS USA VETERANS MOTORCYCLE ASSOCIATION, INC. AND JACK E. ADAMS

Defendant.

This is a trademark case. The defendants are American Legion Riders. They are using an unapproved patch with the emblem of The American Legion and have for years. They claim it was approved by someone in the Department.

Once we got proof, a cease and desist letter was sent. The individual defendant took great umbrage and sent a letter counterattacking. The post commander, the next day, sent a letter disowning Adams' letter. Since then, Adams and his friends have left the post and incorporated the Riders chapter using the defective patch and name without permission. Suit was filed seeking an injunction compensatory damages, punitive damages cost and attorney's fees. We have won. The corporation was dissolved and defaulted. Adams is to pay $4,500.00 toward our attorneys fees. The group that was incorporated is protesting paying the rest even though they defaulted. We have won and have a judgment for $56,000.00 in fees that is probably uncollectible. The case is closed.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA
INDIANAPOLIS DIVISION

THE AMERICAN LEGION,

Plaintiff,

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

Vs.

CURTIS HAMM and CAROLYN HAMM,

Defendants.

This case has not yet been filed. It grows out of a situation at Post No. 117 in Pendleton, Indiana. The Riders of the post sponsored a motorcycle run to raise funds for those motorcycle riders killed and injured in an auto accident by an intoxicated police officer. A series of pictures were taken of the ride and they were put together in one poster with a picture of the American Legion Riders Emblem in the center. This poster

was hung in Post No. 117. At a later time, Curtis Hamm, an SAL member of the post, and his wife got into a dispute with the post and the post commander and Mr. Hamm was expelled.

The Hamm's then filed suit in Hamilton County, Indiana, claiming the poster was theirs because they claimed they paid to have it made. There is evidence he donated the poster to the post.

The post and post commander defaulted in the case because they did not believe the Hamm's were serious. The court ordered the poster turned over to the Hamm's.

At this point the National Headquarters learned of the situation and referred the matter to outside counsel for trademark action, because the Hamm's have no right to the American Legion Riders emblem. This is not a "first sale" situation because the picture of the Riders emblem was not purchased from the Legion; a picture was made and copied without permission.

The post and post commander obtained counsel and opposed the default which was lifted by the Hamilton County Court. The court further ordered for the parties to resolve the situation by April 30, 2013. All counsel had been furnished with the draft of our complaint. At this point, the court ordered the case transferred to Madison County, Indiana, where the post is located and venue is proper.

The hearing was scheduled for August 20, 2013, but was postponed. If necessary, we will file to protect the emblems of The American Legion and the American Legion Riders.

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEW MEXICO

THE AMERICAN LEGION,

Civil Action No. 1:12-cv-01173-JCH-KBM

Plaintiff,

v.

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

LEGION RIDERS CHAPTER ONE
OF NEW MEXICO, INC.,

Defendant.

This is a lawsuit against a group of American Legion Riders that have tried to become independent and still use the name and emblem. The case is in the Discovery phase with Interrogatories Request for Admissions and Document Production pending. The defendant so far has not engaged in Discovery. The trial has been scheduled for June 16, 2014.

Defendants agreed with all our positions and the judge confirmed it with an order. The case is closed.

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLORADO

Civil Action No. 1:13-cv-01606-WYD-KLM

THE AMERICAN LEGION and

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY,

Plaintiffs,

v.

COLORADO COLUMBINE GIRLS STATE, INC.,

Defendant.

The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary have sued Columbine Girls State Corporation in Colorado for misuse of the name and emblem of the American Legion Auxiliary and Girls State. The defendant is supposed to be a subsidiary of the department, but was trying to become a rival corporation and acting independently in violation of trademark law. The complaint has been served. The Girls State Corporation is defending on the basis that they have the "right" to use the emblems.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA

STEVEN HEWETT,

Plaintiff,

v.

CITY OF KING, NORTH CAROLINA,

Defendant.

THE AMERICAN LEGION AND
AMERICAN LEGION POST 290
OF KING, NORTH CAROLINA,

Intervenors.

This is another veteran's memorial case. The City of King, NC built a flag plaza and flew the Christian flag. The plaintiff wants this stopped and to destroy the statue of the veteran kneeling next to a cross.

The American Legion is an amicus on behalf of the kneeling veteran statue only. Discovery is proceeding.

The court allowed The American Legion to intervene to protect the statue.

No. 2013-5042
UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE FEDERAL CIRCUIT

Kingdomware Technologies, Inc.,

Plaintiff-Appellant

v. Case No. 12-CV-0173

United States,

Defendant-Appellee

The American Legion has filed an amicus brief supporting Kingdomware's claim that the Veteran's Administration violated the law when it denied the company the Veteran Owned Small Business status which would have caused a procurement contract to be awarded to it. VA claims it has met the 3% threshold and therefore the veteran's preference does not apply. VA wishes to use a non veteran owned company.

Supreme Judicial Court
FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
NO. SJC-11317

JANE DOE AND JOHN DOE,
INDIVIDUALLY AND AS PARENTS
AND NEXT FRIENDS OF DOECHILD-1,
DOECHILD-2, AND DOECHILD-3,
AND THE AMERICAN HUMANIST
ASSOCIATION,
Plaintiffs-Appellants, No. SJC-11317

v.

ACTON-BOXBOROUGH REGIONAL
SCHOOL DISTRICT, THE TOWN
OF ACTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
AND DR. STEPHEN E. MILLS,
AS SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS,
Defendants-Appellees,
AND

DANIEL JOYCE AND INGRID
JOYCE, INDIVIDUALLY AND AS
PARENTS AND NEXT FRIENDS OF
D. JOYCE AND C. JOYCE, AND THE
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS, A
CONNECTICUT TAX-EXEMPT
CORPORATION,
Defendants/Interveners-
Appellees.

Plaintiffs have sued to remove the words "under God" from the Pledge of Allegiance, despite the fact that the language has been upheld consistently. The lower court correctly rejected plaintiff's claim. The American Legion filed its brief at the appellate level.

PHILADELPHIA COUNTY
COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

ANGELA CAPIZZI-MULLAN, Administratrix of

the Estate of POLINA KADIYSKA, deceased
Plaintiffs

v.

DEANDRE BARNES

and

AMERICAN LEGION POST 153 HOME
ASSOCIATION a.k.a. or d/b/a American Legion
Post 153 and/or Frantic Nightclub

and

THE AMERICAN LEGION

and

KELBAR, Inc. a.k.a. or d/b/a T-Barr's Bar
And/or T-Barr
Defendants

In this case, Plaintiff has sued the Post and National, bypassing the Department of Pennsylvania.

On March 18, 2012, Polina Kadiyska, a ballet student, was injured by a car driven by Deandre Barnes, an eighteen year old at the time. It is alleged that he had been drinking at the American Legion Post No. 153 Frantic Nightclub after hours. He was allegedly driving on S. Broad after the accident which allegedly involved hitting a number of cars; the driver fled on foot. He is now in the state correctional institution at Camp Hill, Pennsylvania. He may face additional charges.

The injured student was placed on life support which was discontinued March 19, 2012, when she died.

Counsel has been retained by our insurance company and preliminary objections filed under Pennsylvania law, because national has no control over departments and posts (36 USC §21704 (5)). Plaintiff's attorney didn't bother to check the law.

Other Legal Matters

There are a number of other legal proceedings in which The American Legion has been contacted for discovery purposes, which are not part of or named in the particular cause and a number of cases are in the beginning stages but not yet filed.

The National Judge Advocate has rendered 938 written opinions on questions which have been submitted by the several Departments and/or Posts of The American Legion, National Officers, staff members and individual members of our organization. These opinions involved matters legal, such as contracts, probate matters, federal tax questions, torts, insurance matters, Articles of Incorporation, civil rights statutes, retirement benefits under the law and other matters of a legal nature; problems concerning the interpretation and construction of the National Constitution and By-Laws of The American Legion, policy matters, many of which matters required a great deal of legal research.

In each instance, when appropriate, a copy of the opinion rendered was furnished to each of the following so that they would be acquainted with the decision affecting their

Department; National Executive Committeeman, Department Commander, Department Adjutant, and the Department Judge Advocate of the Department involved.

Many oral opinions were also rendered to the National Officers, National Commission Chairmen, to Department Officers, and to staff Directors of the national organization upon subjects involving matters legal, financial, administrative and policy.

There were 48 written opinions rendered during the year to the National Secretary of the American Legion Auxiliary, in response to queries submitted to her for determination by me.

The National Judge Advocate has also rendered oral advice on matters legal and administrative to the National Officers of the American Legion Auxiliary on many occasions during the past year.

The American Legion Magazine

The National Judge Advocate in accordance with established policy, has reviewed all manuscripts of articles destined for future publication in *The American Legion Magazine* and *The Dispatch*, for the purpose of expunging statements or materials questionable in character, contained therein which might subject The American Legion to a suit in libel. To date 286 manuscripts have been reviewed and appropriate comments in connection therewith were transmitted, when necessary, to the Publisher or Editor of *The American Legion Magazine*.

The American Legion Retirement Plan for Employees of the National Headquarters and Subordinate Groups Thereof

In accordance with the requirements of law, The American Legion has filed all necessary returns, reports and allied documents for the calendar year 2012 with the Internal Revenue Service in connection with The American Legion Retirement Plan. The office of the National Judge Advocate also reviewed the Summary Annual Report for The American Legion Retirement Plan and arranged for the distribution thereof as required by law.

Employees' Salary Savings (401(K)) Plan

In accordance with the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) The American Legion has filed all of the necessary Annual Return Reports and allied documents for the calendar year 2012 with the Internal Revenue Service in connection with the American Legion Employees' Salary Savings 401(k) Plan. The office of the National Judge Advocate also reviewed the Summary Annual Report for the Employees' Salary Savings Plan and arranged for the distribution thereof as required by law.

Parliamentary Duties

The National Judge Advocate attended the past National Convention of The American Legion and all meetings of the National Executive Committee and has served both bodies in the capacity of National Parliamentarian.

Other Duties

The National Judge Advocate also functions as counsel on matters involving labor issues, real estate law, postal regulations, corporate organizations and insurance.

In addition, the National Judge Advocate functions as counsel for and a director of The Citizens Flag Alliance, Inc. In that capacity, the National Judge Advocate attends board meetings.

Meetings of the National Retirement Committee and Salary Savings Committee

The National Judge Advocate, a member of The National Retirement Committee of National Headquarters, The American Legion, and Chairman of the Employee's Salary Savings Committee, has attended and participated in the meetings held by these committees during the past year.

I have also, in response to requests, drafted legal and other documents for the use of National Officers of the American Legion and Officers of the American Legion Auxiliary. During the past year I have met with and attended numerous conferences with officials of outside corporations and the government for the purpose of representation or for the rendering of advice and guidance for and on behalf of The American Legion on matters legal and administrative.

In conclusion, the National Judge Advocate wishes to thank all National Officers, Department Officials, and members of the National Executive Committee for the valuable assistance and cooperation extended to him during the past year.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, motion to receive and file the report of the national judge advocate.

... Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: We have a motion on the floor to receive and file. We also have a second. Any discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed. The motion carries.

Now I will call on Ken D. Danilson, Iowa, chairman of the Finance Commission, for a report.

Oral Report: Finance Commission
Kenneth D. Danilson, Iowa, Chairman

Mr. Commander, members of the National Executive Committee, and guests. The Finance Commission met Monday and Tuesday, October 14-15, 2013. All commission members were present. In my written report is noted the others that were present at different times and the reports being received.

The commission approved the removal of items that are outdated, duplicated or otherwise no longer significant to the Library's archives.

Jimmy A. Luther was named agent-of-record for the health and life coverage of employees of The American Legion.

Requests for 2014 furniture & fixtures in the amount of $67,061 were approved, as was $15,289 in budget overruns and emergency purchases since the commission's last meeting.

The commission approved a recommendation that Crowe Horwath LLP, certified public accountants, be employed to prepare The American Legion's 2013 fiscal year audit.

The commission recommends that 2014 dues be allocated as follows: $3 to *The American Legion Magazine* and $10.50 to the general fund.

The Americanism Commission reported on the great success of the 2013 American Legion Baseball World Series held in Shelby, and the excellent job done by the North Carolina volunteers who organized the event. The Shelby committee is working towards having the championship World Series game broadcast on ESPNU live, and the commission earmarked $40,000 in the event this becomes a reality.

The 2013 budget is projected to finish with a surplus of approximately $740,000.

For 2014, the Finance Commission recommends the NEC approve a budget based on revenues of $71,661,766, expenses of $70,707,705, for a net surplus of $954,061. This budget is based on a 2014 membership estimate of 2,175,000 members.

The Finance Commission recommends the national commander be granted authority to expend up to $100,000 per instance to alleviate the effect of emergencies affecting veterans, active duty personnel and the families of such individuals. The national commander will report any such expenditures at the subsequent NEC meeting.

Philip B. Onderdonk, Jr., was recognized by the commission for 30 years of dedicated service as the national judge advocate. Thank you, Phil. *(Applause)*

The Finance Commission approved a 1 percent cost-of-living increase for all graded employees effective January 1, 2014.

DMS appears to be on track to hit its end-of-year goal.

The Finance Commission made a thorough review of regulations governing the Paid-Up-for-Life program and the status of the PUFL Trust Fund. The Finance Commission determined that the most prudent way to overcome a deficit in the fund is to encourage more members to buy Paid-Up-For-Life memberships at the current rates. In order to do this, the rate structure needed to be simplified. Therefore, the Finance Commission is recommending that Paid-Up-For-Life memberships may be purchased at any time by anyone eligible for Legion membership, and the department in which the new member resides has 30 days to veto the PUFL. If the person is already a member of The American Legion, the resident post has 30 days to veto the PUFL membership. Otherwise, the procedure for purchasing a PUFL membership will continue as in the past.

A list of resolutions recommended for your approval follows this report. The Finance Commission rejected a resolution titled, "Foreign Department Travel Costs."

Mr. Commander, this concludes my report. After my report, I would ask that I be recognized for an update on the Soldier's Wish.

Report: Finance Commission
Kenneth D. Danilson, Iowa, Chairman
October 14-15, 2013

The Finance Commission met Monday and Tuesday, October 14-15, 2013. All commission members were present.

Also present were: Daniel S. Wheeler, National Adjutant; George A. Buskirk, Jr., National Treasurer; Jeffrey O. Brown, Indianapolis Office Executive Director; Peter Gaytan, Washington Office Executive Director; Dick Holmes, Geiger Operations Center Executive Director; Shawn Long, Finance Director; and Thomas Mattice & Curt Twete of the Finance NEC Liaison Committee. Several guests joined us throughout the course of the meeting.

Reports were received from the National Adjutant; National Treasurer; Finance Director; National Judge Advocate; the three executive directors; The American Legion Magazine Commission; the Revenue Enhancement Committee; the 100th Anniversary Committee; the Americanism Commission; the Information Technology Division; the Internal Affairs Commission; and the Membership & Post Activities Committee.

The commission approved the removal of items that are outdated, duplicated or otherwise no longer significant to the Library's archives.

Jimmy A. Luther was named agent-of-record for the health and life coverage of employees of The American Legion.

Requests for 2014 furniture & fixtures in the amount of $67,061 were approved, as was $15,289 in budget overruns and emergency purchases since the commission's last meeting.

The commission approved a recommendation that Crowe Horwath LLP, certified public accountants, be employed to prepare The American Legion's 2013 fiscal year audit.

The commission recommends that 2014 dues be allocated as follows: $3 to The American Legion Magazine and $10.50 to the general fund.

The Americanism Commission reported on the great success of the 2013 American Legion Baseball World Series held in Shelby, and the excellent job done by the North Carolina volunteers who organized the event. The Shelby committee is working towards having the championship World Series game broadcast on ESPNU, and the commission earmarked $40,000 in the event this becomes a reality.

The 2013 budget is projected to finish with a surplus of approximately $740,463.

For 2014, the Finance Commission recommends the NEC approve a budget based on revenues of $71,661,766, expenses of $70,707,705, for an net surplus of $954,061. This budget is based on a 2014 membership of 2,175,000.

The Finance Commission recommends the National Commander be granted authority to expend up to $100,000 per instance to alleviate the effect of emergencies affecting veterans, active duty personnel and the families of such individuals. The National Commander will report any such expenditures at the subsequent NEC meeting.

Philip B. Onderdonk, Jr., was recognized by the Commission for 30 years of dedicated service as National Judge Advocate.

The Finance Commission approved a 1 percent cost-of-living increase for all graded employees effective January 1, 2014.

DMS appears to be on track to hit its end-of-year goal.

The Finance Commission made a thorough review of regulations governing the Paid-Up-for-Life program and the status of the PUFL Trust Fund. The Finance Commission determined that the most prudent way to overcome a current deficit is to encourage more members to buy Paid-Up-For-Life memberships at the current rates. In order to do this, the rate structure needed to be simplified. Therefore, the Finance Commission is recommending that Paid-Up-For-Life memberships may be purchased at any time by anyone eligible for Legion membership, and the Department in which the new member resides has 30 days to veto the PUFL. If the person is already a member of The American Legion, the resident Post has 30 days to veto the PUFL membership. Otherwise, the procedure for purchasing a PUFL membership will continue as in the past.

A list of resolutions recommended for your approval follows this report. The Finance Commission rejected a resolution titled Foreign Department Travel Costs.

Resolutions

The Finance Commission recommends the NEC approve and adopt the 12 resolutions listed below. Copies of the resolutions accompany this report.

Resolution No. 2: National Paid-Up-For-Life Membership Plan. Paid-Up-For-Life memberships may be purchased at any time by anyone eligible for Legion membership, and the Department in which the new member resides has 30 days to veto the PUFL. If the person is already a member of The American Legion, the resident Post has 30 days to veto the PUFL membership. Otherwise, the procedure for purchasing a PUFL membership will continue as in the past

Resolution No. 3: Scheduling of The National Commander's Annual Congressional Testimony. Effective in 2014, the National Commander's annual congressional testimony will coincide with the Washington Conference.

Resolution No. 4: Emergency Assistance to Veterans, Active Duty Personnel and Their Families. The National Commander is granted authority to expend up to $100,000 per instance to alleviate the effect of emergencies affecting veterans, active duty personnel and the families of such individuals. The National Commander will report any such expenditures at the subsequent NEC meeting.

Resolution No. 5: Restatement of The American Legion Retirement Plan for Employees of the National Headquarters and Subordinate Groups Thereof. The retirement plan must be restated periodically; this resolution accomplishes that.

Resolution No. 6: Affinity Charge Card Program. A resolution on this subject was inadvertently rescinded in 2012. This resolution reaffirms that the affinity charge card program of The American Legion is hereby declared to preempt the right of any Department or Post to enter into any other affinity charge card program, including but not limited to credit cards and calling cards.

Resolution No. 7: The American Legion National Commander's Public Relations. Award**.** This award, previously given at the Washington Conference, will now be presented at the National Convention. The resolution sets out the award description, cost, expenses and amenities to be provided.

Resolution No. 8: Oratorical Contest National Finals. Reaffirms that The American Legion High School Oratorical contest's national level will be an elimination system featuring nine first-round contests, three second-round contests and a national finals contest involving three finalists. Annual scholarships in the amount of $138,000 will be given as follows:

- Fifty-four Department winners competing in first-round of national contest $1,500 each
- First-round winners eliminated in second round of national contest $ 1,500 each
- Third place national contest winner $14,000
- Second place national contest winner $16,000
- First place national contest winner $18,000.

Resolution No. 9: American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year Award Scholarships. The American Legion will continue to award the Eagle Scout of the Year winner a $10,000 scholarship, and the three runners-up each will receive a $2,500 scholarship.

Resolution No. 10: Junior Air Rifle National Championships. An annual scholarship is established in the amount of $2,500 each to the top Precision and Sporter category national champions.

Resolution No. 11: National Forensic League Sponsorship. Authorizes The American Legion to sponsor the National Forensic League's high school speech and debate activities in the amount of $10,000 for the period October 2013 to October 2014. This resolution also recommends rescinding NEC Resolution 13, October 2012 as superseded.

Resolution No. 12: Agreement with the National Veterans Legal Services Program (NVLSP) – 2013-2014. Authorizes The American Legion to enter into an agreement with the NVLSP to provide court representation, one national training session for Department Service Officers and others, updates and revisions of printed matter, as well as research services and other services as set forth in the contract, at a cost not to exceed $387,225. This is a reduction of more than $114,000 over last year, due to careful analysis and prioritization of service officer program needs.

Resolution No. 13: 2014 Enhancements to National Headquarters Computing Environment. Authorizes The American Legion National Headquarters to acquire hardware, software and installation services to improve reliability and meet the present and foreseeable capacity needs of the National Headquarters computer environment at a cost not to exceed $432,600.

Report: Revenue Enhancement Committee
Walter W. Ivie, Texas, Chairman
October 15, 2013

Assigned to the Finance Commission, the purpose of the Revenue Enhancement Committee is to explore and recommend to the Commission various activities, strategies and opportunities for bringing revenue into The American Legion in order to enhance the organization's ability to achieve its mission.

Members of the Revenue Enhancement Committee met in Indianapolis, Indiana in the Michigan Room of the Sheraton Hotel City Centre on Monday, October 14, 2013. After Chairman Ivie called the meeting to order, the following updates were received and recorded.

Department Fundraising

The ultimate goal for the Department Fundraising Program is to provide a comprehensive program that mails all member fundraising campaigns for all departments. Participating departments receive a guaranteed amount of income from these campaigns, paid in quarterly installments. In addition, they receive any income generated from their campaigns in excess of the guaranteed amount. This program maximizes those funds raised for departments while achieving a breakeven for the national organization. It should be noted that this program is willing to extend a contract to multiple years if preferred by the department. To date, 13 departments have opted into the guarantee program.

Benefits of this program include:

- Guaranteed minimum income for departments
- Consistent message to members
- Reduced risk of over-mailing
- Protection of member lists & data
- Efficiencies of scale (as quantities go up, costs go down and net income increases)

Compared to the same period last year (January 1 through September 30), participation in the department fundraising programs overall continues to grow. This equates to a total of 65 campaigns, as compared to 47 campaigns in 2012.

	2013	**2012**
Campaigns	**65**	**47**
Total Units	1,539,107	917,933
Label Units	887,024	671,737
Non-Label Units	652,083	246,196
Net Revenue	**$1,180,000**	**$825,000**

Campaign results remain strong for labels and all-occasion cards. Costs for department label programs remain unchanged. The American Legion was able to take advantage of quantity savings in the all-occasion cards to offer lower costs for this program. There has been a noted increase in the number of departments utilizing our package for their sweepstakes mailings. The package is full-color and is attractively priced.

In order to provide greater value to those departments not yet enrolled in the guarantee program, the division continues to offer a discount on the print and production

costs if the department participates in two or more campaigns. In addition, the program is constantly looking for ways to diversify its portfolio and continues to test and evaluate new packages to boost revenue for departments.

Strategic Alliances

United Services Automobile Association (USAA) - In November of 2010, The American Legion launched a partnership with United Services Automobile Association (USAA). USAA provides insurance products to American Legion family members to include Home, Auto, Life, Long-Term Care and Medicare Supplement. USAA also provide a complete array of financial products including: Checking, Money Market, Investment and Credit Card Options.

USAA continues to be a strong strategic alliance partner in 2013, as evidenced below:

- Insurance royalties $2,430,000
- Credit card royalties (based on 53,891 active cards as of the end of August 2013).....$746,665
- USAA spend on Legion-owned marketing assets. $1,338,574
- Fixed-program sponsorships (National Convention, Legacy Run, American Legion Baseball, Boys Nation & American Legion Charities) $175,000
- The Department Revenue Sharing Program has generated for participating departments (with 47 departments signing agreements).....$904,600

The grand total (royalties, marketing, sponsorships & revenue sharing) projected for year end 2013 .....**$5,594,839**

Non-member Fundraising

As of the end of September, our active file of nearly 120,000 donors is giving approximately two times per year with an average gift of $14.34. This year, The American Legion has mailed nearly 2,470,000 acquisition appeals, resulting in acquiring more than 55,200 new donors and more than 42,000 non-donor prospect names. Our current cost to acquire is at $8.54 per donor.

Our donor campaigns continue to perform very well. Year to date, our house mailings have achieved a total return on investment of 99%. This represents a return of $1.99 for every dollar spent.

Gifts of $200 plus have become commonplace from our non-member donors. September was a particularly good month. The American Legion received 26 gifts of $200 or more, which averages out to $697 per gift. This speaks well to the overall health of the non-member program and the efforts in place to move direct mail donor into planned and major gifts.

While the non-member donor program has shown revenue growth of about 8% over the same period last year, we anticipate the 2013 net income will finish slightly behind pace at about $800,000 for the year. Due to late year acquisition successes, we will be mailing more aggressively beginning with our January and February acquisition appeals to maximize the return we can expect from those donors throughout the 2014 cycle.

Major Gifts & Planned Giving

The Planned Giving program is communicating on a regular basis with a number of non-member donors that have given a combined total of $40,050 in cash to The American Legion so far in 2013. It is believed that each of these donors is capable of

giving a major gift in excess of $30,000…which is about 10 times their average gift so far. Staff will continue to cultivate these relationships.

Roughly fifteen-thousand prospects received the fall issue of *The Pillars* newsletter. This issue featured estate planning, and included: how-to compile a comprehensive list of documents and records, what to include in a letter of instructions and disclosing information about legacy gifts. The newsletter also contained a short (6 question) survey to discover future topics of interest and determine whether the individual has included The American Legion in his/her estate plans.

To date, a total of 192 completed surveys have been received. The results are posted below:

- 76 reported that they were "regular" readers of the newsletter.
- 82 reported they had discussed and/or revised their will/estate plans
- 5 had included the Legion in their wills and estate plans
- 21 were driven to visit our website.

At the Committee's request, staff continues to research and send out grant applications, when appropriate, to companies and foundations that are known to fund veterans' causes.

Sponsorship Opportunities

The American Legion continues to pursue strategic alliances with the for-profit sector, in the form of event, program and project sponsorships. Three general assumptions shape the acceptance of all sponsorships: 1) The American Legion will solicit and accept support only for projects and activities that are consistent with the organization's mission; 2) Acceptance of sponsorships must enhance, and shall not impede, The American Legion's ability to act in the best interest of its members at all times; and 3) The American Legion's name, emblem and other intangible intellectual assets must be protected at all times.

The American Legion welcomes sponsorships as an opportunity to enhance our services as long as the sponsorships are consistent with our policies and reaffirm our mission and core services. Currently, The American Legion is working to create and/or enhance its strategic alliances with a number of corporate entities, to include – Major League Baseball, Sears, Wilson Sporting Goods, Crosman and Samsung.

100 Year Anniversary

Looking ahead to The American Legion's 100th year anniversary, staff has identified a number corporations (i.e. - PepsiCo, The Ford Motor Company, Cummins, ConAgra, Saks, Inc., Flowers Food, Novartis Pharmaceuticals) headquartered throughout the United States that share 1919 as their Founding Year. We are developing strategies and acquiring points of contact to actively pursue relationships with these corporations to benefit The American Legion.

Addendum A

Rejected

Resolution No. 55 (PI) (2013 Natl. Conv.)**: Foreign Department Travel Costs**

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HEDRICK: Mr. Commander, I move the Finance Commission report be approved with the exception of 12 resolutions and one addendum. ... *Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: We have a motion on the floor and second. Any discussion? Hearing none, all in favor signify by saying aye. Opposed. Motion carries.

Resolution No. 2: National Paid-Up-For-Life Membership Plan
Origin: Internal Affairs Commission
Submitted by: Finance Commission

WHEREAS, The National Organization many years ago saw the benefit for a lifetime membership program as a means to help stabilize membership, to facilitate the maintenance of membership, particularly by members who change their place of residence upon retirement, and to offer a service other veterans organizations had already established; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion National Paid-Up-For-Life Plan was established by Resolution No. 10 by the National Executive Committee at their October 9-10, 1974 meeting in Indianapolis; and

WHEREAS, The Plan began with the 1976 membership year; and

WHEREAS, This Plan has attracted approximately 250,000 Legionnaires into the program as their choice of dues payment; and

WHEREAS, The Plan does meet the objectives stated earlier and satisfies those that have become Paid-Up-For-Life members; and

WHEREAS, This Plan is periodically reviewed to ascertain if the original assumptions are still valid; and

WHEREAS, The National Organization does not desire to increase cost of the Plan to members who have entered into the Plan; and,

WHEREAS, In order to protect the Plan's integrity and financial well-being for the future, the Finance Commission periodically conducts and reviews actuarial studies to include review of the most current Internal Revenue Service mortality rate tables in order to determine if rate structure increases are needed to maintain the financial well being of the Paid-Up-For-Life Trust Fund; and

WHEREAS, Since the means of doing business in membership has changed over the years by the successful addition of on-line renewals, direct renewals and on-line membership sign-up, a simpler and less structured process for purchasing Paid-Up-For-Life memberships direct to the National Organization should be added to direct renewals, on-line renewals and the National Organization's website; and

WHEREAS, This resolution restates all current policy and the new policy is underlined in the below resolving clauses; and

WHEREAS, The National Internal Affairs and Finance Commissions have reviewed this resolution and recommended its approval; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 16-17, 2013, That the Finance Commission may from time to time recommend rate structure changes to the National Executive Committee based on changes in the Internal Revenue Service mortality rate tables and/or as recommended by our actuaries in order to maintain the long term financial well-being of the Paid-Up-For-Life Trust Fund; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the Paid-Up-For-Life Membership Plan is hereby restated from previous resolutions and updated to direct the National Treasurer of The American Legion to accept membership dues in The American Legion for life based on the following terms and conditions:

1. **The full amount for each paid-up-for-life member, according to age, shall be transmitted by the post to its department headquarters, which shall in turn transmit the full amount to the National Treasurer or the individual**

member may purchase direct from the National Headquarters as stipulated on the most current application form from National Headquarters. The National Treasurer shall place these funds in a trust account in accordance with paragraph 17 following.

2. **Any person who is eligible for membership in The American Legion may purchase a paid-up-for-life membership at the rates established by the Finance Commission.**
3. **The National Adjutant will issue such forms, application blanks, regulations and website content consistent with the provisions of this resolution, and procedural and promotional information as may be necessary to implement the plan.**
4. **At the time regular membership cards year are printed, a register of all paid-up-for-life members shall be prepared for each department in alphabetical order by posts, as well as posting on myLegion.org. On the basis of this list, the National Treasurer will annually withdraw from the trust account an amount equal to each post's, departments and national's share of the per capita dues as of the time the paid-up-for-life membership was purchased and shall thereafter promptly transfer to the general revenue of The American Legion as dues income an amount equal to the national per capita dues withdrawn for all paid-up-for-life members. The National Treasurer shall also simultaneously transmit to each participating department the amount of each department's per capita withdrawn plus the amount of the post's share of the annual dues withdrawn, for all paid-up-for-life members of the department, and the departments will in turn transmit to their posts the amount of the post's share of the annual dues for all such members.**
5. **Membership cards for paid-up-for-life members will be issued annually by National Headquarters; each properly identified as such, and will be mailed annually by National Headquarters directly to each paid-up-for-life member. Departments will be credited with memberships for the appropriate year for all paid-up-for-life membership cards issued, and department will similarly credit posts with memberships for all paid-up-for-life cards issued to their members.**
6. **The total dues assessed may not be less than the sum of the national and department per capita dues in effect at the time the paid-up-for-life membership is purchased. In the event that the annual dues amount used for a post to compute the cost of a paid-up-for-life membership is equal to the sum of the national and department per capita dues then in effect, the post will not at any time in the future receive any payment from the National Headquarters for any paid-up-for-life membership so computed. But such a post is obligated to recognize all members who have purchased such paid-up-for-life memberships and afford them all the privileges of membership so long as they shall live unless their membership is canceled or revoked under the provisions of the National Constitution.**
7. **Should the National Treasurer determine, on actuarial advice, that the paid-up-for-life trust account has insufficient funds to meet current and/or future obligations, he shall so notify the National Executive Committee through the Finance Commission. The National Executive Committee may then direct a percentage reduction in the national and department per capita dues then in effect for any given year of paid-up-for-life members sufficient to maintain the integrity of the trust fund, and the percentage reduction shall be applicable equally to national and department dues. No**

reduction will be applied to post's share of the annual per capita dues paid at the time of the purchase of the paid-up-for-life membership. The post's per capita will always remain the same.

8. **A paid-up-for-life member may transfer to another post within the same department with the approval of the transferee post. A paid-up-for-life member may transfer to a post in another department with the approval of the transferee post and department. In the event of such approval of transfer of a member having a paid-up-for-life membership, the post and department shall be obligated to honor the paid-up-for-life membership of the individual transferee whether they are participants in the paid-up-for-life membership plan or whether they are not. All such transfers of paid-up-for-life membership, once effectuated, shall be reported to National Headquarters by the department having jurisdiction over the transferee post.**
9. **Should a paid-up-for-life member hold membership in a post whose charter has been canceled and should the member be unable to effectuate a transfer, then in the event the unused portion of his original paid-up-for-life membership fee will be refunded to him. The same rule will apply in the case of a paid-up-for-life member whose membership has been revoked by his post.**
10. **Except as provided in paragraph 9 above, no refunds of paid-up-for-life membership fees will be made.**
11. **The National Adjutant shall submit to the Finance Commission as a part of the annual budget an estimate of the administrative cost of the national paid-up-for-life membership plan, including but not limited to postage, printing, electronic data processing and salaries, and the Finance Commission with the approval of the National Executive Committee may authorize withdrawal from the paid-up-for-life membership trust account monies representing administrative costs in connection with this program for transfer to the general fund not in excess of one and one-half per cent (1½%) of the principal. Any monies withdrawn for administrative costs remaining unspent at the close of the year shall revert to the trust account. Any monies to be refunded to a member pursuant to paragraph 9 above may be withdrawn at any time from the trust account.**
12. **The plan shall use the most current applicable mortality table as recommended by its enrolled and licensed actuaries and/or the Internal Revenue Service mortality rate tables.**
13. **The acceptance of payment for a paid-up-for-life membership by the post, department and National Treasurer shall be a binding obligation upon the post, department and National Organization to recognize the member as being a fully paid member each year thereafter with all of the rights of any member for the remainder of his life, and no further payment of dues or assessment shall be required to maintain his membership in good standing, except in the case of misrepresentation of age or membership eligibility, or in case a refund has been made pursuant to paragraph 9 above.**
14. **A participating department may upon the vote of its Department Executive Committee or convention withdraw from the plan but is obligated to recognize and honor paid-up-for-life memberships previously accepted under the plan.**
15. **A distinction shall be made between a paid-up-for-life membership and a life membership conferred upon a member by the post as an honor and in recognition of outstanding service. No member shall be permitted to**

purchase or receive a Life Membership card, as distributed by National Emblem Sales or a department emblem sales, unless that member has been conferred a life membership by the post. A participating department may, at its discretion, require a post to purchase a paid-up-for-life membership in the name of a member who is to be honored by the awarding of a life membership.

16. **Departments which presently operate a paid-up-for-life membership plan or departments which in the future elect to establish a plan may do so without regard to the national paid-up-for-life plan, except that a department may not elect both to have its own paid-up-for-life membership plan and participate in the national plan at the same time.**
17. **The National Commander and the National Treasurer are authorized and directed to negotiate and enter into agreement(s) with a financial institution approved by the Finance Commission, and the National Adjutant is authorized and directed to attest to such an agreement, to provide for the deposit and investment of paid-up-for-life membership funds, and the National Treasurer shall cause all receipts for such memberships to be deposited promptly therein and shall make withdrawals only in accordance with the procedures and for the purposes described herein, or as subsequently amended.**
18. **The National Treasurer shall review with appropriate financial institution officials the investment procedures so that paid-up-for-life membership funds shall be invested in a manner that will produce the greatest yield consistent with sound trust investment practices and approval by the Finance Commission.**
19. **Income derived from the investment of the paid-up-for-life membership trust funds shall revert to the trust account and shall become a part of the corpus of the account and shall not be used for any purpose other than authorized herein.**
20. **These regulations, including the fee schedule, may be amended by the National Executive Committee.**
21. **This resolution incorporates applicable portions of previous current resolutions and thus supersedes and rescinds all prior resolutions concerning the National-Paid-Up-For Life Membership Plan including Resolution 10, Fall 1974 National Executive Committee; Resolution 19, Spring 1975 National Executive Committee; Resolution 336, 1986 National Convention; Resolution 31, Spring 2003 National Executive Committee; Resolution 8, Spring 2009 National Executive Committee; Resolution 9, Fall 2010 National Executive Committee; and Resolution 20, Fall 2011 National Executive Committee.**

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: This resolution has the approval of your Internal Affairs Commission, your Finance Commission, your Subcommittee on Resolutions, therefore, I move for its adoption.

... Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: Motion on the floor and a second. Discussion? Past National Commander.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER SANTOS: In reference, if somebody does this directly with national, are you obtaining verification on his age and, number 2, on his proof of eligibility, which will be forwarded to the department for their consideration? Since we're also concerned with the IRS of maintaining proof of eligibility.

FINANCE COMMISSION CHAIRMAN DANILSON: We're still working out the details for somebody to pay, but that is part of the discussion, and we'll make sure that we take care of something like that.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER SANTOS: Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: Any further discussion? If not, all those in favor of the motion, signify by saying aye. Opposed. The motion carries.

Resolution No. 3: Scheduling of the National Commander's Annual Congressional Testimony
Origin: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission
Submitted by: Finance Commission

WHEREAS, The American Legion is a congressionally chartered wartime veterans organization; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion, since its inception, has researched, recommended and monitored the cost and delivery of veterans benefits by the federal government; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion, since its inception, has regularly communicated to members of Congress in a variety of ways its views and findings concerning legislative priorities and Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) services; and

WHEREAS, One of the most effective means of communication has been the appearance of the National Commander before the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees, either in separate and/or joint session, to present written and oral testimony; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion's testimony and other presentations have been made in advance of the final decisions about funding VA services and the completion of the federal budget; and

WHEREAS, In September 1976 The American Legion testified before congressional committees to accommodate congressional budget deadlines, which are no longer applicable; and

WHEREAS, It was reported by the Legislative Commission at the October 5-6, 1977 meeting of the National Executive Committee that the National Commander had testified before congressional committees in September 1977, replacing the traditional appearance during the Washington Conference; and

WHEREAS, Congress has failed to approve an annual budget for the VA for the past four years; and

WHEREAS, Presenting testimony during the Washington Conference would prove more effective as VA budget hearings begin in the spring; and

WHEREAS, Presenting testimony during the Washington Conference would improve the effectiveness of both Legionnaires' visits to their members of Congress as well as the National Commander's visit with the President; and

WHEREAS, This resolution has been reviewed and recommended for approval by the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission, the Legislative Commission, and the Finance Commission; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 16-17, 2013, That the annual congressional testimony of the National Commander be scheduled to coincide with the Washington Conference of The American Legion to take effect beginning in 2014.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: This resolution has the approval of your Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission,

your Legislative Commission, your Finance Commission, your Subcommittee on Resolutions, therefore, I move for its adoption. ... *Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: A motion on the floor and a second. Any discussion? All those in favor of the motion, signify by saying aye. Opposed. The motion carries.

Resolution No. 4: Emergency Assistance to Veterans, Active Duty Personnel and Their Families
Origin: Finance Commission
Submitted by: Finance Commission

WHEREAS, There have been recent situations that arose suddenly to place veterans, active duty personnel and their families in dire need that funds and/or services be provided immediately; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion needs the ability to respond immediately without taking the time to get advance authorization; and

WHEREAS, There is not time in such situations for the usual authorization in advance; and

WHEREAS, The National Finance Commission has reviewed such situations which arise from time to time and recommends that the National Commander, after consultation of the National Adjutant and the National Finance Commission Chairman, be given the authority to assist veterans, active duty military and their families in such situations, and recommends such action to the National Executive Committee; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 16-17, 2013, That The American Legion is especially concerned about aiding veterans, active duty personnel and their families in circumstances such as the unavailability of emergency funds or services needed by veterans, active duty personnel and their families when circumstances arise which make it advisable that immediate assistance be rendered; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The National Commander, after consultation with National Adjutant and National Finance Commission Chairman, shall have the authority to expend up to one hundred thousand dollars per emergency relating to veterans, active duty personnel and the families of such individuals to provide funds to alleviate the effect of such emergencies; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the National Commander is authorized to co-operate, work with or join with other organizations and individuals with similar goals to expand the reach of the assistance herein authorized; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That it is the intent of the National Executive Committee that this resolution is to be read expansively to solve problems, and that the National Commander not be restricted by the specific wording of this resolution when recommending assistance; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the National Commander shall report any such actions to the next National Executive Committee meeting.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: This resolution has the approval of your Finance Commission, your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption. … *Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: Motion on the floor and a second. Any discussion? All those in favor of the motion, signify by saying aye. Opposed. The motion carries.

Resolution No. 5: Restatement of The American Legion Retirement Plan for Employees of the National Headquarters and Subordinate Groups Thereof
Origin: Finance Commission
Submitted by: Finance Commission

WHEREAS, The American Legion Retirement Plan for Employees of the National Headquarters and Subordinate Groups Thereof needs to be periodically restated; and

WHEREAS, The most recent restatement will be effective January 1, 2012, without changing any provisions of the Plan; and

WHEREAS, The restatement needs to be signed no later than December 7, 2013; and

WHEREAS, This resolution has the approval of the Finance Commission which recommends it to the National Executive Committee; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 16-17, 2013, That the restatement of The American Legion Retirement Plan for Employees of the National Headquarters and Subordinate Groups Thereof is hereby approved; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That after review and approval of the National Judge Advocate, the National Commander is hereby authorized and directed to execute the restatement dated January 1, 2012, and the National Adjutant is hereby authorized and directed to attest the same.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: This resolution has the approval of your Finance Commission, your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption. ... *Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: Motion on the floor and a second. Any discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed. Motion carries.

Resolution No. 6: Affinity Charge Card Program
Origin: Finance Commission
Submitted by: Finance Commission

WHEREAS, The National Executive Committee of The American Legion had adopted a resolution authorizing an affinity charge card program for members and to raise funds which resolution preempted the right of any Department or Post to enter into any other affinity charge card program; and

WHEREAS, During the review of the Affinity Agreement 2012, the language authorizing the preemption provision in the Affinity Charge Card Program Agreement was erroneously rescinded and the preemption on telephone calling cards was also rescinded at an earlier time; and

WHEREAS, All entities have operated as if the resolution was in place; and

WHEREAS, This resolution has been reviewed and approved by the Finance Commission which recommends it to the National Executive Committee; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 16-17, 2013, That the affinity charge card program of The American Legion is hereby declared to preempt the right of any department or post to enter into any other affinity charge card program, including, but not limited to credit cards and calling cards.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: This resolution has the approval of your Finance Commission, your Subcommittee on Resolutions, therefore, I move for its adoption. ... *Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: We have a motion on the floor and a second. Any discussion? All those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed. Motion carries.

Resolution No. 7: The American Legion National Commander's Public Relations Award
Origin: Public Relations Commission
Submitted by: Finance Commission

WHEREAS, The National Commander's Public Relations Award was approved by the National Adjutant June 10, 1968 in accordance with Resolution No. 30, National Executive Committee, April 30-May 1, 1958; and

WHEREAS, The National Commander's Public Relations Award is presented each year to individuals, companies or organizations who have garnered exceptional public and national media recognition of the honorable nature of military service; and

WHEREAS, The award honors specific achievements of accomplishments that are in accordance with, or in furtherance of, established American Legion policies or programs that have contributed to the preservation of the American way of life; and

WHEREAS, The presentation of the award serves to further advance opportunities to increase public awareness of military and veterans issues; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 16-17, 2013, That The American Legion shall provide the National Commander's Public Relations Award Recipient of the Year with one roundtrip coach airfare ticket within the United States to the National Convention, plus transportation to and from the airport if the award winner is not a resident of the National Convention metropolitan area; two nights lodging at the National Convention headquarters hotel; up to two tickets for the National Commander's Head Table Reception and Banquet; reimbursement of normal and customary expenses as determined by The American Legion; an 18" X 22" walnut shadow box plaque with metal etched inscribed plate not exceeding the cost of $750, adjusted as needed for inflation; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the National Commander will provide the award recipient a one-year membership in The American Legion, if eligible, and not already a member; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That Resolution No. 9, October 12-13, 2011 is hereby superseded and rescinded.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: This resolution has the approval of the Public Relations Commission, the Finance Commission, your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption. ... *Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: Motion on the floor and a second. Any discussion? All those in favor of the motion, signify by saying aye. Opposed. Motion carries.

Resolution No. 8: Oratorical Contest National Finals
Origin: Americanism Commission
Submitted by: Finance Commission

WHEREAS, The December 2011 change to the charter of The American Legion created the need to examine and edit language within certain resolutions of the

organization in order to bring a resolution into compliance with the Charter, and gave opportunity to correct deficiencies in other resolutions, the subject herein being one as originally set out in Res. 38, NEC, May 1995; and

WHEREAS, The purpose of The American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program – "A Constitutional Speech Contest" is to develop a deeper knowledge and appreciation of the Constitution of the United States, develop leadership qualities and communication skills and to prepare high school students for the acceptance of the responsibilities of American citizenship; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program – "A Constitutional Speech Contest" has been a national youth activity of The American Legion since 1938 during which time more than three million dollars in scholarships have been awarded to several thousand participants at the national level of competition; and

WHEREAS, NEC Resolution No. 38, May 2-4, 1995, established a three-year test period for a new contest structure of national competition, whereby a system of elimination contests are conducted at a single location which feature nine first round contests, three second round contests and a national finals contest involving three finalists; and

WHEREAS, NEC Resolution No. 39, May 5-6, 1999, made permanent the new contest format to The American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program – "A Constitutional Speech Contest" as established in NEC Resolution No. 38, May 2-4, 1995; and

WHEREAS, The concept of holding all national level oratorical contests in one location offers the opportunity for greater administrative control, a greater degree of fairness and uniformity while reducing administrative costs associated with conducting the national contests; and

WHEREAS, The task of administering the national oratorical competition is the responsibility of the Americanism and Children & Youth Division staff in Indianapolis, Indiana; and

WHEREAS, The national oratorical contest has been successfully conducted in Indianapolis, Indiana, under the aforementioned single site contest structure for sixteen years; and

WHEREAS, This resolution has been reviewed by the National Americanism Commission and with concurrence from the National Finance Commission, is recommended to the National Executive Committee for favorable action; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 16-17, 2013, That the contest structure at the national level of The American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program – "A Constitutional Speech Contest" be a system of elimination contests conducted at a single location which will feature nine first-round contests, three second-round contests and a national finals contest involving three finalists; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the scholarships award structure for the national level of oratorical competition be as follows so as to annually award the expenditure of scholarship funds in the amount of $138,000:

Fifty-four department winners competing in first-round of national contest $1,500 each

First-round winners eliminated in second round of national contest $1,500 each

First place national contest winner $18,000

Second place national contest winner $16,000

Third place national contest winner $14,000; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the national level of competition for The American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program – "A Constitutional Speech Contest," be conducted in Indianapolis, Indiana, each year; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the National Commander, after review and approval of the National Judge Advocate, be and is hereby authorized and directed to execute such contract(s) as may be needed to support the execution of the Oratorical Contest National Finals and the National Adjutant be and is hereby authorized and directed to attest to same.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: This resolution has the approval of your Americanism Commission, your Finance Commission, your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption. ... *Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: Motion on the floor and a second. Any discussion? All those in favor of the motion, signify by saying aye. Opposed. Motion carries.

Resolution No. 9: American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year Award Scholarship
Origin: Americanism Commission
Submitted by: Finance Commission

WHEREAS, The American Legion voiced its support of the Boy Scouts of America at its first national convention in 1919, making it the first recognized national youth activity of The American Legion; and

WHEREAS, NEC Resolution No. 165, September 6-8, 1994, established the name of the "Eagle Scout of the Year Award"; and

WHEREAS, NEC Resolution No. 30, October 13-14, 2004, established eligibility requirements for the Eagle Scout of the Year Award; and

WHEREAS, NEC Resolution No. 10, October 14-15, 2009, was rescinded that authorized The American Legion Life Insurance Fund to award the top winner of the Eagle Scout of the Year competition a $10,000 scholarship and the three runners-up a $2,500 scholarship each; and

WHEREAS, The national organization subsequently continued awarding annual Eagle Scout of the Year scholarships; and

WHEREAS, The National Americanism Commission wishes to continue the practice of awarding these scholarships; and

WHEREAS, This resolution has been reviewed by the National Americanism Commission and with concurrence from the National Finance Commission, is recommended to the National Executive Committee for favorable action; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 16-17, 2013, That The American Legion continue to award the Eagle Scout of the Year winner a $10,000 scholarship and the three runners-up each receive a $2,500 scholarship.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: This resolution has the approval of your Americanism Commission, your Finance Commission, your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption. ... *Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: We have a motion on the floor and a second. Any discussion? All those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed. Motion carries.

Resolution No. 10: Junior Air Rifle National Championships
Origin: Americanism Commission
Submitted by: Finance Commission

WHEREAS, The American Legion Junior Shooting Sports program was established by Resolution No. 59 of the National Executive Committee, in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 12-13, 1988; and

WHEREAS, USA Shooting, the National Governing Body of Olympic Shooting and the Civilian Marksmanship Program recognize The American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Program as the premier grassroots youth marksmanship program in the nation; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion is a member of the National Three-Position Air Rifle Council which also consists of representatives from Boy Scouts of America-Venturing, the Civilian Marksmanship Program, Daisy/U.S. Jaycees Shooter Education Program, 4-H Shooting Sports, the National Guard Marksmanship Training Center, and USA Shooting; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion Junior Air Rifle National Postal Tournament has grown to over 1,500 annual participants; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion Junior Air Rifle National Championships, held annually in Colorado Springs, Colorado, at the USA Shooting facility on the campus of the U.S. Olympic Training Center, has featured the top fifteen Sporter and top fifteen Precision category shooters in the American Legion National Postal Tournament; and

WHEREAS, The Sons of The American Legion annually provides a scholarship award for the national championship in the amount of $2,500 to the Precision category champion and $2,500 to the Sporter category champion; and

WHEREAS, This resolution has been reviewed by the National Americanism Commission and with concurrence from the National Finance Commission, is recommended to the National Executive Committee for favorable action; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 16-17, 2013, That The American Legion continue to conduct its annual Junior Air Rifle National Championships, inviting the top fifteen Sporter category and top fifteen Precision category shooters from the qualifying round of the national postal tournament to participate in the national championship shoulder-to-shoulder match; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an annual scholarship award be established by The American Legion in the amount of $2,500 each to the top Precision and Sporter category national champion; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the National Commander, after review and approval of the National Judge Advocate, be and is hereby authorized and directed to execute such contract(s) as may be needed to support the execution of the Junior Air Rifle National Championships and the National Adjutant be and is hereby authorized and directed to attest to same.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: This resolution has the approval of your Americanism Commission, your Finance Commission, your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption. ... *Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: Motion on the floor and a second. Any discussion? All in favor of the motion, signify by saying aye. Opposed. Motion carries.

Resolution No. 11: National Forensic League (NFL) Sponsorship
Origin: Americanism Commission
Submitted by: Finance Commission

WHEREAS, The National Forensic League (NFL) has a vibrant eighty-seven year tradition as the premier high school speech and debate organization in the United States; and

WHEREAS, The National Forensic League is 501(c)3 not-for-profit honorary society created to recognize high school students in speech and debate; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion, through its High School Oratorical Contest "A Constitutional Speech Contest," and the National Forensic League share the same vision that every participant will be empowered to become an effective communicator, ethical individual, critical thinker, and leader in a democratic society; and

WHEREAS, The National Forensic League recognizes that The American Legion is an organization whose mission promotes Americanism, is directly aligned with the goals and mission of the National Forensic League; and

WHEREAS, Through sponsorship of the National Forensic League in 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2013 The American Legion has reached a target audience of elite level competitors, coaches, and parents; and

WHEREAS, In 2012-2013, more than 112,000 high school and middle school students, representing nearly 3,000 schools nationwide, built their communication, leadership, cognitive, and presentational skills as members of the National Forensic League; and

WHEREAS, Throughout its eighty-eight years, the National Forensic League has consistently provided outstanding infrastructure and support services for high school speech and debate programs and support for other organizations and contests that promote forensics activities; and

WHEREAS, The National Forensic League annually hosts the largest forensics competition in the world, the National Forensic League National Speech Tournament, in which approximately 3,500 high school students from over 900 high schools qualify and attend this most prestigious event; and

WHEREAS, The National Forensic League provides unique event and award sponsorship opportunities as well as support programs to those entities that wish to receive higher levels of exposure to America's top forensics students and the 2,000 coaches and judges that accompany them; and

WHEREAS, NEC Resolution No. 5, October 13-14, 2010 established the relationship with the National Forensic League and The American Legion High School Oratorical Contest "A Constitutional Speech Contest"; and

WHEREAS, The National Forensic League has proposed that The American Legion continue to be a national sponsor of National Forensic League high school speech and debate activities in the amount of $10,000, for which the National Forensic League is prepared to:

a. Provide targeted promotion of The American Legion High School Oratorical Contest "A Constitutional Speech Contest" in five to seven departments selected by The American Legion by creating a system of event promotion and participation that has the potential to increase local level participation exponentially,
b. Award the three national finalists in The American Legion High School Oratorical Contest "A Constitutional Speech Contest" with qualification to the 2014 National Forensic League National Speech Tournament to be held in Kansas City, Missouri,
c. Complimentary National Tournament vending booth space for the entire week of the 2014 National Tournament,

d. Offer sponsorship recognition in all electronic and printed publications; and

WHEREAS, This resolution has been reviewed by the National Americanism Commission and with concurrence from the National Finance Commission, is recommended to the National Executive Committee for favorable action; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 16-17, 2013, That The American Legion is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement to be a national sponsor of the National Forensic League in the amount of $10,000 for the period of October 2013 to October 2014; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That when the agreement has been drafted and finalized, the National Commander, after review and approval by the National Judge Advocate, be and is hereby authorized and directed to execute said agreement and the National Adjutant be and is hereby authorized and directed to attest same; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That Resolution No. 13 of the National Executive Committee, October 2012 titled, "National Forensic League (NFL) Sponsorship" is hereby superseded and rescinded.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: This resolution has the approval of your Americanism Commission, your Finance Commission, your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption. ... *Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: Motion on the floor and a second. Any discussion? All those in favor of the motion, signify by saying aye. Opposed. Motion carries.

Resolution No. 12: Agreement with the National Veterans Legal Services Program (NVLSP) 2013-2014
Origin: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission
Submitted by: Finance Commission

WHEREAS, The National Veterans Legal Services Program (NVLSP) has provided The American Legion with excellent representation before the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims and excellent training courses in the past; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion and NVLSP feel that this representation and training should continue; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 16-17, 2013, That The American Legion enter into an agreement, contract, or memorandum of understanding with the National Veterans Legal Services Program (NVLSP) to provide The American Legion court representation on cases of precedential nature, at least one (1) national training session annually for department service officers and others, as well as research services and other services as set forth in the contract; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the costs for such services shall not exceed Three Hundred Eighty-Nine Thousand Eight Hundred and Seventeen Dollars and Zero Cents ($389,817.00); and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That after review and approval by the National Judge Advocate, the National Commander be and he is hereby authorized and directed to execute said agreement, contract or memorandum of understanding and the National Adjutant be and he is hereby authorized and directed to attest the same.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: This resolution has the approval of your Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission, your Finance Commission, your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption. ... *Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: We have a motion on the floor and a second. Any discussion? All those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed. Motion carries.

Resolution No. 13: 2014 Enhancements to the National Headquarters Computing Environment

Origin: Finance Commission

Submitted by: Finance Commission

WHEREAS, Many job functions, production processes and communications within the National Headquarters rely heavily on electronic equipment and computerization; and

WHEREAS, The technology related to the equipment used in performing these functions changes at a very rapid rate, forcing replacement every three to five years; and

WHEREAS, New equipment and software must be implemented each year to enhance the performance and expand the capabilities of our various computer systems and production equipment; and

WHEREAS, The National Finance Commission has reviewed the detailed listing of products ("2014 IT CAPITAL EXPENDITURES") proposed to accomplish these needed enhancements and has recommended approval by The National Executive Committee; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 16-17, 2013, That The American Legion National Headquarters acquire during the 2014 calendar year at a purchase price not to exceed $432,600 (or enter into leases where it is determined more prudent to do so) the necessary hardware, software and installation services to improve reliability and to meet the present and foreseeable capacity needs of the National Headquarters computer environment; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion negotiates and enters into appropriate maintenance agreements for all equipment and applicable software; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the National Commander, after review and approval by the National Judge Advocate, is hereby authorized and directed to execute appropriate purchase contracts and/or lease agreements to acquire the aforementioned and the National Adjutant is hereby authorized and directed to attest the same.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: This resolution has approval of your National Finance Commission, your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption. ... *Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: Motion on the floor and second. Any discussion? All those in favor of the motion, signify by saying aye. Opposed. Motion carries.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Mr. Commander, attached to this report is addendum A. I move that the action of the National Finance Commission become the action of the National Executive Committee. ... *Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: Motion on the floor and second. Any discussion? All those in favor of the motion, signify by saying aye. Opposed. Motion carries.

FINANCE COMMISSION CHAIRMAN DANILSON: Thank you, Mr. Commander. You remember at the last meeting in the spring we approved a resolution to support and work with Soldier's Wish, and I said I'd give you an update. I have a short video that I'd like approval to show. Then I have a special guest for the update. Thank you. ... *A video entitled "Soldier's Wish" was presented to the National Executive Committee.*

FINANCE COMMISSION CHAIRMAN DANILSON: I hope you enjoyed that video. It's just a portion of what Soldier's Wish has been working on the last six months.

I'd like to introduce a very special person that I've come to know. His name is Kevin McDugle. Service to his country is a major part of Kevin's life. He has served in the Marine Corps where he eventually was a drill instructor at Parris Island. Kevin worked with small businesses in Oklahoma to provide the opportunity for them to be heard in Washington. Kevin meets regularly with Oklahoma CEOs and small business owners to hear their concerns and carry forward their message to Washington. He is the president and CEO of eXpect3 Marketing, a full-service marketing company, with an emphasis on website development. He is also president and CEO of Lawyer Marketing Services. There he assists attorneys across the country to build their practice through traditional and nontraditional marketing. Please give him a warm welcome, Mr. Kevin McDugle, CEO of Soldier's Wish. *(Applause)*

Kevin McDugle, CEO
Soldier's Wish

Good morning. Thank you so much for the opportunity to be here, commander and members. I'm so excited. I have the greatest job in the country, because not only did I get to serve as a Marine and do what we all have done, being willing to give our lives to sacrifice for the greatest country, regardless of what's going on in Washington, this is the greatest country in the world.

I have the job and opportunity now to be able to seek out veterans and assist them in a number of different ways. Just like you saw with Spencer and his family, Soldier's Wish was able to give a wish to the family, not just to those who have served. Those family members served too. You and I know that real well.

This next year our vision is to grow much bigger, to be able to do much more. Just since this video we were able to grant two more wishes. At a cigar dinner in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where the dinner raised $62,000 so that we can grant more wishes. Also at that dinner we granted a wish to E.H. Pittman. E.H. Pittman came back from Afghanistan. During the Moore tornado, he worked at 7Eleven. The tornado had a direct hit on 7Eleven. He laid his body over two women and a young child. One of the women and young child died in that terrible accident. He was also deemed to be a paraplegic and to never walk again. We were able to give him and his family a $5,000 check at that dinner.

The next person that we had, we granted a wish to go on an elk hunt in Colorado. This is a guy who was hit in Afghanistan by an IED and deemed also to be a paraplegic, but he walked on two feet up on that stage to receive his gift. These gentlemen have served and given so much.

Now imagine, every wish that we've granted over this last year and every wish that we'll grant over this next year. I'm an American Legion member. I've been around for 46 years. I'd heard of The American Legion but didn't know a whole lot about it. Now I'm talking to guys that are my age and younger who are learning who The American Legion is. So with every wish that we grant, we mention The American Legion name as being partners with us. Every event that we went to this last year we mentioned The American Legion name, and we were able to meet a number of Legionnaires across the country.

So this next year, we're looking forward to doing the same, granting more wishes. We're going to be doing fund raisers across the country to raise more money so we can grant more wishes and do more for our great heroes. Are there any questions at all about Soldier's Wish? Who we are and what we do?

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Can you explain a little bit how we can donate to Soldier's Wish?

MR. MCDUGLE: Absolutely. I'll take checks now. That's okay. *(Laughter)*

You can go to soldierswish.org and donate through the website. It's a great way. You can also sign up for a newsletter there that will go out. In fact, you've already got them, don't you? I see them on your desk. There may be an envelope in that. If not, you can go to the website there and be able to donate.

I do want to thank the Great State of Kansas. We had our first check come in from an Auxiliary there. They sent us $800. I also want to thank a number of you who sent in checks for our Soldier's Wish dinner this last time. We did receive them and you'll be getting a thank you from us.

Just so you know, I don't need this job. I'm a hundred percent volunteer doing this. So this money is not going to Kevin McDugle's pocket. This money is going directly to those soldiers. Now, it takes an awful lot to get an organization like this off the ground. We've got to be able to market, we've got to be able to present a good name and do great things. We're going to work hard to do that.

I've grown a couple of companies now, and I'm going to grow Soldier's Wish. I don't believe that you can do too much for our veterans. Every organization's important. We're going to do all that we can to help those family members and those veterans who served us so well. Thank you guys so much. Appreciate you. God bless you. *(Applause)*

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, move to receive and file the report and comments of Kevin McDugle.

... Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: We have a motion and a second on the floor. Any discussion? All those in favor of the motion, signify by saying aye. Opposed. Motion carries.

I'd like to thank Mr. McDugle for his partnership and look forward to a continued, most successful partnership with you. Thank you.

I'll now call on John D. Morris, Department of Texas, the president of American Legion Convention Corporation of Texas, for the purpose of a report.

Report of the 2013 National Convention
John D. Morris, President, Convention Corporation of Texas

I guarantee you my report is not as long as it took me to open it. *(Laughter)* Commander Dellinger, national officers, members of the NEC, Legionnaires all. I'm pleased to come before you this morning and bring to you this report on the 95th National Convention of The American Legion.

On behalf of the National Convention Corporation of Texas, we want to thank you, Chairman Walton, Director Bridget, her staff, and the entire National Convention Commission for allowing the Great State of Texas and the City of Houston the privilege of hosting this convention. From all accounts, it was a well-run and very successful convention.

One of the main ingredients, though, that made it such a successful convention was the many dedicated, hard-working, volunteer committees that were involved. We cannot thank them enough.

Texas hospitality was another ingredient. I heard many times during this convention, after the convention, and since I've been here, how great the courtesies were that were extended to all of our attendees. The hotels, the eating establishments, down to the Houston people on the street, congratulating our members for what they have done in the past and what they are doing for the future.

The Sunday parade went off without a hitch, and we had perfect Texas weather just as I had predicted we would. *(Laughter)* So far as a post-parade party, we were asked by many people if we were going to have one. Due to the location and other potential problems that could have happened, we chose to forego the post-parade party. Actually, it probably was a good idea because I believe it would have been rained out. Immediately after the parade ended, here come the thunderstorm. I did not predict that one.

So far as the income goes, even though overall registration was down somewhat compared to previous conventions, according to all estimates and after everything is finalized, we will probably realize a net profit in the neighborhood of $150,000 to be divided equally between the National Organization and the National Convention Corporation of Texas. Commander Dellinger this concludes the first report on the 95th National Convention. I want to say again, thanks to you and everyone for their participation in this successful convention. And that concludes my report.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, a motion to receive and file the report of the 2013 National Convention.

... Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: We have a motion on the floor and a second. Any discussion? All those in favor of the motion, signify by saying aye. Opposed. Motion carries.

Mr. President, I'd like to thank you very much for your hard work in that convention. I thoroughly enjoyed it, I'm sure everybody else here did too. *(Applause)*

CONVENTION CORPORATION PRESIDENT MORRIS: I would like to emphasize, I wasn't the one doing all the work. I did a lot of walking, and I didn't mention anything about the convention center, but I did a lot of walking, and our volunteers are the ones that really, really put it together and worked hard.

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: Give them all our thanks.

I now call on Michael E. Walton from Illinois, chairman of the Convention Commission, for purposes of report.

Oral Report: National Convention Commission
Michael E. Walton, Illinois, Chairman

Good morning, Commander Dellinger, members of the NEC. Although the written report is in your packet, I'd like to touch on some of the highlights of our meeting. Our good friend you just heard from and Convention Commission Vice Chairman John D. Morris, president of the 2013 Convention Corporation in Texas, gave a report regarding our Houston Convention which was August 23 through the 29 of this year, which we believe was a huge success.

North Carolina Department Adjutant Frank Stancil, on behalf of President Jerry Hedrick of the 2014 National Convention Corporation gave a preliminary report regarding our upcoming National Convention in Charlotte, which will be August 22 through the 28 of 2014. We are looking forward to having another outstanding convention there in Charlotte.

David Priester, the chief judge of contests, gave an excellent report and updated the commission on the color guard and band contests that are conducted at our National Convention. Mr. Priester also held a very informative question and answer period with

the entire commission, and he was reappointed as chief judge of contests. We're proud to report that he's accepted that reappointment. We look forward to our continued professional involvement with Mr. Priester and his contest judges.

The members of the commission each gave a verbal report regarding their assignments at the Houston National Convention, and the commission received two resolutions of support to host the 2020 National Convention as follows: We received one from the Department of Arizona for Phoenix, we received one from the Department of Puerto Rico for San Juan, and we received another resolution in support of hosting the 2021 National Convention from the Department of Arizona, again for Phoenix.

Mr. Commander and members of the NEC, that concludes my report, and I'd like to thank you for allowing me to serve.

Report: National Convention Commission
Michael E. Walton, Illinois, Chairman
October 14, 2013

Chairman Michael E. Walton, Illinois, at 9:00AM, October 14, 2013, called the meeting to order. Roll call was taken with all members either excused or present.

Items Requiring NEC Action

Resolution No. 2685– submitted by the Department of Puerto Rico supporting a bid for the 2020 National Convention from the city of San Juan, Puerto Rico. Received and recorded.

Resolution No. 2686– submitted by the Department of Arizona supporting a bid for the 2020 National Convention from the city of Phoenix, Arizona. Received and recorded.

Resolution No. 2687 – submitted by the Department of Arizona supporting a bid for the 2021 National Convention from the city of Phoenix, Arizona. Received and recorded.

The National Convention Commission appointed a Chief Judge of Contests to serve through the 2014 Fall Meetings. The Chief Judge of Contests for 2013 – 2014 is Mr. David Priester (SAL – VA).

Mr. Priester has informed the Commission that he proudly accepts the appointment to serve as the Chief Judge of Contests for The American Legion.

Mr. Priester spoke to the National Convention Commission regarding the Color Guard Contest and Band Contest. The National Color Guard Contest was held on Friday evening, the first day of convention. The number of color guard units decreased this year from 12 performances in 2012 to 5 performances in 2013. This year only one band performed in the National Concert Band Contest. Mr. Priester queried all past Color Guard participants and he feels that we will have more performances next year in Charlotte. Additionally, all past band participants were queried and currently only one will be returning in 2014. The National Convention Commission, along with Mr. Priester, discussed in lengths on potential changes for future if participation remains as is. The National Convention Commission Chairman, Mike Walton, asked Chief Judge of Contest to conduct the research and provide specific recommendations. Mr. Priester will report back to the National Convention Commission in the Spring on his findings. Specific rule changes will be communicated to the entire Nation and to American Legion leadership on or before January 13, 2014. If applicable, any addendums will be communicated subsequent to the Spring Meetings 2014.

John D. Morris, President of The Texas National Convention Corporation of The American Legion, gave a preliminary report on the 2013 National Convention in Houston, Texas. Mr. Morris thanked the National Convention Commission for their support and reported that, in his opinion, the 2013 National Convention was a huge success. He reported that all known invoices have been received and paid. Mr. Morris

also reported that he has received most of the registration income. Eight of the eleven convention hotels have paid their rebates as of the Fall Meetings. Mr. Morris will provide a final report at the 2014 Spring Meeting, but he projects a profit of approximately $75,000.00 for the Corporation and the National Organization. Chairman Walton thanked Mr. Morris and his nearly 100 volunteers for conducting the 2013 National Convention.

W. Frank Stancil, Vice-President of The American Legion National Convention Corporation of North Carolina, gave an initial report on the planning process for the 2014 National Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina, August 22 – 28, 2014. Planning for the 96th National Convention of The American Legion is on schedule. The headquarters hotel for The American Legion and possibly the Sons of The American Legion will be the Westin Charlotte. The American Legion Auxiliary will be headquartered at the Hilton Charlotte. Mr. Stancil informed the National Convention Commission that almost all contracts between the hotels and the assigned Departments of The American Legion have been completed. Chairman Walton, Convention Corporation personnel, the convention and meetings planning staff and our convention technical companies will conduct a site visit to Charlotte, North Carolina, December 1 – 4, 2013. Further details will be provided as they become available.

National Convention Commission members reported on their assignments during the 2013 National Convention. Reports indicated that the local Convention Corporation conducted their duties in outstanding fashion and greatly contributed to the overall success of the National Convention. A thank you from the commission was provided to Mr. John D. Morris, President of the 2013 Convention Corporation for the support provided to the convention by The American Legion family of Texas.

Dates for future National Conventions are the following:

Charlotte, North Carolina	August 22 – 28, 2014
Baltimore, Maryland	August 28 – September 3, 2015
Cincinnati, Ohio	August 26 – September 1, 2016
Louisville, Kentucky	August 25 – 31, 2017
Minneapolis, Minnesota	August 24 – 30, 2018
Indianapolis, Indiana	August 23 – 29, 2019

Addendum A: Resolutions Not Approved Received and Recorded

Register Resolution No. 2685 (PR) (2013 DC)**: City of San Juan offers to host the 2020 National Convention**

Register Resolution No. 2686 (AZ) (2013 DC)**: City of Phoenix offers to host the 2020 National Convention**

Register Resolution No. 2687 (AZ) (2013 DC)**: City of Phoenix offers to host the 2021 National Convention**

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, motion to receive and file report of Convention Commission with exception of one addendum. ... *Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: We have a motion to receive the report and a second. Any discussion? All those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed. The motion carries.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Attached to the Convention Commission report is Addendum A. I move the action of the Convention Commission become the action of the National Executive Committee. ... *Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: We have a motion and a second on the floor. Any discussion? All those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed. Motion carries.

Thank you very much. I'll next call on Harold D. Barnett from Georgia, chairman of the Economic Commission, for purposes of a report.

Oral Report: Economic Commission
Harold D. Barnett, Georgia, Chairman

Commander Dellinger, national officers, NECmen, fellow Legionnaires, you have the Economic Commission's written report in your packet, but I would like to highlight a few items within the written report.

The Economic Commission will have four resolutions for consideration listed on page one of your written report. In the area of the licensing and credentialing, The American Legion continues to take the lead that we began in 1997. As you have heard me say before, our actions in conjunction with our February 2011 summit with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce when we brought in the key stakeholders has yielded great dividends in the last two years. We've had the VOW Act that was passed in 2012. We've had other partnerships that have begun with DoD with their Soldier for Life Program. And I am proud to stand before you today to tell you that 37 states have either passed credentialing legislation and are currently considering it, and we have 85 additional bills that are in various stages of consideration on the area of military licensing and credentialing.

However, the work is not complete. I encourage every department to get with the Economic Commission to check the status, to get updates to see where you are in your individual states, to continue this so that we get all 50 states and we get this area of military licensing and credentialing that The American Legion started in 1997, passed, so that all veterans departing the service have an opportunity for employment.

In the area of small business, The American Legion continues to urge Congress to establish a direct lending program through the Small Business Administration that would offer low-interest loans to otherwise healthy veteran-owned and service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses having trouble obtaining credit for necessary operating expenses or expansion.

We are calling for a resolution for a five percent goal with set-asides and sole-source authority for federal procurement and contracts for businesses owned and operated by service-disabled veterans.

I was very happy to hear the update by our judge advocate in this morning's presentation reference to the Kingdomware Technologies case where the VA was not following the law on three percent veteran-owned, when we had a business that was a disabled veteran was denied a contract. If there's any government agency that should be doing the three percent set-aside for service-disabled veterans, it should be the VA.

In the area of The American Legion Small Business Task Force, I stand before you so proud to highlight some actions that occurred at our Houston National Convention. I want to thank the Department of Texas and what they did to market some of the workshops that were conducted.

On page five of your written report, it highlights some actions in conjunction with Syracuse University and some other major corporations where we had training that was conducted. Many of you were able to see a group from our warrior transition units that came out of Fort Hood, Texas, that we got corporations to put up dollars to bring those soldiers and a few of their spouses in for these workshops. We also established a

women's workshop specifically designed to empower those women on small business development.

I will tell you that I was so proud to receive the accolades of this organization of what The American Legion is doing to provide those business opportunities. In conjunction to that, they were given the opportunity to go to the Job Fair. The Job Fair at Houston was a tremendous success, and a lot of soldiers were having the opportunity, and veterans, to work with our corporations that are veteran-friendly.

In the area of veterans homelessness, currently the report is about 63,000 veterans are currently homeless. The HUD vouchers are working great. Of course, we know that in budget cuts we had 58,000 that were given out last year. We had been promised 10,000 more, of course, all of this is pending the budget crisis that we are approaching.

There is a Point-in-Time that a count will be conducted in January of this year. You will be receiving information from the commission to seek out volunteers from your departments in order to assist in getting a timely and an accurate count of the number of homeless in January of this year.

In the area of employment, on page six of your written report, the current unemployment rate in the United States is 7.3 percent. However, as you can see, the unemployment rate for Iraq and Afghanistan veterans is approximately ten percent. We continue to actively work with our partners recruit military, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and the Department of Labor, with our Job Fairs, and Hiring Our Heroes. But I will have to be honest with you. You are probably going to see a decline in the number of those Job Fairs in the next year because of budget concerns, especially out of our government agency.

So we are looking and we have been receiving very high marks for some of our Job Fairs, such as the Houston Job Fair, where they had over 2,600 resumes accepted, 94 interviews, 28 job offers, with 73 employers. Job fairs that got that type of support from the local departments and the local state agencies, you're going to probably see those continue next year and make it through the cuts.

In the area of education, the Economic Commission has taken on the number one issue in-state tuition. We think it is wrong that a soldier one day be in school while he's on active duty, gets out of service, and all of a sudden he's out-of-state. We support state-by-state initiatives to introduce, advocate for, and support state legislation that would waive the residency requirement for separating veterans' access to in-state tuition at public colleges and universities regardless of their residency status. Veterans should not have to go into deep debt for their education just because their permanent residence is in another state, or assume tremendous financial burden due to the recent changes in the law which often cap GI Bill benefits far short of out-of-state rates.

Pages eight and twelve of your written report highlight two states and selected government agencies and how the government shutdown affects veteran employment and education programs. This information is only provided for your information to provide examples that can assist you and talking points with elected officials on how the government shutdown has affected this.

I applaud our commander for his comments yesterday in the press conference and today, and how this shutdown could negatively affect our veterans.

Commander, I thank you for the opportunity to serve this year. I thank our Washington staff, led by our Director, Joseph Sharpe, and our Deputy Director, Mark Walker, and what they do each and every day. I'm proud to stand before you as a Legionnaire and what we as an organization are doing for veterans in the area of education, employment, and the elimination of homelessness. Commander, this concludes my report.

Report: National Economic Commission
Harold D. Barnett, Georgia, Chairman
October 14-15, 2013

The National Economic Commission met on October 14-15, 2013, at the Sheraton in Indianapolis, Indiana for the purpose of considering those matters that had previously been referred for study, and to discuss a range of other current matters.

Presiding: Harold D. Barnett (GA), Chairman

Present at the meeting were:
James Fratolillo (MA)
Kevin J. Owens (OR)
William D. Crosier, Jr. (NE)
Wendall J. Sandell (PA)
David Winpigler (MD)
Michael Espinosa (AZ)
Harold Pawson, III (AK)
Eric W. Measles (CA)
Randy Goodman (GA)

Also in attendance were:
Joseph C. Sharpe, Jr. (MD), Director, Mark Walker (DC), Deputy Director, and Davy Leghorn (DC), Assistant Director, for the Economic Division

Matters Received, Considered and Acted Upon by the Commission:

Resolutions

Your Subcommittee considered Four (4) resolutions. One (1) was referred from the Department of Pennsylvania 2012 Executive Committee meetings and three (3) resolutions from the Economic Commission; all were forwarded to the National Executive Committee for approval.

Register Resolution 2678 (PA) (2012 DEC)**: Expanding Post-9/11 GI Bill For Entrepreneurship**
(Origin: Economic Commission) **Veterans GI Bill Education Improvement**
(Origin: Economic Commission) **Support Eligible Veterans to Receive a First Time Homebuyer Tax Credit or Tax Credit for Adaptive Housing Improvements**
(Origin: Economic Commission) **Support RallyPoint to Accelerate Recruitment of New Legion Members and Assist Veterans with Professional Networking and Career Opportunities**

The Commission then discussed the following issues:

Licensing and Certification

The civilian workforce increasingly relies upon credentialing as a way to regulate entry into certain occupations and to promote accountability for performance and public safety. Credentialing also offers benefits to the military, and can be used to promote recruiting, retention, and professional development. Promoting civilian credentialing of service members and veterans will enable them to demonstrate to employers the comparability and value of their military education, training, and experience. Returning veterans face a lengthy credentialing and licensing process that is required for them to transition their skills, training, and experience from the military to civilian workforce. Many industry areas require specific federal and state licenses and credentials, but do not

recognize military training or experience. When civilian credentialing boards and employers fail to fully recognize military education, training, and experience, the service member, veteran, and America lose out. Veterans face reduced chances of obtaining a job on par with their skills and the civilian workforce cannot take full advantage of the extensive skills training in which our nation has so greatly invested.

The American Legion, in collaboration with the Department of Defense (DOD), National Governors Association (NGA), and National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), has undertaken an initiative to address this challenge to ease the transition into the civilian workforce for veterans and their families. The initiative's aim is to help service members receive licensure and academic credit for military education, training and experience. This initiative created strategies to accelerate credentialing processes for separating service members and veterans in high demand. The purpose was to increase credential attainment that leads to employment by veterans – especially Gulf War II veterans, who are experiencing the highest levels of unemployment – and reduce the number of Unemployment Compensation for Ex-Service members (UCX) claims and duration of time spent on UCX benefits.

The American Legion has been and continues to be a leading voice in advocacy for the unique job skills veterans bring to the table. In 1997, The American Legion commissioned the report "Study of Civilian Licensure and Certification for Veterans," which detailed the problem while focusing on the areas of aircraft maintenance and healthcare. The American Legion continues to fight for a major overhaul of the licensure and certification policies as they relate to military job skills, on the national and state levels alike. The American Legion is working with credentialing and licensing agencies to help veterans receive credit for their experiences, maximize their abilities and move quickly into productive careers. The American Legion helped shape and support the VOW to Hire Heroes Act and the Veterans Skills to Jobs Act of 2012; however, work remains in a long march to improve career opportunities for those who have served in uniform.

After winning passage of several important credentialing bills on the federal level, The American Legion turned its focus on state legislatures, pushing for states to consider similar measures that allow military training and skills to fulfill requirements for professional certifications. Largely, the efforts have yielded great results, as 37 states have either passed credentialing legislation or are currently considering it. In all, 37 credentialing bills have been signed into law, and another 85 are in various stages of consideration in state legislatures around the nation.

Cooperation among The American Legion, state governments, private sector employers, institutions of higher learning and the federal government have been crucial to effect the necessary changes in policies and practices to fully recognize the education, training, and experience provided to transitioning veterans. The American Legion will continue to work with the White House, National Governors Association, the National Conference of State Legislatures, government agencies such as the Departments of Defense, Transportation, Energy, Labor, and others, as well as congressional representatives, military training commands, credentialing boards and the private sectors. Lastly, The American Legion has created toolkits to assist Legionnaires in advocating on a state-by-state basis to address the issues of credentialing.

Small Business

The American Legion views small business as the backbone of the American economy. It is the mobilizing force behind America's past economic growth and will continue to be a major factor as we move through the current recession. Reports show that businesses with fewer than 20 employees account for 90 percent of all U.S. firms and are responsible for more than 75 percent of all new jobs. Furthermore, there are 27

million small businesses in the U.S. and 99.7 percent of all firms are small businesses. Listed below are several facts regarding veteran business owners:

- Veterans are 45 percent more likely to be self-employed
- According to the U.S. census, about 2.4 million, or 9 percent of all U.S. small businesses are veteran-owned
- Veteran-owned small businesses generate over $1 trillion in sales

The American Legion urges Congress to establish a direct lending program through the Small Business Administration that would offer low-interest loans to otherwise healthy veteran-owned and service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses having trouble obtaining credit for necessary operating expenses or expansion. In addition, The American Legion seeks and supports legislation to require a 5 percent goal, with set-asides and sole-source authority for federal procurements and contracts for businesses owned and operated by service-disabled veterans, and businesses owned and controlled by veterans. This includes small businesses owned by Reserve component members who have been, or may be, called to active-duty, or may be affected by base closings and reductions in our military forces.

In addition, The American Legion has filed a friend-of-the-court brief in support of a veteran-owned small business (VOSB) that states the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is not following the law regarding its VETS First Contracting Program. Kingdomware Technologies, Inc., a service-disabled veteran-owned small business (SDVOSB), is hoping to have its case against VA heard by the United States Court of Appeals after the United States Court of Federal Claims dismissed it last year. At issue in the case is VA's noncompliance with a federal law that requires VA to award contracts to VOSBs when two or more VOSBs could submit reasonable and fair bids for the contract. The American Legion joined the fight by filing a 42-page amicus brief in support of Kingdomware. The Legion's amicus brief argues that the Federal Claims Court's failure to follow this precedent for statutory interpretation of "shall" is a reversible error. As such, the court of appeals should grant Kingdomware's appeal and reverse the lower's court's decision, forcing VA's compliance with the law.

The American Legion's argument takes shelter in Congress' intent when drafting the Veterans Benefits, Healthcare, and Information Technology Act of 2006. The 2006 Act is an offspring of a government-wide directive passed by Congress in 1999 that set a goal of having 3 percent of all federal contracts be awarded to SDVOSBs. Prompted by the federal government's failure to meet the goal, Congress passed a law in 2003 that provided that VA and other federal agencies "may" set aside contracts to SDVOSBs to help them reach the 3 percent goal. This law led to the 2006 Act, which borrows nearly identical language from the 2003 Act but replaces "may" with "shall," further proving Congress' intent that the "set-aside" requirement is mandatory. Congress' emphatic language is due to a government-wide failure to reach 3 percent since 1999.

The American Legion continues to work closely with business leaders and government authorities to help veteran-owned small business and increase the role of veteran-owned businesses in communities around the nation. Veterans are natural entrepreneurs. They are disciplined, goal-oriented self-starters. Accustomed to accountability, they know the value of being decisive and flexible. Leveraging the talents of veterans will promote self-employment and will help stimulate the economy. Lastly, veterans know the value of veteran employees better than anyone else, and veteran-owned small businesses are one among the best employers of veterans.

The American Legion Small Business Task Force

The American Legion Small Business Task Force sponsored a number of events this year to assist veterans, disabled veterans, Reservists and active-duty military members in obtaining employment, to include starting and growing their own businesses.

- February 25-27 Washington Conference Business Development Workshop
- August 26-27 National Convention Business Development Workshop
- August 27 National Convention Transitional and Benefits Career Fair

During The American Legion's 95th National Convention in Houston, Texas, the National Economic Commission hosted a successful two-day For Her Entrepreneurship - Resources, Opportunities, Experience & Support (For **HER**OES) Small Business Development Workshop, co-sponsored by the Small Business Administration (SBA) and Syracuse University's Institute for Veterans and Military Families (IVMF). For **HER**OES was open to all veteran women, active duty female service members and female spouses of active service members and veterans who shared the goal of launching a sustainable business venture. Over 100 women veterans and service members participated in this event. The workshop curriculum included an introduction to entrepreneurship and skills training, as well as detailed information on resources and support programs designed specifically to aid women veterans working with the federal government. Business conceptualization, business plan formulation, financial planning, start-up funding, marketing and related topics were explored as well. Topics included, but not limited to:

- Transferring military skills to entrepreneurship
- Franchising
- Estimating start-up funds
- Estimating customer demand
- Business feasibility tools

Upon completion of the For **HER**OES program, participants had the option to further study through an eight-week online course, called *Operation: Boots to Business*, offered by the IVMF at Syracuse University. Access to these programs will assure participants will have the tools and knowledge they need to identify business opportunity, draft a business plan, and launch their enterprise.

Veteran Homelessness

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is taking decisive action toward its goal of ending homelessness among our nation's veterans. To achieve this goal, VA has developed a Five-Year Plan to assist every homeless veteran willing to accept services retain or acquire: safe housing; needed treatment services; opportunities to retain or return to employment; and benefits assistance. VA stated that they will continue to partner with the community, national and local service providers, and other state and federal agencies to provide comprehensive care to homeless veterans and veterans at-risk for homelessness. The American Legion supports the VA's Five-Year Plan that will provide supportive services and physical and mental care to homeless veterans. Current estimates put the number of homeless veterans at approximately 63,000 on any given night, nearly a 7.2 percent decline since the January 2011 Point-in-Time count.

In order to fully implement VA's pledge to end homelessness among veterans by 2015, Congress must continue making responsible investments in affordable housing and supportive services programs that move veterans and their families off the streets and into stable housing. These homeless assistance programs should be intended to serve all groups of low-income veterans – veterans at risk of becoming homeless, veterans who are homeless for a short time, and veterans and their families who have spent years without a place to call home. To make this seamless system of care work, funding must be provided for a broad range of appropriate and effective interventions. Funding that prevent

veterans from becoming homeless or quickly re-house veterans who need nothing more than short-term rental assistance and limited case management in order to get back on their feet could be used effectively by community organizations and other stakeholders. These funds could also be used to pay for employment services, utility assistance, child care costs, legal services, and other housing-related expenses. Additionally, there is still a need for funding that can provide short-term housing to help homeless veterans get stabilized, along with allowing them to get connecting with jobs, supportive services, more permanent housing, and ultimately to become self-sufficient.

With the affects of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, it is widely known the psychological stress, such as PTSD, TBI and other mental illnesses play a significant role in pushing a certain population of veterans into homelessness. Funding, along with grants that goes to homeless veterans programs and organizations that assist this vulnerable demographic are needed more than ever. Due to our work with homeless veterans and their families, The American Legion understands that homeless veterans need a sustained coordinated effort that provides secure housing and nutritious meals; essential physical healthcare, substance abuse aftercare and mental health counseling; as well as personal development and empowerment. Veterans also need job assessment, training and placement assistance. The American Legion believes all programs to assist homeless veterans must focus on helping veterans reach their highest level of self-management.

Furthermore, The American Legion directly provides housing for homeless veterans and their families, including facilities in Pennsylvania, North Carolina and Connecticut. One of the goals of The American Legion is to help bring federal agencies, nonprofit organizations, faith-based institutions and other stakeholders to the table to discuss best practices, along with funding opportunities, so homeless veterans and their families can obtain the necessary care and help in order for them to properly transition from the streets and shelters into gainful employment and/or independent living.

Employment

The current rate of unemployment in the United States is 7.3 percent. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the unemployment rate for Iraq and Afghanistan veterans is 10 percent. The total number of unemployed veterans from the current wars in Iraq and Afghanistan is approximately 166,000, with a total of 702,000 unemployed veterans from all eras. The American Legion has formal Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) with RecruitMilitary and Military.com that will allow The American Legion to have a presence in all of their Job Fairs around the country. The main purpose of participation in these Job Fairs is to educate veterans of their benefits, provide veterans outlets for employment and promote The American Legion. The American Legion participates in 100 Job Fairs a year through our national partnerships.

In addition, The American Legion has collaborated with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce (USCC), Department of Veteran Affairs, Department of Labor, Veterans'Employment and Training Service (DOL-VETS), Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), various State Workforce Agencies and various corporate sponsors, in hosting numerous veteran specific Job Fairs across the nation. The 'Hiring our Heroes' Initiative seeks to drastically lower the rising unemployment rate amongst our nation's veterans by bringing Job Fairs to many of the nation's underserved communities.

Since January 2013, The American Legion has hosted and participated in 118 Job Fairs with RecruitMilitary and USCC under the 'Hiring our Heroes' Initiative. Going into 2013-14, the USCC will scale down the program from 400 hiring events to only sponsoring 135 hiring events for veterans. Hence, The American Legion is strategizing with USCC staff to identify where the best states and cities are for these events. The location of these events that occur in 2013-14 will be based upon individual state

unemployment rates and places where there are substantial veteran populations. In less than three years, Hiring Our Heroes -- a joint initiative of The American Legion and USCC -- has helped more than 20,200 veterans, service members, and military spouses nationwide find jobs. USCC has hosted over 90 hiring events at Legion Posts and partnered with the Legion on nearly 200 others.

Furthermore, a Hiring Our Heroes Hiring Event was held on Saturday, August 27, during the National Convention in Houston, Texas. This event was sponsored by USCC, with The American Legion Department of Texas, DOL, VA, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserves (ESGR), Texas Veterans Commission, and the Greater Houston Partnership. The hiring event yielded more than 2,600 resumes accepted, 94 interviews conducted, 28 tentative job offers, and 1 'on the spot' hire. 73 employers and a total of approximately 600 registered jobseekers attended this event.

The American Legion's Economic Division, through its relationships, continues to play a vital role in assisting American Legion Posts to produce successful Job Fairs, small business development workshops, and employment training services throughout America and, in turn, will change the tide of the high unemployment rate among veterans.

Education

The American Legion is synonymous with veteran's education, being instrumental in the first and most recent GI Bill's passage and helping the modern-day veteran navigate the confusing world of education benefits. The main reason for the Post-9/11 GI Bill was that VA education benefits were no longer covering fast-rising tuition costs. Working with Congress, we stressed the need for a "21st century GI Bill" that would provide benefits worthy of our veterans and offer the same opportunities afforded to those who fought in World War II.

The Post-9/11 GI Bill only pays in-state tuition and eligible fees. Veterans who settle in states other than their state of residence upon separating from the service are initially charged "out-of-state" tuition, which means they must pay the difference between the resident and non-resident charges of that states tuition. Service members are not given the option to move to any state and establish residency prior to their separation from the armed forces, which can lead to financial burdens. State policies have adjusted in the last decade to allow active and reserve members to access in-state tuition rates, but separating service members (future veterans) must fulfill established residency time requirements to establish state residency and access in-state tuition rates.

Over the last couple of years, we have heard from countless veterans who, because of the nature of military service, often have a difficult time establishing residency for purposes of obtaining in-state tuition rates. Under current rules 40,000 student-veterans have to pay the difference between in-state tuition, which is covered by the Post-9/11 GI Bill, and out-of-state tuition if they are attending school as a nonresident. Because of this, many of our student-veterans are unable to use their GI Bill benefits at an institution of higher education of their choice or are required to pay thousands of dollars in out-of-pocket expenses in nonresidential tuition rates. Furthermore, public colleges and universities have significantly raised the costs of out-of-state tuition to offset decreasing revenues due to state budget cuts. Circumstances such as these pose significant challenges to using this important benefit.

Therefore, The American Legion has led a state-by-state initiative to introduce, advocate for and support state legislation that would waive the residency requirements for separating veteran's access to in-state tuition at public colleges and universities, regardless of their residency status. Veterans should not have to go into deep debt for their education just because their permanent residence is in another state or assume tremendous financial burdens due to the recent change in law which often capped GI Bill

benefits far short of high out-of-state rates. Lastly, The American Legion has advocated for and testified in support of federal legislation to grant in-state tuition, specifically, H.R. 357 and S. 257.

Government Shutdown Affects Veteran Employment and Education Programs

Veterans' employment programs in Illinois have been hit especially hard this year as result of budgetary issues earlier in the year. Due to exceeding the yearly budget allotted by the Federal government in the Jobs for Veterans State Grants (JVSG) fund last year, Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) underwent drastic measures to halt spending, which included a reduction of 23 percent in IDES' employees (408 positions). To set the stage for Illinois' reduced capacity to serve the veteran population, the full spectrum of their actions earlier this year included:

- Lay off of 192 Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) employees
- Closure of 7 offices
- Permanently "non-scheduling" of 216 intermittent employees
- Consolidation of 8 offices
- Shutting down operations in 10 Field Office locations

IDES Field Office Closures - The combined impact of the closure of 7 offices resulted in a **38 percent drop** in the number of offices where people can file for UI benefits and receive employment services.

Failure to Meet Federal Standards for Timely Payment of Claims - In 2012, Illinois failed to meet federal standards for paying claims within 14 days in every month except one. The 408 layoffs and the recent furloughs have made matters worse, leaving unemployed veterans struggling without any benefits.

Growing Backlog of Appeals – Previously, IDES had been exceeding federal guidelines for timely handling of appeals (over 80 percent of the cases were decided within 30 days); however, when IDES non-scheduled 216 intermittent employees were laid off, delays ballooned. Last October, less than 40 percent of the appeals were decided within 30 days and within two months the number plummeted to 17 percent. IDES' growing backlog of appeals is exacerbated by the recent furloughs. A protracted shut down would result in more furloughs and longer delays in appeals adjudication.

IDES Veterans' Representatives laid off:

- Veterans Employment Representative I: total of 32 – lay off 6
- Veterans Employment Representative II: total of 13 – lay off 1

The place where employment programs and services have diminished is in rural southern Illinois. There are only 3 Disabled Veteran Outreach Program (DVOP) Specialists that service the 24 lower counties of the state. As of April 5, 2013, there were no more one-on-one veteran to veteran service; no more outreach events; and no more employment services provided veterans in homeless shelter and prisons south of Mt. Vernon County.

Needless to say, the government shutdown has further reduced the Illinois Department of Employment Security's diminished capacity to service veterans and process unemployment insurance claims. IDES management has revealed that on top of all the IDES employees they laid off earlier this year, they lost an additional 20 employees to the furlough caused by the government shutdown. IDES would consider furloughing more employees should the shutdown continue into November.

By comparison, other states that The American Legion has spoken to are better off than Illinois, which has been an outlier in their decimation of their veterans program and services. Despite the inconsistent flow of JVSG grant funding as result of sequestration, in most states there are enough in the balance to carry their veterans' employment

programs through to the end of October. However, most states share Illinois' concerns about a protracted shutdown. As state funding for the DVOP and LVER programs is derived from the JVSG fund that is allotted each fiscal cycle via the Department of Labor's budget, a protracted government shutdown and Congress' inability to compromise on a budget would result in the program's demise.

For example, Indiana's state workforce agency only has enough in the balance of their JVSG fund to carry the veterans' employment services staff to the end of October 2013. The Indiana Office Workforce Development completed their report that recommended the blanket furlough of all DVOP, LVER, support staff, and the termination of all programs and services starting the first of November.

Indiana Office of Workforce Development has not been able to roll out their new initiatives, implement new and aggressive outreach strategies last year as result of the on-and-off funding. As result of a recent rule change, Indiana had to undergo a separate approval process for their annual training and conference. Recently, they received the approval of this expenditure from the Department of Labor; however, they received the approval too late for their event that was scheduled for August. They've tentatively re-scheduled for November, which may not happen now on account of the impending furlough.

The American Legion has been working with the Indiana Office of Workforce Development to establish a year-long "veteran mystery shopper" type program. Indiana's Office of Workforce Development is seeking to hold themselves accountable by utilizing unemployed Legionnaires to go through the job search process utilizing the State's veterans' programs and services and reporting back their experiences. Indiana Office of Workforce Development is seeking to reconcile and/or compare the statistics they have in their reports with the actual experiences of the veterans as they undergo employment training. This report would also assist the Office of Workforce Development todentify their weaknesses and improve their programs and services. Unfortunately, this initiative/internal study is at a standstill and may never see implementation as result of a protracted shutdown.

While the Office of Workforce Development can always adjust their timeline, push back their training conferences or delay the rollout of new services and initiatives, the unemployed veterans in Indiana cannot. Indiana's veterans' representatives may lose their jobs at the end of October, but it is the unemployed veterans that will lose the most.

Department of Veterans Affairs

Due to the government shutdown, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) furloughed roughly 9,000 workers, forcing the closure of VA regional offices nationwide. Employment and education services that are suspended indefinitely include:

- GI Bill social media team will not be legally allowed to post, reply to comments, or monitor the GI Bill Facebook account
- Educational and Vocational Counseling
- VetSuccess on Campus
- Education Call Center will no longer be accepting calls
- Claims processors (including education) have been excluded from furlough for a short time. However, in the event of a prolonged shutdown, funding for these processors will run out by late October, and VA will be unable to make further benefit payments

Small Business Administration's Office of Veteran Business Development

The Small Business Administration's Office of Veteran Business Development is closed; all staff and contractors are furloughed. During this time, the office will not be

able to monitor and support the numerous Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs) and Veteran Business Outreach Centers (VBOCs) that assist veteran small business owners with the support that they need to get started.

The inability for Congress to pass a budget also hurts the SBA's nationwide implementation of the Boots2Business (B2B) program. B2B is the entrepreneurial track of the Transition Assistance Program (TAP) which was authorized by the 2011 VOW Act as a part of the TAP overhaul. We had hoped to make funding for B2B a line item for SBA's budget in order to ensure its full implementation in the new fiscal year. Implementation has already been delayed for a year. B2B is a program that has already been authorized, piloted and has garnered excellent reviews from service members, DOL and Veterans Service Organizations. Currently, it hinges critically on funding in order to be made available for our transitioning service members.

Small Business — Government Contracting

The National Economic Division has received complaints that Veteran-Owned Small Businesses (VOSBs) on government contracts had to furlough their employees that work on-site within the federal agencies. A prolonged shutdown would force many of the furloughed employees in the private sector to seek new employment. The inability to continue working affects small businesses overall, because often a small business submits an invoice to the government only when a job is complete or a milestone has been achieved. When small businesses cannot complete the work, they cannot submit an invoice and they cannot get paid.

Government contracts can be paid through appropriated funding from this year's budget, last year's budget, budget from 5 years ago or non-appropriated funding. However, the degree to which our small contractors will be affected by the shutdown is the same; for without the government employees to process the invoices and paperwork, no one is getting paid for their work.

Foreseeable negative impacts of a prolonged shutdown for small business owners include employee furloughs, bid cancellations, inability to bring on contingent hires, loss of money and in extreme cases — bankruptcy.

Veteran Employment Programs

In the past programs like Heroes to Hired (H2H) and Hiring our Heroes (HOH) have depended heavily upon our federal and state agency partners including the DOD funded Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), various State Workforce Agencies and DOL. As result of the furlough, all of our planning and strategic partners from the government have been forced to take leave. Our partners in the ESGR and DOL are dedicated to the events they helped planned and have voiced that they would volunteer their time during their unpaid leave. However, the rules of the furlough prevent them from doing so as they are legally not permitted to work or represent the federal government during this time.

Without participation and outreach from our strategic partners from the federal agencies, our veteran employment programs, even those that draw funding exclusively from the private sector, are experiencing negative impacts from the shutdown.

Conclusion

The National Economic Commission is fully aware that it would be impossible to carry out its mandates without the active involvement of Posts, Districts, Counties, Departments and individual Legionnaires. We deeply appreciate their continued support and involvement. Chairman Barnett also thanks the National Commander, the National Adjutant, the National Executive Committee, and the staff of both the Washington and

Indianapolis offices for the outstanding support and cooperation they have provided during the past year.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, motion to receive and file the report of the Economic Commission with the exception of four resolutions and no addendums. ... *Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: We have a motion on the floor and a second. Any discussion? All those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed. Motion carries.

Resolution No. 25: Support RallyPoint to Accelerate Recruitment of New Legion Members and Assist Veterans with Professional Networking and Career Opportunities

Origin: Economic Commission

Submitted by: Economic Commission

WHEREAS, The American Legion is a national organization of veterans who have dedicated themselves to the service of the community, state and nation; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion has found it challenging to recruit new members from within both the active United States military and the younger generation of veterans, while RallyPoint is adding more than 1,000 of these individuals per day to its network; and

WHEREAS, As of September 2013, the total number of unemployed veterans is roughly 702,000 (166,000 of them are Post-9/11); and

WHEREAS, Annually, the Department of Defense discharges approximately 160,000 servicemembers; and

WHEREAS, Many servicemembers do not utilize a professional networking platform while they are in the service, and do not have an efficient way of engaging professionally and decisively with veterans who have already transitioned; and

WHEREAS, Veterans do not have a highly advanced, market-leading technology platform to utilize for military-only professional networking and interaction; and

WHEREAS, RallyPoint is the United States largest military-only professional network, which enables active servicemembers to influence their military career paths, with military members currently stationed at over 3,500 military duty locations worldwide and representing every military branch in the Department of Defense; and

WHEREAS, RallyPoint precisely networks veterans together based on past military experiences and current civilian professional workplace, industry, and location; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion does not benefit from employing an industry's best technology platform that networks together Legion posts and leadership at all Legion tiers; and

WHEREAS, RallyPoint creates precise relationships between veterans based on past military experiences and current civilian professional preferences; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 16-17, 2013, That The American Legion and RallyPoint work together to better assist servicemembers and veterans by integrating Legion posts/members and active servicemembers within both the RallyPoint and American Legion communities thereby providing the Legion with a scalable and cost effective method for recruiting new members from within RallyPoint's fast-growing military and employer network, and enabling the Legion to better serve transitioning veterans in obtaining gainful employment through RallyPoint's networking technology.

RESOLUTION SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER DEZURIK: This resolution has the approval of the Economic Commission and your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption. ... *Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: Motion on the floor and a second. Any discussion? All those in favor of the motion signify by saying aye. Opposed. The motion carries.

Resolution No. 26: Expanding Post-9/11 GI Bill for Entrepreneurship
Origin: Register Resolution No. 2678 (PA) Department Executive Committee
Submitted by: Economic Commission

WHEREAS, Our Nation's economy is comprised of a majority of small businesses; and

WHEREAS, Our men and women returning home from military service certainly have entrepreneurial skills; and

WHEREAS, Many small businesses struggle in their first years of start-up and can utilize assistance in getting established; and

WHEREAS, Returning veterans are eligible for the GI Bill for education benefits, which are designed to give the veteran assistance toward obtaining an education; and

WHEREAS, The GI Bill could be expanded to encourage veterans to establish their own businesses; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 16-17, 2013, That The American Legion support legislation to allow veterans who are eligible for Post-9/11 GI Bill educational benefits to convert those benefits into assistance in starting a business, purchasing a business or expanding a business.

RESOLUTION SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER DEZURIK: This resolution has the approval of the Economic Commission and your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption. ... *Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: There's a motion on the floor and a second. Any discussion? All those in favor of the motion, signify by saying aye. Opposed. Motion carries.

Resolution No. 27: Veterans GI Bill Education Improvement
Origin: Economic Commission
Submitted by: Economic Commission

WHEREAS, The American Legion has been encouraged by the growing recognition within Congress of the need to make basic, but critical, information about the return on investment in higher education available to student-veterans; and

WHEREAS, Transitioning servicemembers and veterans are changing the discourse of how a growing need for interdisciplinary efforts are needed within institutions of higher education; and

WHEREAS, Veterans utilizing the GI Bill, Federal Tuition Assistance (FTA), and other servicemember/veteran education benefits are given certain parameters regarding the way the money is used, the amount of money which can be used, and the time in which the money can be used; and

WHEREAS, Student characteristics and outcomes, along with the changing dynamics of education issues affect servicemembers, veterans, and their families differently at public, nonprofit, and for-profit schools; and

WHEREAS, Congressional committees, Department of Veterans Affairs, veterans service organizations, state approving agencies, educational organizations, and

educational institutions all need to work together to ensure veterans are fully aware of the educational opportunities provided for them; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 16-17, 2013, That The American Legion seek and support any legislative or administrative proposal that improves GI Bill education benefits so servicemembers, veterans, and their families can maximize its usage; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion urge Congress to find a solution that ensures colleges and universities that receive federal tuition payments grant priority enrollment to those individuals who qualify for either the Department of Defense or Department of Veterans Affairs education benefits.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER DEZURIK: This resolution has the approval of the Economic Commission and your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption. ... *Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: There is a motion and a second. Any discussion? All those in favor of the motion, signify by saying aye. Opposed. Motion carries.

Resolution No. 28: Support Eligible Veterans to Receive a First Time Homebuyer Tax Credit or Tax Credit for Adaptive Housing Improvements
Origin: Economic Commission
Submitted by: Economic Commission

WHEREAS, The American Legion is a national organization of wartime veterans who have dedicated themselves to the service of the community, state and nation; and

WHEREAS, America's men and women returning home from military service are encountering financial challenges, which includes a weakened economy, high unemployment, and a lack of affordable housing; and

WHEREAS, For veterans returning home with severe injuries such as amputation or traumatic brain injury, readjustment and reintegration can be hampered by housing that needs extensive renovation; and

WHEREAS, Veterans access to funding that could assist in adaptations to their housing, due to illness, injury or disability, would be extremely beneficial; and

WHEREAS, A veteran owning his or her home has many benefits, which includes: tax deductions, appreciation, equity, borrowing power, stability, and freedom; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 16-17, 2013, That The American Legion support legislation that would permit eligible veterans to receive a first time homebuyer tax credit or a tax credit for specially adaptive housing improvements so these brave men and women can be fully engaged in the American dream.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER DEZURIK: This resolution has the approval of the Economic Commission and your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I so move for its adoption. ... *Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: Motion and a second on the floor. Any discussion? All those in favor of the motion, signify by saying aye. Opposed. Motion carries. Thank you very much.

I now call on Larry J. Besson from Illinois, chairman of the Internal Affairs Commission, for purposes of a report.

Oral Report: Internal Affairs Commission
Larry J. Besson, Illinois, Chairman

Thank you very much, commander. Members of the National Executive Committee, my fellow Legionnaires, ladies and gentlemen, you have my report and our action and deliberations before you. I draw your attention to the great work that the Sons of The American Legion have done, and I commend the departments for supporting this great program. What a great job the SAL has done this year and in the past years. In the future years we're looking for great, great things out of the SAL.

You all know what the Legion Riders have done in the development of awareness of the Legacy Scholarship through this year. I want to highlight the tremendous year they had in raising money on the ride to Houston. This year is the eighth year of the ride, and they raised $764,000. *(Applause)* What they raised this year was an all-time high. Our Riders deserve another round of applause. *(Applause)*

The LEAD training program really got off to a great start this year, and thanks to all of the departments that participated in the first round of training. This program complements our departments' training to support the five-year membership plan. The focus of this program is not only to train our members and provide information on Legion programs, but also to train some of the trainers so that this training may be taken to the post and district to train the blue cap Legionnaires in our communities.

Our NEF is in good shape. We currently have over $3 million available in the fund to help our members and families impacted by recent floodings or tornadoes. We are ready to process the applications when we receive them. On your desk is the new toolbox that we are providing. It's a fantastic piece of equipment that we can use as far as our NEF grant applications. It shows you in every way to go through from beginning to the end. Please use this toolbox to work with the NEF.

It was produced in conjunction with the Magazine to provide information for the NEF coordinators on what to do before, during, and after a natural disaster so we can get the grants to those who really need immediate assistance as a result of being displaced from their residence. Take time to read it and get it to your NEF coordinator. Distribution to the departments will be made in the next couple of weeks.

We have provided the most up-to-date Commander's Challenge standings for this year, and that is also on your desk. So far at the Fall Meeting, the NEF has received $203 from the 50-50 at the Commander's Homecoming and $715 from the department commanders at the C&A Conference. We have not yet received a total from the Ye Steivos dinner. I have been told that we may soon have some donations for NEF for this year after my report on this action.

Mr. Commander, I submit my report of our resolutions for your actions to the National Executive Committee with the deepest respect and appreciation for the support and encouragement we receive from this body. Thank you.

Report: Internal Affairs Commission
Larry J. Besson, Illinois, Chairman
October 14-15, 2013

Chairman Larry J. Besson (IL), called an assembly of the Internal Affairs Commission to order at 9:00 a.m., October 14, and at 8:30 a.m., October 15, in 314A, National Headquarters, Indianapolis, Indiana.

Currently in the National Emergency Fund (NEF) is $3M. We have given $349,130 in grants this year and received $178,342 in donations so far this year.

Internal Affairs and Magazine developed a “How To Tool Kit” which covers how to designate an NEF coordinator in order to develop a program and what to do before,

during and after a disaster hits a community. A copy is provided to each NEC member on your desk. It is a complete kit. Distribution will be made to the departments to get ready in case they are impacted by a natural disaster. The fund provides immediate assistance if a family is evacuated from their home and needs quick help. The fund is not designed to make an individual whole or replace insurance. This tool kit is a great resource to help in processing claims so that the member may be assisted during their time of need.

PNC Robert W. Spanogle, Chairman, 100th Anniversary Committee, updated the commission on the activities of the committee. The committee presented a resolution on Pershing Hall Artifacts and Memorabilia, which the commission approved.

My report consists of the following sections: Standing Committee Reports; Program and Internal Action Reports; and Actions on Assigned Resolutions.

I. Standing Committee Reports

Membership and Post Activities Committee

Fifty-three Departments exceeded the 55% target date on October 9, 2013.

The 65% target date is November 14, 2013 and twenty-two Departments have already made this target. Current 2014 membership is 1,280,045. Our current National percentage is 64% - nearly 4% lower than this same time last year.

Currently 39,199 DMS members have been acquired. The goal for the year is 101,500 members.

This group of members will receive their first communication in mid-November. Information in this mailing and e-mail will place an emphasis on transferring to a local post as well as highlight issues and projects in which The American Legion is involved. This will be followed up in the months to come with additional mailings and e-mails.

Constitution and By-Laws Committee

The Constitution & By-Laws Committee met in Indianapolis, Indiana at 8:30 am on October 14, 2013. Present were Hon. Vincent H. Gaughan (IL), Chairman and Charles G. Mills (NY), Vice Chairman.

The Chairman noted there were no resolutions before the Committee. There being no further business to come before the Committee, the Committee adjourned.

American Legion Riders (ALR)

The ALR Advisory Committee to the Internal Affairs Commission consists of eight members who serve as regional points of contact for national vice commanders, department commanders, and department ALR programs. The committee also meets from time to time to provide input on questions brought before the Internal Affairs Commission.

Committee members and national staff have also provided LEAD and other ALR training and assistance within the departments as requested. Departments are encouraged to incorporate the ALR LEAD module, which explains responsibilities of post programs, trademark protection, and financial reporting into their training events and conferences.

The American Legion has a long history of service to America's veterans and their families. The American Legion Riders have continued this tradition with their unwavering support of The American Legion Legacy Scholarship for the children of fallen warriors.

Since 2006, The American Legion Riders have met this challenge by raising awareness throughout the year and by conducting the nation's largest multistate, multi-day motorcycle fundraising tour. In just the last two events in 2012 and 2013, the American Legion Legacy Run raised over $1.48M. In 2013, $764,000 was raised which

has been the highest total to date. Since the Legacy Run was started in 2006, they have ridden 10,675 miles and raised a total of $4.28 million for the Legacy Scholarship Fund.

In August, 2014, The American Legion Legacy Run will travel from Indianapolis to Charlotte, North Carolina, site of the 96th Annual American Legion National Convention.

National American Legion College

The 2013 National American Legion College (NALC) attendees have been announced. This year's class will have attendees from 33 different departments totaling 53 students, our largest class size. This training will be conducted Sunday, October 27th through Friday, November 1st.

Applications were scored using a 100 point worksheet covering past positions held, department commander recommendations, level of commitment, expectations and goals of the applicant, length of membership and a 500 words or less essay stating why the applicant wanted to attend the NALC and how they would apply the knowledge they have acquired. 68 applications, our largest pool of applicants, were evaluated by the Internal Affairs NALC Sub-Committee at the National Convention in Houston, TX.

National Emergency Fund

The National Emergency Fund (NEF) has awarded, since the fund was reinstated in 1989, over $8,200,000 to American Legion family members and posts. In 2012, we approved 252 grants totaling $230,397. So far in 2013 we have approved 367 grants totaling $349,130.

We started 2013 still dealing with Hurricane Sandy in the New York and New Jersey area. Almost a year later, clean up is still ongoing with members trying to rebuild after losing loved ones and all their possessions. This summer has brought a lot of damage to Colorado in the form of fires and flooding. Landscape that was wiped clean by fires could not withstand over 12 inches of rain in a five day period and the resulting flooding has damaged and destroyed over 10,000 homes and buildings along with redrawing the natural flow of rivers.

II. Program Reports

Sons of The American Legion

The past year the Sons of The American Legion strengthened our commitment to the Legion Family and achieved positive gains in all areas. We attained an all-time high in membership for the 39th year in a row.

As of October 9, 2013, we have a total reported membership of 354,362 members for 2013. This represents 100.3% of our prior membership. The current membership year, 2014, is starting off strong. We are currently at 73,342, which is 20% of our goal of 375,000.

The S.A.L. was the single largest contributor to The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation in 2013 raising $453,559. At the National Executive Committee Fall meeting this past weekend over $12,422 was donated to the Foundation. This gives us a total to date of over $79,831, which is 18% of our goal of $450,000. In addition to the CWF donations, the Sons of The American Legion also presented $2,875 for NEF, $1,000 for Fisher House and $20 for the Legacy Scholarship Fund.

One hundred ninety one National Executive Committeemen, Alternates, Commission and Committee members attended the 2013 Fall National Executive Committee meeting representing 48 Detachments. We also had 17 guests, for a total of 208 attendees.

The Member Training and Development Committee presented the eighteenth Annual Detachment Commanders' National Instructional Institute. Forty-five detachment commanders attended the Detachment Commanders conference on Saturday, October 12th.

In addition, we had a separate training for our National Executive Committee members on Parliamentary Procedure and Roles and Responsibility of the NEC.

We were honored to have the Deputy Director of IT, Joe Gallagher, address our membership. Deputy Director Gallagher spoke on the "My SAL" membership program. The program was reviewed and was very well received by the members. Overall, the feedback from our attendees was very positive.

Two resolutions were presented to the National Executive Committee for consideration. One was recommended for approval and the other was received and filed. Both resolutions are attached.

At the 42nd National Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana there were 857 registered delegates, 17 alternates and 77 guests representing 50 Detachments.

One highlight of the Convention was the presentation of our third "Triple Nickel Award". In order to receive this award a detachment must be over 105% membership, charter five new squadrons and achieve an 85% renewal rate all by July 1st. The Detachment of Iowa and the Detachment of Colorado were the award recipients.

Our membership goal for 2014 is 375,000 members. To attain this goal, our membership committee has initiated the "Shooting for the Moon" membership campaign. Members who excel in recruiting members will receive special recognition.

III. Resolutions

Internal Affairs Action on Assigned Resolutions

Approved and Forwarded to the Resolutions Subcommittee

Resolution No. 23 (Internal Affairs) **Award Congressional Gold Medal Posthumously to Harry Colmery**

Resolution No. 24 (Internal Affairs) **Pershing Hall Artifacts & Memorabilia**

Approved and forwarded to the Finance Commission

Resolution No. 2 (Internal Affairs) **National Paid-Up-For-Life Membership Plan**

Other Resolutions

Disposition of all other resolutions is addressed in Addendum A.

Conclusion

Thank you for your assistance and for giving us the opportunity to appear before you. Our commission is "Still Serving America."

Addendum A

Report to Subcommittee on Resolutions

The Internal Affairs Commission recommends the indicated action on the listed resolutions, which are presently before this body for disposition.

Rejected

Resolution No. 13 (MT) (2012 Natl. Conv.) **Establish Cyberspace Joint Ad Hoc Committee**
Resolution No. 17 (AZ) (2013 Natl. Conv.) **Additional Names to be Added to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial**
Resolution No. 20 (DE) (2013 Natl. Conv.) **Revise POW/MIA Remembrance**
Resolution No. 37 (NJ) (2013 Natl. Conv.) **POW/MIA Flag Up-Close Ceremony**
Register Resolution No. 2669 (IN) (2012 DEC) **Men's Auxiliary**
Register Resolution No. 2692 (IN) (Natl. Aux. NEC) **Joint Legion & Auxiliary National Study Committee on Membership Eligibility**
Register Resolution No. 2693 (IN) (Natl. Aux.) **Appointment to the American Legion Auxiliary Million-Member Centennial Task Force**

Hold for Further Study

Resolution No. 8 (NE) (2013 Natl. Conv.) **American Legion Riders Chapter Certificates**
Resolution No. 9 (NE) (2013 Natl. Conv.) **American Legion Riders Membership Roll Call Certificates**
Resolution No. 13 (ND) (2013 Natl. Conv.) **Post Submission of Narrative Reports**
Resolution No. 14 (ND) (2013 Natl. Conv.) **Enhance Membership Application Website**
Resolution No. 21 (WA) (2013 Natl. Conv.) **Paid-Up-For-Life Membership Cards**
Register Resolution No. 2688 (PR) (2012 DC) **Rename Department of Puerto Rico**
Register Resolution No. 2684 (IN) (2013 DEC) **Membership Recruitment of Active Duty and Reserves**
Register Resolution No. 2689 (IN) (2013 DC) **Membership Transfer**

Withdrawn

Resolution No. 21 (Internal Affairs) (2013 NEC May) **Official Tagline for The American Legion**

Addendum B

Internal Affairs Commission Report to National Executive Committee
The American Legion
October 13-14, 2013

Disposition of Actions of Sons of The American Legion

In compliance with Resolution 21 “entitled”, “Establish Procedure for Handling Matters Originating from SAL National Conventions and SAL National Executive Committees”, adopted by the National Executive Committee of The American Legion at

its meeting April 30-May 1, 1973, this is to report disposition made by the Internal Affairs Commission of SAL actions taken at the National Executive Committee October 16-17, 2013.

Approved

Resolution SAL NEC 2-F13	Endorsement of Jeff Evans (VA) for National Vice Commander South
Resolution SAL NC 1-13	VA&R 1,000,000 Hours of Service Per Year Goal
Resolution SAL NC 4-13	Recognition of First Responders to the Boston Marathon Bombings
Resolution SAL NC 5-13	Recognition of Social Media Sites
Resolution SAL NC 8-13	Children and Youth Organizations

Received and Recorded

Resolution SAL NEC 1-F13	Endorsement of Jeff Evans (VA) for National Vice Commander South
Resolution SAL NC 6-13	Endorsement of William L. Foster (AZ) for National Vice Commander
Resolution SAL NC 7-13	Endorsement of Ronnie Grist (GA) for National Vice Commander

Referred to Committee

Resolution SAL NC 2-13	Re-write the Sons of The American Legion Handbook
Resolution SAL NC 3-13	National Executive Committee Call In Review

No.: SAL Res 1 – Fall 2013
Title: Endorsement of Jeff Evans (VA) for National Vice Commander
Origin: Internal Affairs Commission

WHEREAS, The Sons of The American Legion is a program of The American Legion comprised of descendents of Veterans; and

WHEREAS, The National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion requires that candidates for national elective office in the Sons of The American Legion be presented to the National body by resolution; and

WHEREAS, Past Detachment Commander, Jeff Evans has distinguished himself as capable and willing to represent the Detachment of Virginia as elected national officer by his dedication and sacrifice for the good of the American Legion Family; now therefore let it be

***RESOLVED*,** That the Sons of The American Legion in National Executive Committee assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, October 12 - 13, 2013, That the Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Virginia hereby endorses Jeff Evans for the high office of National Vice Commander South at such future time and year as may become available; and be it finally

***RESOLVED*,** That the above resolution was endorsed by the Detachment of Virginia and the Department of Virginia with indicated National action submitted for the local resolving clause. The signatures of the Detachment Adjutant Doug Farrell and Department Adjutant Dale Chapman are on the submitted resolution.

No.: SAL Res 2 – Fall 2013
Title: Commendation of Fisher House for Assisting our Veterans Families
Origin: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission

WHEREAS, The Fisher House Foundation continues to support the military families in their time of greatest need through a network of comfort homes built on the grounds of major military and VA medical centers nationwide; and

WHEREAS, The Fisher Houses are located in close proximity to the medical center or hospital it serves; and

WHEREAS, Due to the government shutdown, The Department of Defense was unable to pay the death gratuities to the families of service members killed in combat; and

WHEREAS, The Fisher House Foundation has generously agreed to offer the families an advance grant until the government can make the reimbursements; and

WHEREAS, The Fisher House Foundation will also cover flights, hotels and other incidentals for the family members; now therefore let it be

***RESOLVED*,** That the Sons of The American Legion in National Executive Committee assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, October 12 - 13, 2013, That the Sons of The American Legion hereby commends the Fisher House Foundation for ensuring that our nations veterans families are taken care of by providing an advance grant to the families of service members killed during the government shutdown.

No.: SAL Res 1 – Convention 2013
Title: VA&R 1,000,000 hours of service per year goal
Origin: The American Legion Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission

WHEREAS, One of the four pillars upon which The American Legion was founded, The VA&R Commission, actively advocates for, and exercises independent oversight for a myriad of benefits, Programs, and opportunities created to compensate and care for generations of American Veterans and their dependents: and

WHEREAS, The Sons of The American Legion supports the VA&R Commission by volunteering at the Veterans Hospitals and Homes, through this support The American Legion Family remains a major contributor for the Department Veterans Affairs Voluntary service (VAVS) program: and

WHEREAS, over the past few years The American Legion Family has volunteered over 930,000 hours and has never reached the 1,000,000 hour goal per year: and

WHEREAS, by making 4 recommendations at each Medical Center we as The American Legion Family can achieve this goal and they are

1) Make sure that you have active representatives for the VA Medical centers
2) Recruit 10 regular scheduled (RS) volunteers at each medical center
3) Host 2 occasional hour events (which can be used to recruit RS volunteers)
4) Ensure that all the American Legion Families members serving at the National Cemeteries and State Veterans Homes are logging all of their hours with the parent VA Medical Center; and be it

***RESOLVED*,** that the Sons of The American Legion work hand in hand with the American Legion Family to help implement the 4 goals stated to the 1,000,000 hour goal; and be it finally

***RESOLVED*,** that, the Sons of The American Legion, assembled in Convention Session in Houston, Texas August 23-25, 2013 supports this resolution to help achieve the American Legion Family goal of 1,000,000 hours of VAVS service,

No.: SAL Res 4 – Convention 2013
Title: Recognition of First Responders to the Boston Marathon Bombings
Origin: Homeland Security and Civil Preparedness Committee

WHEREAS, the events of what is now being called the Boston Marathon Bombings of April 15, 2013 shocked this nation with its brutality and indiscriminate nature, and

WHEREAS, this act of terrorism caused the death of three innocent bystanders including an eight year old boy along with serious wounds to two hundred sixty four other spectators and participants requiring treatment in twenty four local hospitals with at least fourteen amputations, and

WHEREAS, The immediate assistance of first responders consisting of fellow citizens, runners, police and fire department officers, doctors, nurses and bystanders, brought aid, comfort and instant medical first aid to those injured; now therefore be it

***RESOLVED*,** That the Sons of The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Houston, Texas, August 23-25, 2013, by the members of the Sons of The American Legion, that we express our respect, admiration and thanks to all who "First Responded" to the needs of their fellow citizens. These acts of selfless assistance to those in need truly expresses and enforces the ideals of Americanism and Community Service as outlined in the Four Pillars on which The American Legion Family stands.

No.: SAL Res 5 – Convention 2013
Title: Recognition of Social Media sites
Origin: Homeland Security and Civil Preparedness Committee

WHEREAS, the events of what is now being called the Boston Marathon Bombings of April 15, 2013 motivated our society in a common bond for justice to be served, and

WHEREAS, local, state and federal law enforcement agencies requested assistance of locating the whereabouts of the alleged bombing suspects once identified, and

WHEREAS, the immediate response from the public at large was overwhelming with clues and tips flooding all law enforcement agencies, and

WHEREAS, this transferring of information was aided and abetted by the use of social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, Tumblr and others; now therefore be it

***RESOLVED*,** That the Sons of The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Houston, Texas, August 23-25, 2013, that we wish to express our respect, admiration and thanks to all social media sites for any assistance rendered which assisted in locating and providing evidence that led to the eventual capture of the alleged bombing suspects.

No.: SAL Res 6 – Convention 2013
Title: Endorsement of William L. Foster (AZ) for National Vice Commander
Origin: Detachment of Arizona

WHEREAS, The Sons of The American Legion is a program of The American Legion comprised of descendants of Veterans; and

WHEREAS, The National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion requires that candidates for national elective office in the Sons of The American Legion be presented to the National body by resolution; and

WHEREAS, Past Detachment Commander, William L. Foster has distinguished himself as capable and willing to represent the Detachment of Arizona as elected national officer by his dedication and sacrifice for the good of the American Legion Family; now therefore let it be

***RESOLVED*,** That the Sons of The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Houston, Texas, August 23-25,2013, That the Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Arizona hereby endorses William L. Foster for the high office of

National Vice Commander West at such future time and year as may become available; and be it finally

***RESOLVED*,** That the above resolution was adopted by the Detachment of Arizona and endorsed by the Department Adjutant but with indicated National action submitted for the local resolving clause. The signatures of the Detachment Adjutant Jeff C. Frain and Department Adjutant **John Aldecoa** are on the submitted resolution.

No.: SAL Res 7 – Convention 2013
Title: Endorsement of Ronnie Grist (GA) for National Commander
Origin: Detachment of Georgia

WHEREAS, This member has been an active member of the Sons of The American Legion for 30 years in East Point Squadron 51, eligible through the service of his father, Jack N. Grist, in the Coast Guard from 1955-1960; and

WHEREAS, he has served as Squadron Historian, Jr. Vice Commander, as Commander for 6 terms, Sr. Vice Commander/Adjutant for 7 terms, Chaplain ad currently serving as Judge Advocate; and

WHEREAS, he has served as 4th District Commander 3 terms and is currently serving as Adjutant for the 8th time; and

WHEREAS, he has served the Detachment of Georgia as Historian, Chaplain, Finance Officer, Vice Commander, as Adjutant for 13 years, served as Commander from 1987-1989 and is currently serving as Adjutant again; and

WHEREAS, he has served on the National level as Chaplain and Southern Vice Commander along with serving as Chairman or as a member of the Children & Youth Commission, VA&R Commission, and the Legislative Commission, and as National Executive Committeeman and Vice Chairman of the Children & Youth Commission and who has attended every National Convention since 1986 and at least one NEC meeting a year since 1986; and

WHEREAS, he has been awarded both the Squadron Member of the Year and the Detachment Member of the Year, as well as the Detachment's Lifetime Achievement Award, and has been awarded a Life Membership from the Squadron and the Detachment; now therefore let it be

***RESOLVED*,** That the Sons of The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Houston, Texas, August 23-25, 2013, That the Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Georgia hereby endorses Ronnie Grist for the high office of National Commander at such future time and year as may become available; and be it finally

***RESOLVED*,** that the above resolution was adopted be the Detachment of Georgia and endorsed by the Department of Georgia but with indicated National action submitted for the local resolving clause. The signatures of the Detachment Adjutant Lyle Chapman and Department Adjutant Charlie Knox are on the submitted resolution.

No.: SAL Res 8 – Convention 2013
Title: Children and Youth Organizations
Origin: National Children and Youth Commission

WHEREAS: One of the main objectives of the Children and Youth Commission is to support quality organizations that provide services for children and youth; and

WHEREAS: Organizations exist that provide uplifting programs to critically ill children and their families; and

WHEREAS: Organizations exist that provide wish fulfillment to children with terminal illnesses; and

WHEREAS: Organizations exist that create healing environments in hospitals, communities and homes for young persons who are facing chronic illnesses; and

WHEREAS: Organizations exist that assist with the cost of medical care for children with disease thus reducing the burden on their families; and

WHEREAS: Organizations exist that provide air transportation for seriously ill children to medical centers for treatment; and

WHEREAS: Organizations exist that help children with life threatening illnesses to believe in hope, joy and the promise of tomorrow; now, therefore be it

***RESOLVED*,** by the Sons of The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Houston, Texas, August 23 - 25, 2013, that the Sons of The American Legion National Children and Youth Commission inform Detachments, Districts and Squadrons of the existence of these organizations that assist in improving the quality of life for children battling illness and disease; and be it finally

***RESOLVED*,** that the Sons of The American Legion encourages all Detachments, Districts and Squadrons to promote and support these organizations in the communities across their states.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander motion to receive and file the report of the Internal Affairs Commission with the exception of two resolutions and two addendums. ... *Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: We have a motion on the floor and a second. Any discussion? All those in favor of the motion, signify by saying aye. Opposed. Motion carries.

Resolution No. 23: Award Congressional Gold Medal Posthumously to Harry Colmery

Origin: Internal Affairs Commission

Submitted by: Internal Affairs Commission

WHEREAS, A Congressional Gold Medal is an award bestowed by the United States Congress; and

WHEREAS, The Congressional Gold Medal and the Presidential Medal of Freedom, which is bestowed by the President of the United States, are the highest civilian awards in the United States; and

WHEREAS, The Congressional Gold Medal is awarded to persons "who have performed an achievement that has an impact on American history and culture that is likely to be recognized as a major achievement in the recipient's field long after the achievement."; and

WHEREAS, The life of Harry W. Colmery of Topeka, Kansas, was marked by service to his country and its citizens; and

WHEREAS, Harry Colmery earned a degree in law in 1916 from the University of Pittsburgh and, through his practice of law, contributed to the nation, notably by successfully arguing two significant cases before the United States Supreme Court, one criminal, the other an environmental legal dispute; and

WHEREAS, During World War I, Harry Colmery joined the Army Air Service, serving as a first lieutenant at a time when military aviation was in its infancy; and

WHEREAS, After World War I, Harry Colmery actively contributed to the growth of the newly formed American Legion and went on to hold several offices in the Legion and was elected National Commander in 1936; and

WHEREAS, In 1943, the United States faced the return from World War II of what was to become an active duty force of 15,000,000 soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines; and

WHEREAS, Harry Colmery, recognizing the potential effect of the return of such a large number of veterans to civilian life, spearheaded the efforts of The American Legion to develop legislation seeking to ensure that these Americans who had fought for the

democratic ideals of the nation and to preserve freedom would be able to fully participate in all of the opportunities the nation provided; and

WHEREAS, In December 1943, during an emergency meeting of The American Legion leadership, Harry Colmery crafted the initial draft of the legislation that became the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, also known as the GI Bill of Rights; and

WHEREAS, The GI Bill of Rights is credited by veterans service organizations, economists, and historians as the engine that transformed postwar America into a more egalitarian, prosperous, and enlightened nation poised to lead the world into the 21st century; and

WHEREAS, Since its enactment, the GI Bill of Rights has provided education or training for approximately 7,800,000 men and women, including 2,200,000 in college, 3,400,000 in other schools, 1,400,000 in vocational education, and 690,000 in farm training and, in addition, 2,100,000 World War II veterans purchased homes through the GI Bill; and

WHEREAS, As a result of the benefits available to veterans through the initial GI Bill, the nation gained over 800,000 professionals as the GI Bill transformed these veterans into 450,000 engineers, 238,000 teachers, 91,000 scientists, 67,000 doctors, and 22,000 dentists; and

WHEREAS, The veterans as well as all citizens of this great nation owe a deep and lasting debt of gratitude to Harry Colmery for his ability to set down on paper a document which truly transformed their lives and gave them an opportunity to advance their status in life; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion is fully aware of Harry Colmery's contribution as well as the fact that he has not had the recognition he so richly deserves for this meaningful service to all those who served this nation in the military service; and

WHEREAS, There have been previous resolutions requesting the Presidential Medal of Freedom with the most recent in 2004 asking for submission to the President of the United States and by a concurrent resolution in Congress but there has been no action by the White House as far as support; and

WHEREAS, With the 100th Anniversary of The American Legion approaching in 2019, it is even more important that The American Legion and the family of Harry Colmery be recognized for the contributions Past National Commander Harry Colmery made to this great nation because of the legacy he left for all generations; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 16-17, 2013, That an award recommendation be prepared and sent to Congress for award of the Congressional Gold Medal in order to posthumously recognize Harry W. Colmery, Past National Commander of The American Legion and author of the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944 commonly known as the "G. I. Bill," for his role in one of the most significant single pieces of legislation in the history of the United States.

RESOLUTION SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER SCHMIDT: This resolution has the approval of your Internal Affairs Commission, your Subcommittee on Resolutions, therefore, I move for its adoption. ... *Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: We have a motion on the floor and a second. Any discussion? All those in favor of the motion, signify by saying aye. Opposed. Motion carries.

Resolution No. 24: Pershing Hall Artifacts and Memorabilia
Origin: Internal Affairs Commission
Submitted by: Internal Affairs Commission

WHEREAS, Pershing Hall in Paris, France, was purchased in 1928 by The American Legion to serve as a gathering place and recreation center for U.S. veterans, civic organizations and other American groups in France, including American Legion Paris Post 1, and as a monument to the World War I American Expeditionary Forces (AEF) commanded by Gen. John Pershing, who strongly supported the mission of The American Legion after the war; and

WHEREAS, Pershing Hall was renovated and expanded by The American Legion, including stonework and ironwork that remains in place today displaying The American Legion emblem and other ornamentation in respect for the organization; and

WHEREAS, Pershing Hall came to be regarded as the European Headquarters of The American Legion; and

WHEREAS, Endowments from various U.S.-based organizations, including the Red Cross, YMCA, Knights of Columbus, Salvation Army, Jewish Welfare Board, the U.S. Marine Corps, the National Guard Association of the United States, and the Masons contributed to the renovation, remodeling and furnishing of Pershing Hall specifically for The American Legion and its services; and

WHEREAS, Those organizations, endowments associated with them, numerous individuals and others donated fine art, furnishings, plaques, memorabilia and other items to The American Legion to display at Pershing Hall, in honor of those who fought in World War I; and

WHEREAS, The majority of the fine art, furnishings, plaques, memorabilia and other items from Pershing Hall are now stored in various locations, including a National Archives warehouse in Dayton, Ohio; storage areas in Compiegne, France; along with multiple other U.S. government-managed locations; and

WHEREAS, The Pershing Hall structure became the property of the U.S. government in 1935, and all liens against it were retired through use of the Stars and Stripes Fund, which was generated by newspaper subscriptions purchased by U.S. military personnel of the AEF, and not through taxpayer dollars; and

WHEREAS, Only the structure, and not the contents of Pershing Hall, was specified in the law that executed the transfer of property ownership in 1935; and

WHEREAS, Pershing Hall has been under the custodianship of the Department of Veterans Affairs since 1991, when its contents were inventoried and many of the surviving items were put into storage; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Veterans Affairs has expressed a desire to return, on a permanent loan, the Pershing Hall art, artifacts, books, furnishings and other items that were donated to The American Legion and are now in storage or on display at random locations; and

WHEREAS, The Pershing Hall story and the artifacts now in storage represent a unique and interesting aspect of The American Legion's history and should be presented, displayed and shared in multiple ways as the organization nears its 100th anniversary; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 16-17, 2013, That The American Legion 100th Anniversary Observance Committee and The American Legion Internal Affairs Commission shall be authorized to negotiate with the Department of Veterans Affairs in order to establish permanent American Legion custodianship of the Pershing Hall art, artifacts, furnishings, memorabilia and other items so that they can be interpreted for public display, and protected from damage or disappearance; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That when such negotiations are conducted and concluded, and if a permanent custodianship agreement can be reached favorable to all parties, The American Legion National Commander will review the agreement; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That after review and approval by the National Judge Advocate, the National Commander be authorized and directed to execute said agreement, and the National Adjutant be, and is authorized and directed, to attest the same.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER SCHMIDT: Resolution No. 24 has the approval of the Internal Affairs Commission, your Resolutions Subcommittee, therefore, I move for its adoption. ... *Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: There's a motion on the floor and a second. Any discussion? All those in favor of the motion, signify by saying aye. Opposed. Motion carries.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER SCHMIDT: Mr. Commander, attached to the Internal Affairs report is Addendum A and Addendum B. I move that the actions of the Internal Affairs Commission become the actions of the National Executive Committee. ... *Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: Motion on the floor and a second. Any discussion? All those in favor of the motion, signify by saying aye. Opposed. The motion carries.

National Emergency Fund Donations

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: At this time if anyone has checks for the National Emergency Fund, would they please bring them forward.

FINANCE COMMISSION CHAIRMAN DANILSON: I just want to say a short comment here. The American Legion Charities was established three years ago for the purpose of setting up a 501(c)(3) corporation where we could take donations that some people did not want to give because we were (c)(19).

This charities program is up and running and going strong. Basically, the way it works is people can send in donations or bequests, and they can either earmark them for a specific program in The American Legion or undesignated, so we're getting money that we can use for other purposes. With that, we had our board meeting yesterday, and we would like to present the National Emergency Fund with a $25,000 check. *(Applause)*

... National Vice Commander Wooddell assumed the Chair.

DEPT COMMANDER ROLLINS (GA): Receiving the letter from the national commander with our new challenges, we're giving over a fourth of that, $5,300, from the Department of Georgia.

NEC MEMBER COLON (PR): Good morning. I have a check from Post 47, the biggest post in Puerto Rico. It's not a huge amount, but it's an amount, and it's going to lead to something big. Thank you.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER BOCK: Mr. Commander, the Western States Caucus met yesterday. With the fires and floods we've been experiencing in the West, we as a group combined and donated $500 to the National Emergency Fund for their support.

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: Thank you, all. *(Applause)*

...National Commander Dellinger resumed the Chair.

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: Thank you very much for all those donations. Next I'll call on Denise H. Rohan, Wisconsin, chair of the Membership & Post Activities Committee, for purposes of a report.

Oral Report: Membership and Post Activities Committee
Denise H. Rohan, Wisconsin, Chairman

Thank you, Commander Dellinger, national officers, past national commanders, members of the NEC, and guests. You have a copy of my written report in your folders.

Last spring you approved a strategic plan for sustained membership growth, and, as you recall, that plan is centered around five strategies: Creating brand awareness; communication; training, education, and leadership development; post development and revitalization; and membership recruiting and retention.

In August, during the membership workshop, each department commander presented Commander Dellinger a copy of their strategic plan. Our discussions of those plans revealed that each department has their own challenges, and they also are trying to find their own unique ways to deal with those issues. Many departments have plans that include updating their websites, creating public relation teams, new membership recruiting incentives, and bringing in the national staff to assist with revitalization and conducting training at all levels. I hope that you are keeping your individual department's plans close at hand, and that you're reviewing them from time to time. As the commander stated earlier, you are all a part of that plan.

The enthusiasm for growth kicked off last year when we ended 2013 membership year with 17 departments over 100 percent in traditional membership. The 2013 statistics also show that all departments' penetration rates were higher last year than in the previous five years. Last week was our 55 percent target date. 53 departments met or exceeded that goal. We already have 22 departments that are at or over the November 14 target of 65 percent. Our current national percentage is 64 percent.

We have 13 departments whose membership totals are higher now than the same time a year ago: Arizona, Colorado, France, Hawaii, Indiana, Kansas, Mississippi, Ohio, the Philippines, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Utah, and Wisconsin. Thank you and congratulations.

Unfortunately this year's overall membership totals are a little less than where we were a year ago at this time. The second renewal notices were hitting the mailboxes last week, and we hope that our numbers will quickly be coming back up. But as many of your departments' strategic plans stated, we cannot depend solely on our annual renewal notices to retain our members. We need to have face-to-face communication, and we have to have events to make our membership work.

Thanks to the Membership and Post Activities team, Director Billy Johnson, and his excellent staff an average of three to four districts are being revitalized every month. On average each one of those events is producing 200 to 350 renewals, new members, and transfer members. With the efforts expanding from concentrating on only posts to the district level, hundreds of volunteers are being trained in recruiting and retention techniques. These volunteers are using the DMS list and myLegion.org to transfer members from the department holding posts to local posts and recruiting other prospective members. The DMS members continue to receive email messages informing them of critical topics The American Legion is involved with, and these messages also are encouraging them to transfer to their local posts.

But while we are working membership, working those numbers, don't forget about the other parts of your plans. We need to continue building for tomorrow today. If we're building on our four pillars and getting the word out about all the wonderful things that we are doing, our membership will follow.

We need to remember the number one resource in our organization is our members. Take a few minutes to remember why you joined and why you stay. Invite others to see some of the wonderful things that we do firsthand. Share stories about their National Emergency Fund and how Operation Comfort Warriors are helping our veterans. There is

a positive membership attitude that's in the air, and we need your help to keep this plan of growth on track. Stay involved. Be an encouragement and a mentor. Congratulate successes and thank people who are doing a good job.

Many people have given up believing that their membership matters and that there's a value to it. Remind them why each and every one of them are important and get them reconnected. We hope to see the 2014 year end with extraordinary results as we move through our first year of the five-year campaign. Our goals will be accomplished by those five strategies: Creating brand awareness; using available communication tools; training, education, and leadership development; post development and revitalization; and, finally, membership recruiting and retention. I wish you the best of luck this year. Again, stay involved. This concludes my report.

Report: Membership and Post Activities Committee
Denise H. Rohan, Wisconsin, Chairman

2014 Renewal Campaign

The 2014 membership campaign has gotten off to a great start.

Fifty-three Departments exceeded the 55% target date on October 9, 2013.

The 65% target date is November 14, 2013 and twenty-two Departments have already made this target. Current 2014 membership is 1,280,045. Our current National percentage is 64% - nearly 4% lower than this same time last year.

In 2013 we finished with just over 99% in the area of traditional members – renewals and new starts combined. It will be imperative that we not lose ground in these areas if we expect to meet our goal for 2014. Both areas currently are running comparable to last year.

Names of those DMS 99 members who have renewed are being provided to the departments and are also used in the district and post development program. Access to these members is available through myLegion.org. The 175,473 members acquired in 2013 will continue to receive additional communications in the form of post cards and e-mails. These additional mailings are having a positive effect on the DMS renewals. The communication remains critical in informing the members of ongoing topics of The American Legion. The second renewal was just completed.

Post development efforts continue to be on an upswing. We average 3-4 district revitalizations per month. On average each one of these events are producing from 200-350 new, renewed and transferred members. With the change from focusing on efforts one post at a time to entire districts we have been able to expand training and of course receive better results.

2014 DMS Campaign

Currently 39,199 members have been acquired. The goal for the year is 101,500 members.

This group of members will receive their first communication in mid-November. Information in this mailing and e-mail will place an emphasis on transferring to a local post as well as highlight issues and programs in which The American Legion is involved. This will be followed up in the months to come with additional mailings and e-mails.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, motion to receive and file the report of the Membership and Post Activities Committee. There are no resolutions and no addendum. ... *Second*

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: We have a motion on the floor and a second. Any discussion? Mr. Hedrick.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HEDRICK: Thank you, Mr. Commander. As you just heard, Denise gave the membership report and that each department appeared before them and gave their five-year plan. I know the commander and the membership team are the ones that met with those people, but I'm looking out here at the leadership of this great organization. Every one of you were selected from your department to come here to represent your department to take back the message that we hear here. Even though maybe the commander and the membership team have it, but you are the leader of your department and you are the messenger from this great national organization. Please, as you heard the chairman say, go back to your departments, work on your five-year plan. We can accomplish a growth in our membership as we reach to our hundredth anniversary. I plead with you, go back. Don't forget what's in your packages. When you go back to your conference or conventions, take this message to your people. Tell your commander and membership team because they know you are here as a representative of their great department. Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: Thank you for those remarks. Any further discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor of the motion, signify by saying aye. Opposed. Motion carries. I'll now call on the national adjutant for announcements.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: No announcements, sir.

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: Commander Comer.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Commander, I want to put something in the record. A week or so ago we had the honor of having our National Judge Advocate Onderdonk come to our midwinter conference. I can't tell you what he did for our department, and I want to publicly on the record thank him for the service and the great midwinter conference that was there that day. *(Applause)*

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: Thank you for those comments. The time is now 11:10. We will be in recess until 1:30. Please rise. The flag of our country being in place, hand salute. Two. We stand in recess.

...At 11:11 a.m., the National Executive Committee rendered a salute to the Colors and stood in recess.

Wednesday, October 16, 2013, Afternoon Session

... At 1:30 p.m. the National Executive Committee was called to order by National Commander Daniel M. Dellinger and the following proceedings were conducted.

COMMANDER DELLINGER: The Colors of our country being in place, hand salute. Two. *... The National Executive Committee rendered a hand salute to the Colors.*

Recognition of Departments with Increased Membership

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: Before we get started, when you heard the Membership and Post Activities report, you heard of 13 departments whose membership now is higher than it was a year ago. I would like for those departments to stand. They are Arizona, Colorado, France, Hawaii, Indiana, Kansas, Mississippi, Ohio, Philippines, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Utah, and Wisconsin. Give them all a big hand. *(Applause)* Great job.

All right. We're going to move forward, and up first will be Michael Schlee from Maryland, the chairman of the National Security Commission, for the purpose of a report.

Oral Report: National Security Commission
G. Michael Schlee, Maryland, Chairman

Thank you very much, commander. Good afternoon, folks. Pleasure to be with you. You have my full report in front of you. What I'd like to do is just highlight some of the key points of the report this afternoon.

At our meeting on Monday, we were honored to have four past national commanders with us, and we certainly welcome their input and valued experience at our meetings. After we started the meeting, we did a brief tribute to Chuck Moreland who passed away in September. Chuck was celebrating his 25th year as our senior chairman, Merchant Marine Committee chairman, so we certainly wanted to remember Chuck and keep Gayle in our prayers.

We considered three resolutions, two of those were recommended for adoption which we will consider at a later point. After considering resolutions, we discussed four basic areas: Defense resourcing, the role of women in combat, war making and war powers, and some of the challenges facing us in military compensation.

I'd like to just spend a minute or two on the defense resourcing issue. Having been fortunate, or unfortunate, to have spent about four and a half decades in Washington, right now what I see is really a troubling trifecta of sequestration, government shutdown, which I think they may have resolved, and the normal downsizing from our withdrawal from Afghanistan. I think Washington has been an absolute zoo and, of course, my judgment is not worth too much, but apparently, according to *U.S. News and World Report*, the words of the Senate chaplain last week in the opening prayer was "Save us from this madness." "This madness" is the budget process in Washington, and its unique impact on our defense.

Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel is right now looking at the defense review which was given to him, and the staff got copies of it. Some of the things they're looking at with this troubling trifecta is smaller pay raises, reduced housing allowances, ending the commissary subsidies, cutting the Army by 50-80,000, cutting the Marine Corps by about 30,000.

In a sign of even more dire things yet to come, Past National Commander Bob Spanogle told me yesterday and sent the email to me last night that he received an

internal DA memo that said RIFs and early retirement boards for O-3s and O-4s in the United States Army will start convening in March of 2014. In my mind, troubling echoes from the past. I've seen it happen before, I'm afraid it's going to happen again.

In your report today, during our commission meeting, which was a good give-and-take with the commission members, we do have a couple of paragraphs of things, actions, we had planned to take and try to initiate between now and the Washington Conference to do two things: Hopefully, to work with the other components of the staff and the Legion to really slow down these devastating cuts and avoid them, hopefully; and to continue to make both the Congress and the American people more aware of our support for a strong national defense.

I don't know what to say. Washington is just goofy. I go back to the adage that was kicking around a while ago. The little swamp creature that Walt Kelly created, Pogo. I guess it's a paraphrase from the War of 1812, I think. But, you know, Pogo looked up and says, "We have met the enemy, and he is us." I think in many cases, what we're doing, "we" the collective nation, and particularly Washington, is something that in many cases our enemies could not do to our armed forces. So there are my sobering words of wisdom for the day. I certainly encourage any action you choose to take.

The commission also reviewed the new purposes with the retooling of the commission, which will take place at the end of this NEC. Certainly the new structure, irrespective of the personal outcome, will be challenging, but I think it addresses what the needs are of our defense structure within The American Legion now.

At the joint session on Tuesday, the two commissions met jointly, reviewed a film on the bomb hunters of Afghanistan, which the folks of the commission said it was one of the best they have seen. Some U.S. Corps of Engineers sapper units in Afghanistan, and while they cleaned up a little bit of the troopers' language, it was really out there on the line with the troops with the IEDs and those horrible explosives.

In closing, I'd like to acknowledge some folks that make this possible. People I think I forget to thank from up here on the podium, but I certainly want to thank those folks that you send to me to work with at all these meetings, and those are the members of the National Security Commission, the committees and the council. Their input is invaluable. Their work in the community day-in/day-out is imperative.

I also want to thank the staff, John Stovall, Joe Grassi, and Freddie Gessner, for the support they give us. And then, of course, my running compatriot in the National Security/Foreign Relations business, Randy Fisher. We work side-by-side in many of these joint meetings, and it's been good to work with him.

In closing, I certainly want to thank you, National Commander Dellinger, for all you're doing to ensure national defense and support the work of your National Security Commission. I certainly want to thank our NEC liaison and my good friend, Dave Warnken, who goes out in the mud and dirt with us on those preconvention trips. It's always good to have him there. And certainly all the members of the National Executive Committee for their continuing support of the National Security Commission and our goal to keep America preeminently strong. Thank you. *(Applause)*

Report: National Security Commission
G. Michael Schlee, Maryland, Chairman
October 14-15, 2013

An executive session of the National Security Commission met on October 14, 2013 in the Circle Center Conference Room of the Sheraton Hotel, Indianapolis, Indiana, to discuss current national security issues facing the United States and review and consider three resolutions.

National Security Commission Chairman Schlee opened the meeting and welcomed Past National Commanders Clarence Bacon of Maryland; Bob Spanogle of Michigan; Tony Jordan of Maine; and Clarence Hill of Florida. The National Security Commission was honored by their attendance and very appreciative of their participation in the commission's business discussions. The committee and council chairmen were introduced and thanked for their service. The commission paused to remember and honor recently departed Merchant Marine Chairman Chuck Moreland who served loyally in that capacity for a quarter century.

The commission proceeded to consider the three resolutions; two referred by the National Convention and one originated by the commission.

After review and discussion, two resolutions are recommended by the commission for approval: Modify Battlefield Helmet and Rescinding Obsolete Resolutions Dealing with National Security**.**

The recommended action on the third resolution is contained in Addendum A of this report. The commission also reviewed a proposed resolution on the Milk Creek burial site for troops of the 3rd and 5th Cavalry but deferred action at this time.

Following the consideration of resolutions, Chairman Schlee gave an in-depth presentation on the national security outlook covering the defense budget, sequestration, the government shutdown along with leading discussions on developing women-in-combat policies, the status of the War Powers Act and challenges facing the future of military compensation.

Defense Budget Update

According to Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel, under sequestration, DoD has two choices: capacity or capability. In a recent press conference he noted, "The basic trade-off is between capacity – measured in the number of Army brigades, Navy brigades, Air Force squadrons and Marine battalions – and capability, our ability to modernize weapons systems to maintain our military's technological edge."

The Pentagon has been examining several budget scenarios, and some changes may take effect even if the sequester-level spending caps are lifted. Highlights of potential actions outlined in DoD's new strategic review include:

- Smaller military and civilian pay raises.
- Reduce housing allowances and overseas cost-of-living allowances.
- Restrict military health coverage for working-age retirees under 65 who have access to civilian employer coverage.
- Eliminate eligibility for federal civilian pensions for retired service members in government jobs.
- End subsidies to the Defense Commissary System.
- Cuts to military pay and benefits have been unpopular with Congress, but that might change under budget realities.
- Cut active Army end strength from 570,000 to 490,000 by 2017.
- Cut active Marine Corps end strength from 202,000 to 174,000 by 2017.
- Reduce major headquarters budgets by 20 percent over five years.
- Reduce Navy aircraft carrier strike groups to eight or nine from the current 11.
- Cut up to five Air Force tactical aircraft squadrons.
- Shrink the Air Force's C-130 fleet.
- Retire older Air Force bombers.

Unfortunately budget analysts have warned that there is little will in Congress currently to reverse the sequester. The budget process over the coming months will likely be a continuation of the gridlock and dysfunction. "Anyone who was hoping for a more predictable budget outlook and for some relief from the turbulence of the past two years

is in for a huge disappointment," says Senior Analyst Todd Harrison, Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments.

The commission plans to work with staff to develop stronger positions against sequestration and toward restoring full military funding and preeminent military might of the United States. Experts agree that training and readiness have been significantly degraded by the sweeping across-the-board cuts to the Department of Defense as a result of the sequester. The commission also collectively expressed support for a new brochure to be developed which will plainly and forcefully explain The American Legion's position on defense resourcing. In addition, the commission expressed the need for a new canvassing strategy when dealing with members of Congress and their staff in terms of communicating our adopted positions with a special emphasis on the unacceptable status of military funding under sequestration.

Looking toward the Washington Conference, the division staff received guidance to invite a number of elected officials to address the commission during the upcoming meetings in March. In particular, members named U.S. Rep. Howard P. "Buck" McKeon (CA) as a potential guest for the conference. The National Security Commission will focus on defense spending during the Washington Conference and how the sequester is damaging the very ability to defend this country and its vital national interests. The concept of a new resolution defining the vital interests of the United States was also well received. The staff will invite a number wounded and injured Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines who are recuperating at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center to sit in the front row of our conference meetings in March. Encouraging collaboration between the National Security Division and the Magazine to emphasize military funding and include more coverage of these massive and arbitrary cuts to the Armed Forces is another suggestion being offered by the commission. The commission would like to see staff continue to attend meetings, hearings and panel discussions in their effort to monitor any challenges facing adequate military budgets, compensation and benefits.

Women in Combat Roles

Early in 2011, the Office of the Secretary of Defense was prompted by the FY11 National Defense Authorization Act to initiate a Women in Services Review. Each of the services were tasked to review laws, policies and regulations regarding the service of women members of the Armed Forces to determine if any revisions were needed to ensure women service members have an equitable opportunity to compete and excel in the Armed Forces. On January 24, 2013, Defense Secretary Leon Panetta and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Martin Dempsey announced the rescission of the 1994 Direct Ground Combat Definition and Assignment Rule and that the Department of Defense (DoD) plans to remove gender-based barriers. On June, 18, 2013, the DoD announced plans for fully integrating women into front-line combat roles.

The American Legion strongly believes that the DoD and all branches of the military services must maintain the current physical and mental requirements and qualifications for acceptance into military service which have created the best and most respected military in the world. The mental and physical qualifications of all military personnel, regardless of gender or age, should be held to a single-duty-position-specific standard depending on MOS and not be amended without Congressional authority. The American Legion requests Congress to hold extensive and in-depth hearings on Military Leadership Diversity Commission Recommendation 9 eliminating the "Combat Exclusion Policies for Women," and the DoD's Review of Laws, Policies and Regulations Restricting the Service of Female Members in the U.S. Armed Forces since Congress and only Congress can codify the elimination of the "combat exclusion clause for women." The American Legion believes that without such Congressional hearings and oversight there exists the distinct possibility that changes will be made which lessen

the current standards or set a double standard, one for men and one for women, therefore, reducing our nation's military effectiveness.

National Security Commission Reorganization

A brief overview of the repurposing of the National Security Commission and its associated committees and council was also given by Chairman Schlee to conclude the meeting. An information sheet stating the new purposes of the National Security Commission and its seven committees and the Council was distributed to the commission attendees.

Joint Session

On Tuesday, October 15, the National Security and Foreign Relations Commissions met in joint session at the Circle Center Conference Room of the Sheraton Hotel in Indianapolis. Foreign Relations Commission Chairman Randall Fisher opened the meeting and welcomed Past National Commander John Brieden of Texas and Past National Commander Clarence Hill of Florida. The commissions were presented with a documentary on the life and death importance of properly equipping our Armed Forces with the most cutting edge innovations and technology for combating enemies who utilize asymmetrical warfare tactics. The program is entitled: Bomb Hunters - Afghanistan. This film demonstrated the research and development efforts that have recently given our troops the ability to adapt to the combat theater and a better chance to discover and destroy the enemy's signature weapon known as the improvised explosive device (IED). The IED in particular, since 2001, is responsible for the deaths of approximately 1600 troops; over two thousand severely wounded troops requiring one or more amputations and approximately 236,000 cases traumatic brain injury.

With approximately 50,000 troops presently serving in harm's way in Afghanistan, there have been 50 IED attacks against them since January and 16 troops lost their lives to IEDs already this month. This film demonstrates how research and development is essential for force protection and successfully combating the nation's enemies while reminding us that this important work has been greatly hindered due to the sequester.

The National Security Commission thanks National Commander Dan Dellinger, our NEC Liaison and the distinguished members of the National Executive Committee for their continuing support.

Addendum A

Received and Recorded

Resolution No. 60 (OH) (2013 Natl. Conv.)**: Scrap Metal Exports**

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, motion to receive and file the report of the National Security Commission with the exception of two resolutions. We have one addendum. ... *Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: We have a motion on the floor and a second. Is there any discussion? All those in favor of the motion, signify by saying aye. Opposed. Motion carries.

Resolution No. 14: Modify Battlefield Helmet
Origin: Resolution No. 52 (PA) 2013 National Convention
Submitted by: National Security Commission

WHEREAS, The American Legion is an organization of wartime veterans who have dedicated themselves to the service of the community, state and nation; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion is founded on four pillars of service, of which one of the pillars is to foster a strong national security; and

WHEREAS, United States military personnel serve our nation worldwide with many of them serving in harm's way; and

WHEREAS, These troops are being subjected to injury from improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and these IEDs have been causing severe bodily harm and traumatic brain injuries; and

WHEREAS, The United States Department of Defense responded to the problem of traumatic brain injuries with unprecedented speed and installed sensors on the troops helmet to measure the concussive force suffered by individual service personnel and provided military medical professionals with treatment programs to minimize the dilatory effects of the concussion; and

WHEREAS, These appropriate actions have had a noticeable effect of reducing the amount of traumatic brain injury to our service personnel; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 16-17, 2013, That The American Legion petition the United States Department of Defense to provide research to modify the current battlefield helmet to provide possible relief of the shock wave caused by improvised explosive devices thus attempting to lessen the traumatic brain injury received by United States military personnel; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That this research be given the same fast track and unprecedented speed as the program responsible for the development of the shock sensors now installed on military helmets.

RESOLUTION SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER GUNDERSON: Commander, this has the approval of the National Security Commission, the approval of your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for adoption. ... *Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: We have a motion on the floor and a second. Any discussion? All those in favor of the motion, signify by saying aye. Opposed. Motion carries.

Resolution No. 15: Rescinding Obsolete Resolutions Dealing with National Security
Origin: National Security Commission
Submitted by: National Security Commission

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 111 adopted by the 18th National Convention specifies that policy resolutions shall remain in effect indefinitely unless "changed by subsequent Convention action or by action of the National Executive Committee"; and

WHEREAS, The National Security Commission has completed a review of all national security resolutions in order to keep them current and accurate; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana on October 16-17, 2013, That the following national security resolutions are rescinded by reason of: being obsolete (O); accomplishment of purpose (A); being superseded by later resolutions (S); being in conflict with later resolutions (C); being duplicated by later resolutions, having no value because of later changes in program (D); and for other reasons.

Number	Year	Occurrence	Title	Reason
175	**1996**	**Convention**	**Service of Women in the Armed Forces**	**S**
201	**1998**	**Convention**	**Service of Women in the Armed Forces**	**S**
36	**2010**	**Convention**	**Repeal DOD Policy Prohibiting Women from Combat**	**S**

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER GUNDERSON: This resolution has the approval of your National Security Commission, the approval of your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for adoption. ... *Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: We have a motion on the floor and a second. Any discussion? All those in favor of the motion, signify by saying aye. Opposed. Motion carries.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER GUNDERSON: Commander, attached to this report is Addendum A. I move that the action of the National Security Commission become the action of the National Executive Committee. ... *Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: A motion on the floor and a second. Any discussion? All those in favor of the motion, signify by saying aye. Opposed. Motion carries. Next, Donald Suchy from Nebraska, vice chairman of the Commission on Children & Youth.

Oral Report: Commission on Children & Youth
Donald Suchy, Nebraska, Vice Chairman

Commander, good afternoon, gentlemen and ladies. The National Commission on Children and Youth met at the Sheraton City Centre Hotel on Monday and Tuesday, October 14 and 15, 2013.

The commission examined our children and youth materials. The *Make Halloween a Safe and Fun Night* continues to be our most popular publication. Over 26,000 brochures have been distributed to posts, units, squadrons, and individuals during the 2012-13 program year. In total during this time the commission distributed over 153,000 brochures and certificates to assist posts in serving the children of their communities.

When a devastating tornado struck Moore, Oklahoma, and the surrounding area earlier this year, Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA) was ready to assist our comrades and their children affected by the large-scale disaster. From May 22 through August 6, 2013, our Temporary Financial Assistance program assisted 260 families with $269,000 in cash grants to cover emergency expenses such as food, clothing, temporary housing, supplies, fuels, and generators. For 2013 the Temporary Financial Assistance program has awarded grants totaling $892,523.47 benefiting 1,736 children.

Our greatest strength as Legion families has always been demonstrated most efficiently by our volunteer involvement at the post level. A prime example of this is our Family Support Network. So far this year the Legion has averaged over 20 calls per week for assistance, despite the decrease of number of National Guard and Reserve activation.

On Sunday the American Legion Child Welfare foundation awarded $644,005 to 21 nonprofit organizations. Summaries of these grants are contained in the written report. Foundation grants awarded since 1954 now totals over $13,200,000.

The annual National Children and Youth Conference was held on September 20 through the 22, educating 85 Legion families, representatives and their guests on current children issues and programs of the National Commission on Children & Youth. Participants are now equipped with resources for conducting children and youth programs and conferences within their own department. Next year the conference will be held September 19 through the 21 for what promises to be another informative weekend.

Mr. Commander and members of the National Executive Committee, this commission thanks you for your continued support. This concludes my report.

Report: Commission on Children & Youth
Donald Suchy, Nebraska, Vice Chairman
October 14 - 15, 2013

The National Commission on Children & Youth met at the Sheraton Hotel City Centre, Library Room, 21st Floor in Indianapolis, Indiana on Monday and Tuesday, October 14 - 15, 2013. The meeting was convened at 9:00 a.m. and the roll was taken. Following opening remarks, the minutes of the National Convention meeting were approved.

Materials Update

The commission examined Children & Youth areas of concern, annual programs and Children & Youth materials. The "Make Halloween a Fun and Safe Night" continues to be the most popular publication with over 26,000 brochures distributed to posts, units, squadrons and individuals during the 2012 – 2013 program year. This unique brochure educates children and parents choosing to participate in Halloween "trick-or-treating" about potential safety hazards and informs them how to avoid them.

During the 2012 – 2013 program year, the commission distributed 153,741 free brochures and certificates to assist posts in serving the children of their communities. As per Commission request, the staff continues to review and revise the Legion's Children & Youth brochures to ensure timely, pertinent and accurate information.

Temporary Financial Assistance

Commission members received a report on the Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA) program illustrating the positive impact the Legion has on veterans and their families. During the 2012 – 2013 program year, the national organization approved cash grants totaling over $930,537. These funds were used to help maintain the basic (shelter, utilities, food, and clothing) and medical needs of 1,892 children of eligible veterans located in communities throughout this nation.

When a devastating tornado struck Moore, Oklahoma and the surrounding area earlier this year, Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA) was ready to assist our comrades and their children affected by this large-scale disaster. From May 22 – August 6, 2013, TFA assisted 260 families with $269,000 in cash grants to cover emergency expenses such as food, clothing, temporary housing, supplies and fuel for generators.

For 2013, grants totaling $892,523.47 have been awarded benefitting 1,736 children.

Annual Children & Youth Conference

The seventh annual National Children & Youth Conference was held on September 20 – 22, 2013, at the Sheraton Hotel City Centre in Indianapolis. This conference educated 85 Legion family representatives and guests from 47 departments on current children's issues and the programs of the National Commission on Children & Youth. Conference participants learned practical implementation strategies for the programs presented and are now equipped with the resources for conducting children & youth programs and conferences within their own respective departments. As our children & youth programs work best due to a concerted effort from all members of the Legion family, please encourage the children & youth representatives from your American Legion Auxiliary and the Sons of The American Legion to consider joining us next year for what promises to be another informative weekend.

Children & Youth Expenditures & Contributions

Annually, as it has for the past 90 years, the commission on Children & Youth records activities from the more than 14,000 posts of The American Legion, 9,500 units of the American Legion Auxiliary and 5,000 Sons of The American Legion squadrons. In

addition, the expenditures of departments and of the national organization are obtained for the 12-month period of June 1, through May 31, and combined with these reports.

For the 2012 – 2013 Children & Youth program year, including contributions to the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation, posts, squadrons, units and departments of The American Legion and affiliated organizations reported a grand total of $15,238,338 in expenditures and contributions.

American Legion Child Welfare Foundation, Inc.

The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation, in its 59th year, has awarded $644,005 to 21 non- profit organizations for 2014. These grants were determined during the annual meeting of the Board of Directors, held at the Sheraton Hotel City Centre in Indianapolis, Indiana on Sunday, October 13, 2013. The following is a brief summary of the grants awarded this year:

Created by The American Legion in 1954, the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation, Inc., is a separate 501(c) 3 corporation. Its philanthropic priority is to support worthwhile youth- serving projects and to assist in the dissemination of information to the general public and specific target groups. From 1955 to date, the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation, Inc., has awarded more than $13.2 million to organizations to assist children of this country. At its October 13, 2013, meeting, the Child Welfare Foundation Board of Directors awarded $644,005 to the twenty-one organizations listed here:

Autism Speaks of New York, New York, was awarded $32,350 for their project, "100 Day Kit for Newly Diagnosed Families." This grant will provide information kits on Autism and will encourage early intervention and supportive services. The Sons of the American Legion sponsors this grant.

Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation of Baltimore, Maryland, was awarded $25,000 for their project, "Healthy Choices, Healthy Children Booklets." This grant will produce booklets to assist adult mentors and law enforcement personnel in teaching teamwork, leadership, communication and personal responsibility to the kids they serve. The American Legion Auxiliary sponsors this grant.

Chadwick Center for Children and Families at Rady Children's Hospital of San Diego, California, was awarded $40,350 for their project, "Disseminating Best Practices for Preventing Child Abuse and Family Violence." This grant would provide a webcast of a multidisciplinary conference on child abuse, as well as brochures and email blasts.

Children's Hospital & Medical Center Foundation of Omaha, Nebraska, was awarded $14,000 for their project, "Period of PURPLE Crying Injury Prevention Program." This grant will underwrite the production of an infant injury prevention program that will include the distribution of DVDs and educational booklets. The Sons of The American Legion sponsors this grant.

Cornelia de Lange Syndrome Foundation of Avon, Connecticut, was awarded $18,287 for their project, "CdLS Education Toolkit for Parents and Professionals." This grant will provide toolkits, with information about this syndrome, to parents and professionals.

Face the Future Foundation of Chicago, Illinois, was awarded $6,575 for their project entitled, "Family and Public Support Program for Children with Craniofacial Birth Defects." This grant will produce and distribute an informational video to assist parents with reducing their child's challenging behaviors and increase social and self-control skills. The American Legion Auxiliary sponsors this grant.

Father Flanagan's Boy's Home (aka Boys Town) of Boys Town, Nebraska, was awarded $35,500 for their project, "Boys Town National Hotline Online Awareness Campaign." This grant will fund an internet publicity campaign to promote awareness of the Boys Town National Hotline. The Sons of The American Legion sponsors this grant.

Joe Foss Institute of Scottsdale, Arizona, was awarded $10,000 for their project, "Veterans Inspiring Patriotism Program." This grant will provide students with copies of the United States Constitution and Declaration of Independence. The Sons of The American Legion sponsors this grant.

KS&A (Klinefelter Syndrome and Associates) of Pine, Colorado, was awarded $20,000 for their project "Genetic Information Kits for Newly Diagnosed Children with X and Y Chromosome Variations." This grant will provide informational booklets to parents of children with chromosome variation. The Sons of The American Legion sponsors this grant.

National Alliance of Child Abuse Prevention Funds of Seattle, Washington, was awarded $25,260 for their project, "Bringing the Protective Factors to life in your Work – a Resource for Action." This grant will produce toolkits for trainers to educate professionals and caregivers to help prevent child abuse and neglect. The American Legion Auxiliary and The Sons of The American Legion sponsor this grant.

National Autism Center of Randolph, Massachusetts, was awarded $50,000 for their project, "Evidence-Based Educational Interventions in Public School Settings for Children with ASD." This grant will produce and disseminate information to support an intervention program targeted towards schools and special education administrators. The American Legion Auxiliary sponsors this grant.

National Braille Press of Boston, Massachusetts, was awarded $18,500 for their project, "Just Enough to Know Better: A Braille Primer." This grant will produce a Braille primer for sighted parents to teach their blind children to read. The Sons of The American Legion sponsors this grant.

Organization for Autism Research of Arlington, Virginia, was awarded $67,400 for their project, "Autism Tuned In." This grant will develop an interactive, web-based program to enhance the lives of children with autism. The Sons of The American Legion sponsors this grant.

Partnership for Food Safety Education of Arlington, Virginia, was awarded $20,600 for their project, "Phase II of the BAC! Fighter National Youth Campaign." This grant will develop online resources to educate the public about food borne illnesses and safe food handling. The Sons of The American Legion sponsors this grant.

Prevent Child Abuse America of Chicago, Illinois, was awarded $14,382.69 for their project, "Helping Offenders Prevent Child Abuse and Assist in Healthy Development of Families." This grant will underwrite the printing and distribution of a special baby journal aimed at preventing child abuse.

Society for the Prevention of Teen Suicide, Inc. of Freehold, New Jersey, was awarded $30,100 for their project, "Remote Delivery of Lifelines Suicide Prevention Program to Schools." This grant will promote Lifeline Suicide Prevention Program in public schools through online training.

Songs of Love Foundation of Forest Hills, New York, was awarded $25,000 for their project, "Songs of Love Outreach Project." This grant will produce and disseminate brochures and update the organization's website to promote awareness of the services offered. The American Legion Auxiliary sponsors this grant.

The American Legion National Headquarters Americanism Division of Indianapolis, Indiana, was awarded $69,000 for their project, "The American Legion National Oratorical Contest – A Constitutional Speech Contest." This grant will provide scholarship money to participants in the national contest. The American Legion Auxiliary sponsors this grant.

The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, Gateway Chapter of St. Louis, Missouri, was awarded $5,000 for their project, "Pediatric Patient Out Reach." This grant will provide booklets and hospital visitation kits for families with children diagnosed with

leukemia and lymphoma. The American Legion Auxiliary and The Sons of The American Legion sponsor this grant.

Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors of Arlington, Virginia, was awarded $26,500 for their project, "Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors Children's Bereavement Guide." This grant will produce and disseminate bereavement guidebooks. The American Legion Auxiliary sponsors this grant.

Young Marines of Washington, District of Columbia, was awarded $90,000 for their project, "Young Marines Drug Demand Reduction." This grant will underwrite the purchase and dissemination of anti-drug literature and promotional items. The American Legion Auxiliary sponsors this grant.

Mr. Commander, and members of the National Executive Committee, this commission thanks you for your continued support. Working together, we will continue to make a difference in the lives of young people across this nation. As one of the four pillars of this great organization, the National Commission on Children & Youth has been so tasked from our beginning, and we remain unwavering in our commitment to ensure a safe and healthy future for our nation's greatest natural resource — our children and youth.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, motion to receive and file the report of the Commission on Children and Youth. There are no resolutions. ... *Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: We have a motion and a second. Any discussion? All those in favor of the motion, signify by saying aye. Opposed. Motion carries.

COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH VICE CHAIRMAN SUCHY: Mr. Commander, I respectfully request that you recognize Florida's NECman Dennis R. Boland, the past chairman of the National Commission on Children and Youth, for his remarks.

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: The Chair recognizes Dennis Boland, Florida.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN BOLAND: Thank you, commander, past national commanders, National Executive Committeemen, and fellow Legionnaires.

I've been very fortunate the past eight years to be the commission chairman for Children & Youth. It's been a great learning experience, mainly because I never did anything. Thirty-one years ago I joined The American Legion only because my wife pretty much made me, almost like Past National Commander Clarence Hill. His wife gave him the ultimatum: "Either you die and I join, or you join under your own." *(Laughter)* Mine wasn't that severe.

But anyhow, like I said, I never did anything, I never joined anything. I guess it was all about me. I was very fortunate to become the adjutant of my post. When they dumped the box on me, and I said, "What's this about?" They said, "Oh, it's the other things."

So I said I had to go to this conference that was being held, and I met a young lady there named Josephine LoCicero who at that time was on the Children & Youth Commission. She took a liking to me, and I took a shine to her, but, anyhow, she got me involved in the Child Welfare Foundation. Through that, at the National Convention in Louisville, I met Jake Comer. His speech just sent chills through my spine, and I knew that I had to raise money for Jake Comer when he asked to raise a million dollars.

Since then my life has been good. I've learned that we, this body here, and our organization gives life to people. You know, you go around to hospitals and you see children that will fit in your hand, the palm of your hand, and we do things to give that child life. That is amazing.

You have supported me over the years as your commission chairman, and I thank you so much. You've given me such a great life, and I include you as my family, just as I did Bob Proctor when we called each other brothers.

I want to give you the accolades, and I don't have the words to give you those accolades. But I would like to read you what my 13-year-old grandson wrote when he was asked to write something for Veterans Day. And this is about you.

Our Hero

You fight for our freedom, all of the time,
even if it means getting up at prime.

You're always honoring the flag
by wearing that silver dog tag.

You're better than Superman and Batman
and in fact everyone's your number one fan.

You are the nation's strongest of all,
making everyone want to stand tall.

You are always so humble and kind,
this may be why you're the best of mankind.

You've made the world such a better place,
giving it a blessing with much grace.

You give the word "hero" such a special name,
one that only a special few can claim.

We thank you so much for what you do,
the world today would not be the same without you.

God bless you all. I love you as my family, because you are, and I'm so fortunate to be able to continue to work for this great organization as a National Executive Committeeman for the Department of Florida. Thank you. *(Standing ovation)*

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, for the record, I make a motion to receive and file those remarks. ... *Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: Motion on the floor, and I have a second. Any discussion? All those in favor of the motion, signify by saying aye. Opposed. Motion carries. Now from Colorado, Ralph Bozella, chairman of the Veterans Affair and Rehabilitation Commission, for a report.

Oral Report: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission
Ralph P. Bozella, Colorado, Chairman

Thank you, Mr. Commander. Good afternoon, everyone. Commander Dellinger, national officers, members of the National Executive Committee, and guests. Your VA&R Commission met on Monday, October 14, at the Sheraton Hotel. We were pleased to have in attendance Past National Commanders William M. Detweiler from Louisiana and Ronald F. Conley from Pennsylvania, along with the NEC Liaison

Chairman for the VA&R Commission, Mr. Bill Kile from West Virginia. We thank PNC Detweiler for his remarks to our commission on the TBI/PTSD Committee.

We acted on nine resolutions, and we have nine here before you today for your approval. As you all know, there's much happening in Washington, D.C., right now, but in spite of the government shutdown, we also do get things done in The American Legion through our VA&R office. We have an awful lot to report on health care, on claims, on TBI/PTSD, and on volunteering. We would like to bring some of that to your attention verbally today.

I want to thank Command Dellinger for his remarks yesterday, a strong message to the veterans of America that, in spite of all this and the hardships that are coming upon veterans and their families, The American Legion is standing there for veterans, standing tall. You see, our country does have an obligation to protect and defend our veterans benefits. Dennis, I really appreciate the poem, because that really drives that point home. It is an obligation. It's something that we must do in this organization, particularly in tough times like this. That was excellent.

The whole responsibility of caring for our veterans was jeopardized due to the inability of the president and members of Congress to get together and to come to a continuing resolution by October 1, and we know what some of those problems are. You know, across our country our VA&R Commission is one of the first to hear about the problems that veterans are experiencing through the 2,900 department service officers of The American Legion and the veterans who contact them daily asking for help to get through these times. There have been slow-ups in medical services. We know that veterans have been paid for October; we're not sure they will be paid for November. And there even have been delays in cemetery interments. In fact, I personally talked to somebody from Colorado last night about that, and what can The American Legion do to help. There are a lot of people that are affected by this as we are going on.

We recognize that veterans depend upon these VA benefits for their health care. They depend on it for their families, to care for their families, to put food on the table, to put a roof over their heads, for their medications which could potentially save their lives. This VA&R Commission is charged with these kind of responsibilities to secure and protect these earned benefits of our veterans.

We are working closely with our Legislative Division and with Congress to assure that funding for veteran programs is reinstated. That has to be a top priority. We are working with VA to communicate to veterans on what services have been impacted in veterans health care and claims programs. Rest assured that we will continue to work with lawmakers in Washington, D.C., to not prolong this closure of government shutdown but find a way to get rid of the impasse. Even more, we must ensure that veterans benefits are no longer put on the negotiation table in times like this.

In addition to our work in lobbying efforts to fund veterans benefits and programs, there have been several accomplishments in many areas. I want to talk a little bit about health care. With health care, the System Worth Saving Task Force has just completed its landmark report on women veterans. Through that report, we have six recommendations:

That the VA develop a customized women veterans health benefits track to assist the understanding that women veterans are in fact veterans, and that we need to help them increase their awareness of the health care benefits that are available to them;

That VA consider establishing a national women veterans enrollment goal in relation to the facilities catchment areas to determine the outreach programs that are working, these are the high-performing areas, and to provide training for the outreach programs to women veterans that are not working, the low-performing areas;

Additional research and evaluation is needed in the separate-by-shared-space model of women veterans health care in our VA facilities. Some of the facilities need to have a

better co-alignment, coordination, and delivery of services for women veterans in their hospitals;

We need the VA to improve on their reporting of mammogram results. The standard required by law is within 30 days and three to five days if there are malignant or abnormal results in their report. These are too long, and we're asking that that time be cut in half or even better;

That VA expands inpatient mental health programs for women veterans within each of the 21 VISNs across our country. Right now there are only seven inpatient mental health facilities for women veterans in this country;

And that Congress authorizes child care as a permanent authority in all VA medical centers.

The resolution, "Comprehensive Women Veterans Program," is part of your packet today for review and hopefully approval by you, and I encourage you to vote for this very important resolution.

Our upcoming System Worth Saving Task Force for 2014 is planned, and we are looking at what has happened in the past ten years. Since Past National Commander Conley started this program in 2003, we have been in VA hospitals all across this country. It's time to do an evaluation and review of what has happened in these past ten years. Has the VA, in fact, improved?

We're going to see what challenges they face in the future and ask for a five-year plan in very important areas that we're going to take into consideration: Budgeting, staffing, enrollment and outreach, mental health, ICU, long-term care, homeless programs, information technology, and construction programs. The list of our site visits is printed in your packet of information in the VA&R report, so you'll know that we'll be coming into your area. That's important because we need you, the NECmen, to be part of our program when we come into your state. We have a town hall meeting the night before we begin our site visits, and you can help us, with local veterans, determine what are the needs, what are the issues, what are the challenges of the VA medical center in your state. We hope that you can join us. We don't have dates on those. We do have a schedule, but even that is impacted by the shutdown. We're not sure that we'll be leaving at the end of this month. All that may be resolved by tonight. Who knows?

With claims we are continuing to work with the White House and the VA on the fully developed claim process. I know you've heard some things about that. Based on the evidence that was collected during our visits to the VA regional offices, the fully developed claim process appears to be a viable program.

The VA regional offices, with full implementation and with partnership with our department service officers, have witnessed a significant drop in the average days for a claim to be adjudicated resulting in the awarding of veteran benefits in a timely manner. Although we do applaud VA's efforts to cut back the backlog, to increase the claims that are done in a shorter amount of time, the problem still exists in claims getting done but not getting done accurately. A claim adjudicated quickly but inaccurately is equally as frustrating as a claim that has spent months, if not years, in a backlog. This is frustrating to veterans and their families, just as a claim that's not getting processed at all.

The VA has reduced their backlog by 20 percent since this past spring in 2013, and this has been achieved by an automated system of claims processing through the Stakeholder Enterprise Portal, the Veterans' Benefits Management System, this is also due to paying overtime to VA adjudicators who are getting these claims processed and the expansion of the fully developed claims model.

VA Secretary Shinseki has called upon VA to adjudicate all claims within 125 days with 98 percent accuracy. In VA's pursuit to reduce the backlog through timely adjudications, it must not lose sight of the fact that adjudications need to be accurate. Again, we will say that message over and over because it's critical to getting these done

right and getting them done well. VA&R, our division, will continue to visit with the VA regional offices to ensure that all veterans receive their earned benefits through the review process.

Volunteering. We're asking for department adjutants and NECmen to help identify a department point-of-contact for the VAVS program in your state. The year just ended on September 30, and we have 8,064 American Legion VAVS volunteers, and we've logged 805,541 hours. Our 2014 goal, which we're just beginning that period of time, is to increase the number of volunteers to 9,000, and we are shooting for one million hours. We cannot do this without your help and assistance. In addition to these recruiting goals, we are redesigning the Legion's web page with the volunteer VAVS spotlight on that. The department point of contacts will help encourage new volunteers to register at the VA, as well as share best practices and volunteer stories for the Legion's website.

Lastly, I want to recognize our staff, our Washington, D.C. staff in the VA&R division. Director Verna Jones; Deputy Director for Health Care Mr. Jake Gadd; and Assistant Director for Health Care Roscoe Butler. *(Applause)* We appreciate their work.

Mr. Commander, before I conclude this report and prior to resolutions, I would like your permission to ask Past National Commander Detweiler to give us a brief report on yesterday's meeting with the TBI/PTSD Task Force.

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: Thank you. The Chair recognizes Past National Commander Detweiler for purposes of a report.

TBI/PTSD Committee Update

PAST NATIONAL COMMMANDER DETWEILER: Thank you very much, Mr. Commander, the members of the NEC and guests, members of the staff. It's a pleasure to come up and give you a little briefing on what the PTSD/TBI Committee is doing and planning.

One member of the staff that we missed, and I guess he's on a plane, he just got a promotion. Warren Goldstein is now the assistant director that will be handling TBI and Post Traumatic Stress programs for the office in Washington for the Legion. I think it's a clear indication that this is a serious priority with us as an organization.

The members of the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission's TBI and Post Traumatic Stress Committee met on October 15, yesterday afternoon, here in this building. All members were present, including Jeanne Stellman, Dr. Stellman, who was on the phone with us from her office at Columbia University in New York.

The reason for the meeting yesterday was: Where do we go from here? I don't know if you've seen the report, I hope you have seen the report. Every member of Congress received the report. The various agencies in Washington, the DoD, VA, they received the report, and the report is online, and I think it was emailed to most. If not, just ask about it and one of the staff members will help you with a link to get to it. It's most important that you have an opportunity to read it.

Once this report was released in connection with the commander's testimony a couple of weeks ago in Washington, we began to receive a number of comments one way or the other. It was pretty well received by the media, military, and veterans community. After the report was issued, the question was what do we do now and where do we go from here. There was a discussion yesterday regarding the committee's plans, initiatives, and next steps that will formulate the committee's focus.

A Post Traumatic Stress and TBI symposium is going to be planned to be held in connection with the Washington Conference this coming year. If you remember, the resolution that made this committee a permanent committee under the VA&R Commission, we were authorized to meet twice, once in Washington and once at the

convention. We met here yesterday at no additional expense, and met along with the magazine editor, media director, and various other members of the two candidates for national commander that were in line for commander sat and met with us. Our NEC, Mr. Kile, from West Virginia, was there with us. He's been a member and has been working with us as your representative with this committee.

The symposium that we're planning is probably, if we can get the rooms, we know of one day that we can meet, and that's on Saturday. We may be able to meet possibly, if the convention people can work it out, to meet additionally one day early on Friday, so it would be Friday and Saturday. But what we will be doing is working on setting up a conference that will be titled, "Advancing the Treatment and Care for Veterans with TBI and Post Traumatic Stress." It will include policymakers and academia, servicemembers and veterans, to discuss TBI and Post Traumatic Stress treatments and therapies, how it affects the servicemembers, the veterans, and their families. That's most important.

As Past National Commander Spanogle pointed out, it is very, very important that we talk about two groups of people at this conference, and we concentrate on two groups of people in addition to the veterans and getting their proper care, families and caretakers. Families and caretakers are most important and can't be left out of the discussions and the work that we do.

So this will be a little bit different than having just DoD or VA people coming in and telling us what they're doing. We don't know if they do it or not. Anyway, we'll be looking at what's happening in the field, what treatments and so forth are being offered, and what's happening. You may have seen the CBS report that was done on suicide a while back and then on those families. We want to know from the families out in the field and from the veterans in the field what's going on. We hear a lot of things in Washington from DoD and VA, but let's talk about what's going on in the field.

Commander Spanogle suggested we send out a questionnaire survey, that it be developed for the department service officers to use as a feedback from families and veterans. The survey would include whether the treatment for veterans with TBI and Post Traumatic Stress is working, and address the needs of what the caregivers are doing and what their needs are, what can we do for them. The CBS piece gave information and studies on problems with overmedication and suicide. Those are two things that we really are most concerned about.

We spent a lot of time yesterday with Dr. Jeanne Stellman. If you don't know who Dr. Stellman is, Dr. Stellman and her husband, Steve, both Ph.D.s and researchers, are members of Columbia University in New York. They are the team that we hired, or that the Legion hired years ago to show the causal connection between Agent Orange and the troops, which eventually led to the VA finally recognizing the causal connection between various illnesses, cancers and so forth, that our troops in Vietnam experienced.

So Jeanne was with us. You've heard about the different studies that DoD and VA have done, particularly in connection with the use of the treatment using hyperbaric oxygen as a means of treatment. It's been classified as voodoo medicine. This is just an example. Well, Jeanne took a look at those studies, and, in her opinion, she was kind of really disappointed, kind of disgusted, with the way the studies were done. They were done by DoD, they were done by VA.

If you are going to criticize the studies, there are couple other things we need to do, and one of the things is to have a good statistician take a look and analyze the studies, and she is working on that for us. This lady gives a lot of time to the Legion and is very, very concerned with veterans, does a lot of work at Columbia on the various issues that we have presented her with and some that she's taken on by herself.

The committee also received updates from the Magazine Division and media which are both in the process of a developing a TBI and a Post Traumatic Stress center on the

Legion's website to allow for the presentation of videos, veterans interviews and follow-up.

One of the things we're going to do in connection with this conference, if you go back and look at the study, you'll see a number of veterans and family members that were interviewed in connection with the articles that were written. I want to go back now; it's over a year since these interviews and discussions took place with these veterans and members of the families. We want to go back and find out what has happened, what kind of treatment have you got, what's your condition, what's going on? By going into the field, we get an opportunity to learn a lot more about what supposedly DoD and VA are doing and the treatments being used and maybe what treatments we should have Congress spend more money on for research.

So that's basically what we did yesterday. We want to know where we're going from here. If you want to know where we're going from here, that's where we're going. We didn't issue a report and walk away, which sometimes happens. Also, one of the things that concerned us, you interview these veterans, you talk to them, and you talk about what you want to do to help them. Now's the time we go back to them and say, "What's your condition? Have you gotten the help you need? Let us keep pushing."

We are going to have to keep this whole issue, both Post Traumatic Stress and TBI, those two issues together, those two injuries. Those are the signature injuries of these current wars. We need to keep those on the front burner and keep Congress, put their nose to the wheel, try to get the proper funding for research and the proper funding for care and treatment.

Thank you very much, and we'll have more for you at a later date. *(Applause)*

VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BOZELLA: Thank you, Commander Detweiler. Mr. Commander, it's truly been an honor, a privilege, and my pleasure to serve in this capacity for this organization, and to serve veterans in this manner. I thank you, sir, for that opportunity. That concludes my report.

Report: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission
Ralph P. Bozella, Colorado, Chairman
October 14-15, 2013

The National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission met on October 14-15, 2013 at the Sheraton – Panorama A, 21st Floor for the purpose of considering those matters that had previously been referred for study and to discuss other current matters.

Presiding: Ralph P. Bozella (CO), Chairman

Present at the meeting were:

Ralph P. Bozella (CO)	Howard L. Darter Jr. (CA)
Don E. Mathis (TN)	Mike Montaney (WA)
Pat Phillips (GA)	Steve Sweet (MS)
Milton A. Willis Jr. (VT)	Richard L. Humphrey (CO)
Jack L. Mitchell (MT)	

Also in attendance were: PNC William M. Detweiler (LA), PNC Ronald F. Conley, NECman William W. Kile (WV) Chairman, NEC Liaison Committee, NECman Bob Wallace (WA), NECman Francis W. McCurdy (CO), NECman Stanley H. Clark (NY), NECman Richard Coccimiglio (PA) and NECman James E. Pisa (AK).

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Division staff members present were: Verna L. Jones (NC), Director for VA&R, Jacob B. Gadd (DC), Deputy Director for Health Care, and Roscoe Butler (DC), Assistant Director for Health Care.

Matters Received, Considered and Acted Upon by the Commission:

Resolutions

Your Subcommittee considered nine (9) resolutions. One (1) resolution was referred for consideration by the 2013 National Convention. Eight (8) resolutions were presented by the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission.

Nine (9) were forwarded to the National Executive Committee for adoption:

Resolution No. 20 (Res. 41, 2013 Natl. Conv.): **Service Officer Participation in the Transition Goals, Plans and Success (GPS) Program**

Resolution No. 19 (Origin: VA&R)**: Rescinding of Non-Legislative VA&R Resolutions**

Resolution No. 16 (Origin: VA&R)**: Dependency and Indemnity Compensation for Surviving Spouses**

Resolution No. 22 (Origin: VA&R) **Research to Develop a Blood Test to Detect Colorectal Cancer**

Resolution No. 18 (Origin: VA&R)**: State Veterans Home Funding for Construction Grants**

Resolution No. 21 (Origin: VA&R)**: Improvements to Department of Veterans Affairs' Women Veteran Programs**

Resolution No. 12 (Origin: VA&R)**: Agreement with the National Veterans Legal Services Program (NVLSP)-2013-2014** (Submitted by: Finance Commission)

Resolution No. 3 (Origin: VA&R)**: Scheduling of the National Commander's Annual Congressional Testimony** (Submitted by: Finance Commission)

Resolution No. 17 (Origin: VA&R)**: Congress to Provide Back Pay to Veterans and their Dependents for any Government Lapse in Appropriations**

The Commission then discussed the following issues:

Government Shutdown

On October 1, 2013, the President and Congress were unable to pass a continuing resolution to fund the government for FY 2014. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) had prepared and issued a Veterans Field Guide on September 30, 2013 to explain essential and nonessential services that would be provided because of a government shutdown.

The VA recently updated the Veterans Field Guide on October 7, 2013 and the guide can be found at http://www.va.gov/opa/docs/Field_Guide_20130927.pdf.

Claims

On October 8, 2013, VA announced that it is placing more than 7,000 employees on furlough, which eliminated public access to all 56 of its Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) regional offices.

As a result of the furloughs, VBA can no longer conduct personal interviews and hearings, process GI Bill benefits, offer educational or vocational counseling, or provide outreach activities and programs -- including VetSuccess on Campus. The reduced work force also means that American Legion service officers are unable to use office space allocated to them at the regional offices. Mail will be delivered to the VA, but due to

furloughs the VA Regional Offices will only receive, date stamp, and stack the new mail. All awaiting mail will be delivered to the VSOs once the furlough is over.

All VA Regional Appeals operations will cease during the government shutdown. The Board of Veterans Appeals in Washington DC will continue to work on cases. Fiduciary hubs will operate only to accomplish initial appointments and take phone calls from veterans or fiduciaries.

According to the VA's Veterans Field Guide, VBA Regional Offices public contact services will not be available and the VBA's processing of appeals and remands will be suspended. In the event of a prolonged shutdown, no decisions will be issued by the Board of Veterans Appeals, and no Board field hearings on appeals will be held.

Health Care

While advance appropriations allowed the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) budget to be appropriated, those appropriations cannot be spent if the money is not in the US Treasury and that is the situation that the government would face if the debt limit is not raised. If the US hits the debt limit, and there is no deal to raise it, the US Treasury will no longer be in a position to cut checks to fund government operations, which would result in a shutdown of the entire VA operations.

This shutdown could close or significantly reduce the 152 VA Medical Centers programs' and services to veterans. The shutdown would affect millions of veterans that depend on receiving medications through the Consolidated Mail-Out Pharmacy (CMOP) and through VA pharmacies. If there is no deal to raise the debt limit, these veterans would not receive their lifesaving medications, which could place them in a life or death situation. VA's Suicide Crisis Hotline would have to shut down and if a veteran called this number in crisis to only receive a message "the telephone number you dialed is no longer in service," could result in the death of the veteran.

For veterans that are receiving care in the private sector that VA was authorized to pay, veterans will be responsible for payment of this care and could lead to lapses in coverage, care or financial hardship that would impact their debt and credit rating.

The American Legion conducts site visits of VA Medical Centers to assess the quality and timeliness of VA health care. Due to the government shutdown and debt ceiling crisis, all System Worth Saving Task Force visitations to VA Medical Center facilities have been postponed.

Cemetery

With the shutdown, interments at National Cemeteries will be conducted on a reduced schedule, as well as see delays and payments will be suspended in the event of a prolonged shutdown. Nevertheless, the National Cemetery Administration (NCA) will process applications for headstones, markers, medallions, and continue to notify VBA of death for benefit actions.

In an article released on October 8, 2013 by Today News, the families of five US service members who were killed during the weekend of October 4-6, 2013 in Afghanistan have been notified that they will not receive their $100,000 benefit normally wired to relatives within 36 hours of the death. The "death gratuity" is intended to help cover funeral costs and help with immediate living expense until survivor benefits begin. The Fisher House was providing grants to the families affected and legislation was signed by the President to reinstate the death gratuity.

CLAIMS UPDATE

The American Legion continues to press the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) on speeding up their process while continually improving upon the quality and

accuracy of claims decision. During the year, we have given the VBA many ideas to improve their process and image. Some ideas were well received and it shows. First, with the Fully Developed Claims initiative, we found that by allowing VA employees to focus on one initiative, the claims were being processed in the shortest amount of time and veterans receive their benefits quicker. Secondly, we greatly assisted the VBA by identifying ambiguity in their policy letters to the VA employees giving them. A third example of The American Legion assisting VBA are with the Stakeholders Enterprise Portal (SEP) and Veterans Benefits Management System. Both of these computer software systems are new to the VBA and have come a long way since their birth. The American Legion pushed for additions such as the Veteran Service Organization (VSO) work queue in SEP which is in the final stages. The VSO work queue allows everyone to communicate within the program and review work being submitted and finalized ensuring the veteran receives the highest quality decision by the VA Regional Office. Another concern of SEP is the registration process with Norton. It was The American Legion that introduced issuance of the Personal Identification Verification badge to all accredited representatives to avoid using a personal credit card over the internet to register. VA officials now will issue the PIV badge to all accredited representatives and fund the required background check.

The American Legion is working with the VBMS development team to ensure that all scanned documents are complete, scanned in the proper order, scanned "right side up," and labeled properly. Too many times VSOs and VA employees have opened empty documents or upside down documents, or documents labeled incorrectly. All this wastes valuable time in the process as the veteran or surviving loved one waits for a decision. It was also The American Legion that identified the VA overlooked other VA benefit programs while developing VBMS, such as the Board of Veterans Appeals; in the beginning the VA Regional Office would have had to print a paper file to certify to the Board. Thanks to the American Legion, the Appeals Management Center and the Board of Veterans Appeals have VBMS installed.

Our Accredited Representatives continue to work endless hours to honor those that have served. Currently the American Legion has over 2,900 accredited representatives. With this number of professional representatives, The American Legion represents over 713,000 claimants in receipt of VA monetary benefits. These claimants receive over $758 million on a monthly basis that greatly assist them make ends meet in today's economy. Thanks to The American Legion the VA issued over $8.7 billion in Fiscal Year 2013!

SYSTEM WORTH SAVING UPDATE

Women Veterans Report

From October 2012 to April 2013, the System Worth Saving Task Force accompanied by American Legion national staff, conducted site visits to randomly selected healthcare systems and conducted veteran town hall meetings in nearby American Legion posts. At the town hall meetings, task force members facilitated discussions to identify issues and concerns directly from women veterans on their level of health care.

In order to assess how the health-care system is providing health care to its women veterans, the task force engaged in topic-focused interviews during the two-day visits with each system's executive leadership team: women veterans program manager, women veterans health committee, enrollment and business office, facility manager, mental health staff, military sexual trauma program coordinator, suicide prevention program coordinator, homeless veterans program coordinator, and the patient advocate.

The objectives of the Women Veterans Health Care report were: to understand what perceptions and barriers prevented women veterans with enrolling in VA, determine what

quality of care challenges women veterans faced with their health care, and provide recommendations and steps VA can take to improve access-barriers and quality of care challenges women veterans face.

The following challenges and recommendations were made:

1. Women veterans do not identify themselves as veterans and/or know what benefits they are eligible to receive
   Recommendation:
   The VA should develop customized women veterans' health benefits track to assist in the awareness of the healthcare benefits made available to them.
2. VA medical center facilities do not have a baseline, one-, two- and five-year plan to close the gap between the catchment area, enrollment numbers and actual users among women veterans
   Recommendation:
   The VA should consider implementing baseline facility enrollment and unique women veterans seen as percentage goals in relation to the facility's catchment area.
3. Additional research is needed to determine the purpose, goals, and effectiveness of the three VA women models of care on overall outreach, communication and coordination of women veterans' health services
   Recommendation:
   VA determines the background, purpose, goals, and effectiveness of the three VA Women Models of Care on overall outreach, communication and coordination of women veterans' health services. Additionally, in the evaluation, VA can determine how the models help to better align services.
4. Women veterans do not receive their mammogram results in a timely manner
   Recommendation:
   While the law requires non-malignant and/or non-suggestive mammograms be reported in 30 days and 3 to 5 days for malignant and/or highly suggestive mammograms, The American Legion views this as a minimum standard established by law. The VA should provide the necessary funding and resources to expedite the implementation of the mammography package. This mammography package should allow women veterans the option of self-referrals as well as VA staff the ability to scheduling, track and review mammogram results.
5. Many VA facilities do not offer inpatient/residential mental health programs for women veterans
   Recommendation:
   Since women is approximately 15 percent of service members serving on active duty, as DoD begins it draw down and women veterans begin to leave military services, VA should continue to expand the number of Mental Health Residential Treatment Programs made available for women veterans and ensure these programs are offered in each Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN).
6. VA's legislative authority for the child care pilot program is due to expire October 2, 2013.
   Recommendation:
   The VA should work with Congress to make the child care legislation a permanent authority.

Following the release of the guide, on September 17, Jacob Gadd, Deputy Director for Healthcare and Roscoe Butler, Assistant Director for Healthcare met with Dr. Robert Petzel, VA's Under Secretary for Health and senior Veterans Health Administration

(VHA) staff to discuss the findings and recommendations of the System Worth Saving Task Force Report on Women Veterans.

During the meeting, each of the above women veteran health care challenges and recommendations were discussed. Dr. Petzel agreed to further evaluate the following recommendations: VA work with Department of Labor and Department of Defense to develop a customized women veterans health care track for the Transition Assistance Program; establishing facility women veteran enrollment goals by VA facility; assessing the effectiveness of VA's Three Models of Care for Women Veterans Programs (to better align, co-locate and coordinate women veterans services and develop outreach materials specific to what women veterans each VA facility provides); and reducing the time for reporting mammograms. VA has already submitted a report to Congress to recommend that VA's childcare pilot program be expanded. Dr. Petzel requested a separate briefing to evaluate the recommendation of having a lead women veteran mental health inpatient program site in each of VA's 21 Veteran Integrated Service Networks. Further, Dr. Petzel thanked The American Legion and the System Worth Saving program's candid feedback and evaluation of their women veterans programs.

On September 17, a separate American Legion news release, "Legion releases women veterans' health care report" was posted on the Legion's website and externally through PR Newswire. A link to the report can be found at:

http://www.legion.org/veteranshealthcare/217159/legion-releases-women-veterans-health-care-report. On September 17, Rick Maze featured an article in Marine Corps Times outlining the Legion's findings and recommendations of our System Worth Saving Report. The link to the story can be found at:

http://www.marinecorpstimes.com/article/20130917/BENEFITS04/309170001/Legion-report-VA-must-do-more-attract-women-vets.

System Worth Saving 2014 Report – Past, Present and Future of VA Health Care

This is the System Worth Saving's 10th year of the program and the upcoming report will focus on VA's progress achieved over the past ten years, current issues and concerns, as well as VA's five-year strategic plan for several program areas.

The areas of focus will include VA's budget, staffing, enrollment, outreach, hospital programs, mental health, intensive care unit (ICU), long-term care, homeless programs, information technology and construction programs. The objectives of the *Blue Print of VA Health Care: Past, Present, and Future* are: to comprehensively review VA healthcare since the creation of the System Worth Saving program in 2003, and review the past, present, and future of VA healthcare to support our belief that the VA is truly a *"System Worth Saving."* The official report will be published during our 2014 National Convention.

Fifteen site visits have been selected to the following VAMC's: Pittsburgh, PA; Nashville, TN; El Paso, TX; Huntington, WV; Leavenworth, KS; Roseburg, OR; Jackson, MS; Butler, PA; Atlanta, GA; Dallas, TX; Orlando, FL; William Dorn VA Medical Center, Columbia, SC; Cleveland, OH; Ann Arbor, MI; and Denver, CO.

Legion Volunteering

The American Legion Volunteers serve veterans in Department of Veterans Affairs' VA Medical Centers, Outpatient Clinics, Vet Centers, Fisher Houses Community Living Centers and State Veterans Homes across the nation. Based on information obtained from VA Central Office Voluntary Service, volunteer hours are down across all Veteran Service Organizations. For the reporting period ending September 30, 2013, the regular scheduled volunteers and regular scheduled volunteer hours are reported as follow:

	RS Volunteers	RS Hours	Total Volunteer Hours
FY12	8,487	862,595	925,204
FY13	8,112	814,445	837,687
Difference	375	48,150	51,517
FY14 Goal	9,000		1,000,000

According to the Corporation for National and Community Service, the estimated value of a volunteer time is $22.14 per hour. Based on this information, their combined service is valued at over $19.3 million in savings to the federal government. A 2009 national survey shows that 72% of Americans say they have cut back on the time spent volunteering, participating in groups and doing other civic activities due to the economic downturn. Given these challenging times, it may not make sense to read too much into the long-term implications of these short terms trends.

A goal of 1,000,000 hour has been set for 2013-2014. To increase The American Legion Volunteering participation, an outreach campaign is underway to reach out to each Departments Adjutant to gain their support and assistance in designating a champion in each state to assist the National Deputy VAVS Representation in this effort. A report of volunteer hours and number of volunteers in addition to actions taken to reach the established goals will be provided on a redesigned American Legion web center dedicated to Legion volunteering. The new site will feature barometers to measure and track the number of volunteers and hour goals as well as share best practices and stories of American Legion volunteers making a difference in veterans' lives.

This year's VA Voluntary Service National Executive Committee meeting is scheduled to meet in Cary, North Carolina October 23 – 25, 2013. A report from the meeting will be provided at the Spring 2014 National Executive Committee Meeting.

The TBI/PTSD Committee met on October 15, 2013 in The American Legion Headquarters, Room 301 to discuss "Next Steps". A report of the committee's discussion is provided in a separate report.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, motion to receive and file the report of the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission with the exception of seven resolutions. ... *Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: We have a motion and second on the floor. Any discussion? All those in favor of the motion, signify by saying aye. Opposed. Motion carries.

Resolution No. 16: Dependency and Indemnity Compensation for Surviving Spouses
Origin: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission
Submitted by: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission

WHEREAS, A surviving spouse who remarries on or after December 16, 2003, and on or after attaining age 57, is entitled to continue to receive Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC); and

WHEREAS, By placing an age on eligibility for DIC, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is forcing surviving spouses to not move forward with life; and

WHEREAS, When other survivor benefit programs were liberalized, they usually covered the widows of veterans who died before the enactment of the law, (e.g. deaths from cancers from Agent Orange); and

WHEREAS, Title 38, United States Code, section 1318 authorizes DIC to be paid to the widows and widowers of service-connected disabled veterans who die as a result of

their service-related condition or who at the time of death were, or should have been, rated 100% service-connected disabled for at least ten years; and

WHEREAS, Many veterans do not reach the 100% level for a service-connected disability until they are much older and their condition has worsened; and

WHEREAS, The spouse has usually been the primary caregiver and companion for these veterans throughout the veteran's lifetime and VA's compensation is their a primary means of support; and

WHEREAS, On the surface the 10-year rule discriminates against a large group of veterans, and their survivors, simply because of when they file a claim for service-connected disability rather than recognizing the severity of the condition(s) and the impact of death (not related to the condition) on the family; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 16-17, 2013, That The American Legion support legislation to eliminate the age criteria for a surviving spouse to remarry for eligibility to receive Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC); and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion support legislation to reduce the number of years that a veteran must have a 100% disability rating from ten years to one year for eligibility of DIC payments.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER KILE: This resolution was approved by the VA&R Commission, your Resolutions Subcommittee, and I recommend its approval. ... *Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: We have a motion and second on the floor. Any discussion? All those in favor of the motion, signify by saying aye. Opposed. Motion carries.

Resolution No. 17: Congress to Provide Back Pay to Veterans and Their Dependents for any Government Lapse in Appropriations
Origin: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission
Submitted by: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission

WHEAEAS, On October 1, 2013, the United States Congress failed to approve the federal budget, which resulted in the furlough of federal government employees; and

WHEREAS, Compensation payments to more than 3.8 million veterans will be suspended if the government shut-down extends past October 31, 2013; and

WHEREAS, Pension payments to more than 315,000 veterans and over 202,000 surviving spouses and dependents will not be distributed if the government shut-down extends past October, 31, 2013; and

WHEREAS, The failure to provide veterans and their families with their earned benefits will result in financial hardship, which could lead to a loss of homes, to include other basic necessities of living, and may result in delinquent credit reporting; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 16-17, 2013, That The American Legion urge Congress to reinstate any and all federal benefits to include, but not limited to, compensation, pension, education and dependency and indemnity compensation payments, and provide back pay to veterans and surviving spouses and dependents whose payments may be suspended due to the government shut-down.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER KILE: This resolution was approved by the VA&R Commission, your NEC Resolutions Subcommittee, and I move for its adoption. ... *Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: We have a motion on the floor and a second. Any discussion? All those in favor of the motion, signify by saying aye. Opposed. Motion carries.

Resolution No. 18: State Veterans Home Funding for Construction Grants
Origin: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission
Submitted by: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission

WHEREAS, Federal Funding for constructions grants to State Veterans Homes has been static at $85 million for the past three fiscal years (FY 2011 to 2013); and

WHEREAS, The President's Budget request for 2014 included $83 million for State Veterans Homes construction grants, which is a decrease of $2 million; and

WHEREAS, The National Association of State Veterans Homes expects to see an increase in the number of State Home construction projects submitted in the coming years as more states are once again able to provide matching funds for projects that were previously withdrawn or deferred due to the recessions; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Veterans Affairs has added a new type of Community Living Centers (CLC) which is referred to as a small house concept in which the house is a home for 10 to 12 residents; and

WHEREAS, The home concept is based on the "small house" model, which is more intimate, less institutional and contains fewer residents to accomplish the goal of a home setting; and

WHEREAS, The CLC neighborhood consists of not more that twelve (12) homes and a community center; and

WHEREAS, This new home concept is leading to higher construction costs for new State Veterans Home projects and renovations; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 16-17, 2013, That The American Legion urge Congress to provide funding to the Department of Veterans Affairs for State Veteran Homes construction grants at a minimum of $125 million annually and that these costs permit sufficient funding to mitigate life-safety issues in State Veterans Homes as well as the design and construction of new types of Community Living Center "small house" models.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER KILE: This resolution has been approved by your VA&R Commission, your Resolutions Subcommittee, and I move for its adoption. ... *Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: Motion on the floor and a second. Any discussion? All those in favor of the motion, signify by saying aye. Opposed. Motion carries.

Resolution No. 19: Rescinding Resolutions from the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission
Origin: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission
Submitted by: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission

WHEREAS, The Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission has conducted an extensive review of National Executive Committee and National Convention resolutions; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 16-17, 2013, That the following resolutions be rescinded, for the reason listed below.

SUPERCEDED

No.	Year	Meeting	Title
15	**2010**	**Convention**	**The American Legion Policy on State Veterans Homes Inspection**
41	**2012**	**Fall NEC**	**Dependency and Indemnity Compensation**
172	**2012**	**Convention**	**Dependency and Indemnity Compensation Benefits to Surviving Spouses of Former Prisoners of War**

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER KILE: This resolutions was approved by the VA&R Commission, your Resolutions Subcommittee, and I move for its adoption. ... *Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: Motion on the floor and a second. Any discussion? All those in favor of the motion, signify by saying aye. Opposed. Motion carries.

Resolution No. 20: Service Officers Participation in the Transition Goals, Plans and Success (GPS) Program
Origin: Resolution No. 41 (NY) 2013 National Convention
Submitted by: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission

WHEREAS, The American Legion Accredited Representatives (service officers) support the National Guard, Reserves, US Army, US Marine Corps, US Navy, US Air Force, and US Coast Guard by presenting information for eligible transitioning and retiring military members and their spouses; and

WHEREAS, These service officers participated in the Transition Assistance Program (TAP) workshops conducted throughout the United States since 1990 when the first TAP workshops were conducted; and

WHEREAS, These service officers provided valuable and timely information and assistance to inform TAP workshop participants with benefits and entitlements to prepare them for returning to civilian status following honorable service in the US Military; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Department of Defense (DOD) and Department of Labor (DOL) initiated a new TAP program titled the Transition Assistance Program Goals, Plans and Success (GPS), effective January 1, 2013; and

WHEREAS, The new Transition GPS Program is conducted by hiring local subcontractors to conduct the TAP workshops; and

WHEREAS, In some locations, Transition GPS prevents veteran service organizations (VSOs) from participating or providing assistance to transitioning servicemembers, guard and reserve, which has resulted in a lack of uniform or consistent policy on the level of VSO participation in Transition GPS nationwide; and

WHEREAS, In the past, the service officers participated voluntarily, at no cost to the government, as presenters during TAP Workshops; and

WHEREAS, Transitioning servicemembers could benefit from receiving information directly from The American Legion Accredited Representatives (service officers) and other major VSOs who have over 98 years of experience in assisting

veterans in obtaining their VA benefits, especially when benefits have been denied by VA; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 16-17, 2013, That the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), the Department of Defense (DOD) and Department of Labor (DOL) work together to establish a nationwide policy to permit American Legion Accredited Representatives (service officers) as well as other major veterans service organizations (VSOs), that choose to participate in the Transition Goals, Plans and Success (GPS) Program; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the VA, DOD, DOL, and The American Legion and other major VSOs co-author and sign a memorandum of agreement outlining all policy, procedures and level of expectations of all parties involved to better improve the awareness and filing of veterans' earned benefits.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER KILE: This resolution has been approved by your VA&R Commission, your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption. ... *Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: We have a motion and second on the floor. Any discussion? All those in favor of the motion, signify by saying aye. Opposed. Motion carries.

Resolution No. 21: Improvements to Department of Veterans Affairs' Women Veteran Programs
Origin: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission
Submitted by: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission

WHEREAS, Women veterans are the fastest growing demographic serving in the military and enrolling in the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for their health care treatment; and

WHEREAS, According to VA statistics, the total veteran population in the United States, as of September, 30, 2012, was approximately 22.3 million, of which women veterans numbered 2,248,579; and

WHEREAS, Women veterans continue to face many barriers and challenges with enrolling for and receiving their VA care due to a number of reasons such as: not identifying as a veteran; not being recognized as a veteran by VA employees and staff; lack of awareness and understanding of their VA health care benefits; and the stigma and perceptions that VA is still an "all male" health care system; and

WHEREAS, According to VA, women veterans are 30 percent less likely to enroll for health care than their male counterparts, which is as a result of many factors that include, but are not limited to lack of awareness of benefits and fragmentation of care from limited access to gender specific care (OB/GYN, Mammography); and

WHEREAS, According to VA estimates, 27 percent of female Vietnam veterans report that they have been diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and 20 percent of female veterans who served in Iraq and Afghanistan have been diagnosed with PTSD; and

WHEREAS, The majority of VA facilities do not offer inpatient/residential mental health programs for women veterans, and as a result, based on findings from the System Worth Saving Task Force, one veteran had to travel from Colorado to the Coatesville, PA VA Medical Center in order to receive inpatient treatment for Military Sexual Trauma and PTSD; and

WHEREAS, Research on women veterans long-term care health and reproductive issues is needed, especially in developing mental health treatments for women veterans in their child-bearing ages; and

WHEREAS, On October 3, 2011, VA launched congressional child care pilot programs for veterans at the Buffalo VA Medical Center, Northport, NY VA Medical Center and the Tacoma, WA VA Medical Center; and

WHEREAS, On October 3, 2013, the legislative authority for these child care programs expired and VA no longer has congressional authority to provide these crucial and vital child care services, which many veterans have come to rely on when seen by their VA health care provider for their scheduled appointment; and

WHEREAS, Without the support of VA's Child Care program, veterans may no longer be able to attend their scheduled appointments, which will result in a significant increase in VA's no show rate or veterans not receiving care in VA; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 16-17, 2013, That The American Legion urge the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to work with the Department of Labor and Department of Defense to develop a customized women veterans health care track for the Transition Goals, Plans and Success (GPS) program, facilitated by women clinicians; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion urge VA to establish an acceptable benchmark for communication of mammogram results to women veterans that is better than industry standards, which currently is 30 days for normal results and 3 to 5 days for abnormal results; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion urge VA to evaluate the access and demand for mental health residential services for women veterans at each of the 152 VA Medical Centers and require each of the 21 Veteran Integrated Service Networks (VISNs) to have a minimum of one (1) Inpatient/Residential Mental Health Program site per VISN; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That VA conduct studies on the long-term health effects for women in the military and differences in treatment for mental health conditions, especially for women in their child-bearing age; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion urge Congress to pass legislation extending the VA Child Care program for veterans, which expired on October 3, 2013.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER KILE: This resolution has been approved by your VA&R Commission, the Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption. ... *Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: A motion on the floor and a second. Any discussion? All those in favor of the motion, signify by saying aye. Opposed. Motion carries.

Resolution No. 22: Research to Develop a Blood Test to Detect Colorectal Cancer
Origin: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission
Submitted by: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission

WHEREAS, According to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Colorectal Cancer (CRC) is the third most common cancer and the second leading cause of cancer deaths in the United States; and

WHEREAS, In the 2013 VA's Office of the Inspector General (OIG) report "Gastroenterology (GI) Consult Delays at the William Jennings Bryan Dorn VA Medical Center, Columbia, SC," the OIG cited the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) that more than 22 million Americans remain unscreened for CRC; and

WHEREAS, Failure to recognize the critical nursing staffing shortages resulted in a GI consult backlog of 3,800 gastroenterology consults, 700 of them critical; and

WHEREAS, During the review "look-back" period, 280 patients were diagnosed with GI malignancies, 52 of which had been associated with a delay in diagnosis and treatment; and

WHEREAS, In accordance with the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Directive 2007-004 titled, "Colorectal Cancer Screening," it is VA's policy that eligible veterans at average or high risk for CRC must be offered CRC screening; and

WHEREAS, To detect CRC, there are four commonly tests used:

Fecal occult blood test (FOBT)—This test checks for hidden blood in fecal material (stool);

Sigmoidoscopy—This test examines the rectum and lower colon using a lighted instrument called a sigmoidoscope;

Colonoscopy—This test examines the rectum and entire colon are examined using a lighted instrument called a colonoscope, and;

Double contrast barium enema (DCBE)—With this test a series of x-rays of the entire colon and rectum are taken after the patient is given an enema with a barium solution and air is introduced into the colon; and

WHEREAS, Delays in detecting CRC due to backlogs, and scheduling can result in patients deaths as in the case where six deaths were linked to delayed screenings for colorectal cancer at a South Carolina VA Medical Center; and

WHEREAS, On May 28, 2013, in House Report 113-90 titled, "Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bills," the Committee on Appropriations encouraged the VA to support additional research and development in the field, including investigation of a less costly blood test for colorectal cancer; and

WHEREAS, In a May 2012 VA Research Currents publication it included a quote stating, "A simple blood test would be the ideal approach to colorectal cancer"; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 16-17, 2013, That The American Legion urge Congress to increase the budget for the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) research and clinical trials to develop a blood test for colorectal cancer; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That VA accelerate the research and development of a screening blood test for detecting colon cancer to ensure that veterans at risk for colon cancer are properly screened and evaluated to prevent further harm or death.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER KILE: This resolution has been approved by your VA&R Commission, your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption. ... *Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: Motion and a second on the floor. Any discussion? All those in favor of the motion, signify by saying aye. Opposed. Motion carries. Thank you. Next, Robert L. Morrill from New York, chairman, Public Relations Commission, for the purpose of a report.

Oral Report: Public Relations Commission
Robert L. Morrill, New York, Chairman

Thank you, Mr. Commander, members of the NEC. The Public Relations Commission of The American Legion met in Room 105 at 9:00 a.m. at the National Headquarters on Monday, October 14. One resolution was considered at that time. You have already approved that resolution, it was Resolution No. 7, and we thank you for your support. Our full report has been placed on your desk. We urge you to take your

time to read it at your leisure. I have a short report to hit some of the highlights contained in that report.

In support of the five-year membership plan, the Public Relations Guide to Membership Outreach is being written by staff with printing and distribution planned for later this year. Topics will include the use of external, internal, and social media as tools to increase membership along with the strong community relations program. The guide will be designed as an all-inclusive instrument to facilitate post outreach to eligible veterans. In addition to the booklet, a downloadable edition will be available on The American Legion website under Publications.

The 2013 Veterans Day speech is available on line and hard copies have been distributed to the leadership for your consideration and subscription. A special emphasis has been placed on the high rate of military suicides that have been occurring, and also the need for the VA to be more responsive to the needs of women veterans.

The American Legion Amateur Radio Club has been growing and is one of the nation's largest, if not the largest, having just surpassed 1,500 licensed operators, including all members of The American Legion Family. Once again this year, the National Headquarters station, with call sign K9TAL, will operate on a special event station on Veterans Day, Monday, November 11.

Commission staff completed a project for the Americanism and Children and Youth titled "How to Conduct an Oratorical Contest," consisting of eleven short video segments to accompany their online training product. The program replaces a video produced in the 1990s. Staff also produced a new, fast-paced oratorical contest promotional video for use in high schools and high school television stations.

A video PSA promoting the inclusion of active duty personnel as eligible veterans is being produced in conjunction with a print ad designed for the Military Times publications. An ad will be made available to all public relations chairmen and officers for their use in the newspapers and websites locally.

Other productions slated to report in 2014 include formatting of the Legislative Council training program; promotional videos for the Americanism and Children and Youth Educational and School Classroom Programs; and updating the training videos for Internal Affairs and Membership.

The patriotic holiday PSA series will be made available for distribution again next month for use for Veterans Day by broadcast stations. Local public relations practitioners may request DVDs for the spots in any quantities needed by sending an email to pr@legion.org. The package contains radio and television PSA promotional observance of various patriotic holidays, including Memorial Day, Veterans Day, Armed Forces Day, Flag Day, and Independence Day. All spots in the package have been closed-captioned for the hearing impaired.

The new American Legion Message Points have been completed and are being distributed to the leadership at this meeting. The 2013-2014 publication includes information based on resolutions recently passed in addition to the long-standing positions of the organization.

And, finally, the executive director of the National American Legion Press Association briefed the commission on the status of NALPA. There are currently 300 paid members. The plan objective is a three-year goal of over 1,000 members. A letter has been sent to all department adjutants requesting contact names. Outreach to the American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion is planned for the future.

This was the last meeting of The American Legion Public Relations Commission. Next year the newly established Media and Communications Commission will coordinate magazine and public relations operations. Mr. Commander, members of the NEC, this concludes my report. Mr. Commander, if I may have a point of personal privilege?

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: Yes, sir.

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMISSION CHAIRMAN MORRILL: Thank you, Mr. Commander. Mr. Commander, members of the NEC, I've had the great privilege and honor for 17 years to hold this position as chairman of the Public Relations Commission. I'd just like to thank everyone in this room for all the courtesy extended to me, the friendships that I've made over the years. I'd like to thank all of the past commanders that have appointed me over the years; it's been a real honor and privilege.

I want to thank you all. It's a lot of fond memories to take with me. I especially want to thank Past National Commander Dick Pedro for the confidence that he's put in me over the years to help me get this position.

The biggest honor of all, I think, is working with a fantastic staff, and I'd like to introduce those people at this time. Director Joe March. Communications Director and Principal Deputy Director John Raughter. Is Duane Mercier out here? He may be in the back working. Duane, come on out. Our newest member just came on just before convention, Mike Anthony. Matt Everett over here on one of the cameras. And I think you all know Debbie Murrell down in our office, our secretary. It's been a pleasure, pleasure working with these people; they are true professionals. As Bob Hope used to say, thanks for the memories. *(Standing ovation)*

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: Thank you, Bob.

Report: Public Relations Commission
Robert L. Morrill, New York, Chairman
October 14, 2013

The Public Relations Commission of The American Legion met in Indianapolis, Indiana in Room 105 at National Headquarters on Monday, October 14, 2013.

In support of the 5-year membership plan, a public relations guide to membership outreach is being written by staff with printing and distribution planned for later this year. Topics will include the use of external, internal and social media as tools to increase membership, along with a strong community relations program. The guide will be designed as an all-inclusive instrument to facilitate post outreach to eligible veterans, groups and media in their communities. In addition to the booklets, a downloadable edition will be available on The American Legion website under publications.

The 2013 Veterans Day speech is available online and hard copies have been distributed to leadership and subscribers. A special emphasis was placed on the high rate of military suicides that have been occurring and the need for VA to be more responsive to the needs of women veterans. Commission staff will also coordinate the development and distribution of a guest editorial with the same theme for distribution to newspapers to use on or near Veterans Day.

The American Legion Amateur Radio Club (TALARC) has become one of the nation’s largest, if not THE largest, having just surpassed 1,500 licensed operators including all members of The American Legion family. Once again this year, the national headquarters station – call sign K9TAL - will operate as a “special event station” on Veterans Day, Monday, November 11. News of the operation will appear in the November issue of the national QST Magazine which is published monthly by the ARRL, the National Association of Amateur Radio as well as broadcast on ham radio repeaters across the country on the Amateur Radio Newsline. Ham radio operators who contact K9TAL will receive a commemorative certificate. Operating members will thank fellow veterans for their service on the shortwave bands throughout the day. Stations from around the world, as well as shortwave listeners, participate in this salute to veterans

special radio event. After last year's event, TALARC received a significant number of member applications, having heard about the club during the station operation on the air.

Commission staff completed a project for AC&Y titled "How To Conduct the Oratorical Contest" consisting of eleven short video segments to accompany their online training product. The program replaces a video produced in the 90s. Staff also produced a new, fast-paced Oratorical Contest promotional video for use in high schools and on high school television stations/systems. The 90-second video is loaded with participants advocating the benefits of participating in The American Legion competition. It debuted here at the fall meeting. The video will be on LegionTV, YouTube and available on DVD for local promotional distribution to schools, television and cable systems.

A video PSA promoting the inclusion of active duty personnel as eligible "veterans" is being produced in conjunction with a print ad designed for Military Times publications. The ad will be made available to all public relations chairmen and officers for their use in newspapers and websites locally. Other productions slated for production in early 2014 include reformatting the Legislative Council training program, promotional videos for the AC&Y educational and school classroom programs and updating of training videos for Internal Affairs and Membership. Another video project is the resumption of a series of videos of Past National Commanders providing an oral history of their Legion careers and perspectives on their time in office. The programs will be posted online and will be added to the Library collection upon completion.

The patriotic holiday PSA series will be made available for distribution again next month for use on Veterans Day by broadcast stations. In addition to an email blast to station public service directors offering the series, Legion public relations practitioners may request DVDs of the spots in any quantities needed by sending an email to pr@legion.org. The package contains radio and television PSAs promoting observance of various patriotic holidays, including Memorial Day, Veterans Day, Armed Forces Day, Flag Day and Independence Day. All spots in the package have been closed captioned for the hearing impaired.

The American Legion has received good coverage from the Washington Post, Stars & Stripes, Military Times, Military.com and other publications for release of the TBI-PTSD report. The worldwide edition of the Times also published an extensive article, "Legion: VA shortcomings are a disservice to vets," following an editorial board with National Commander Dellinger and VA&R Director Jones.

New American Legion Message Points have been completed and are being distributed to leadership at these meetings. The 2013-2014 publication includes information based on resolutions recently passed in addition to long-standing positions of the organization. Staff coordinated a press conference for National Commander Dellinger Tuesday afternoon at 2 p.m. on the steps of the War Memorial: Topic – the government shutdown and its effect on veterans and their families.

The public relations newscenter "twitter" now has nearly 800 subscribers including reporters, producers, columnists, PR chairmen, government offices, VA centers, and private organizations. Links to daily newsclips are "tweeted" M-F of the stories "we are following today." News release links are sent as soon as posted and other story ideas released as appropriate with the news cycle.

Executive Director Mike Duggan of the National American Legion Press Association briefed the commission on the status of NALPA. There are currently 300 paid members for the 2013/2014 membership year. The planned objective is a 3 year goal of over 1,000 members. A letter was sent to all department adjutants requesting contact names. The goal is to acquire 10 more state press association organizations as NALPA affiliates. Other recent actions include:

Changing the name of the NALPA contest to The National American Legion Media Awards in order to bring the Association into the electronic world; two new categories

were established -Web sites and Social Media (Face Book & Twitter). Each of these categories has a first, second & third place. Additionally, outreach to The American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion nationwide is planned.

This was the last meeting of The American Legion Public Relations Commission which has been in service since 1945. Next year, the newly established Media and Communications Commission will coordinate Magazine and Public Relations operations. It has been an honor to serve our great organization.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, motion to receive and file the report of the Public Relations Commission. There are no resolutions, no addendum. ... *Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: Motion on the floor and a second. Any discussion? All those in favor of the motion, signify by saying aye. Opposed. Motion carries. Thank you, Bob, for all your hard work over the years. Next, Joe Caouette, New Hampshire, chairman of the Americanism Commission, for the purpose of a report.

Oral Report: Americanism Commission
Joseph E. Caouette, Jr. New Hampshire, Chairman

Mr. Commander, members of the National Executive Committee, before I report on the actions of your National Americanism Commission, National Commander Dellinger, I request a point of personal privilege for making an introduction.

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: *(Nodding affirmatively)*

AMERICANISM COMMISSION CHAIRMAN CAOUETTE: I would like to introduce to you a gentleman who is the heart and soul of The American Legion World Series experience in Shelby, North Carolina, Mr. Eddie Holbrook, co-chairman of the Cleveland County American Legion World Series Committee. Eddie has some great news regarding further exposure of our American Legion Baseball World Series in the American Legion. Mr. Commander, members of the National Executive Committee, Mr. Eddie Holbrook. *(Applause)*

Edwin Holbrook, Co-Chairman
Cleveland County American Legion World Series Committee

Thank you very much for giving me this opportunity. This room holds a special place in my heart because a few years ago about a hundred people from Shelby, North Carolina, came up here to submit a bid to host the American Legion World Series and become the official home. Thank you for giving us that opportunity.

Our mantra has been since that time, number one, is to make you proud that you selected Shelby, North Carolina, as the official home; secondly, is to make it a signature event for the national office of The American Legion and all of you folks; also, to make it a signature event for the young men who will be playing in the World Series; and, lastly, make it a signature event for the state of North Carolina and our local community.

I think we have achieved a lot of those things. The attendance record was broken the first year with 86,000. In year two it was slightly over 100,000. In 2013 we got up to over 100,000 to approximately 104,000. So you can see it is growing. It has taken legs, and we have tried our best to pay tribute to each of you and to the military who should be honored in this event.

If you can see, probably, or you'll be able to see some construction that has been taking place at Keeter Stadium, which is the official home of the World Series. Exposure is a big thing for all of you, it's a big thing for the World Series. We've got a good start in cooperation with the national office by getting on ESPN3. That has been profitable, it's

been a good experience, it's been a growing experience, but it's not what we all wanted to achieve. We wanted to be live. When you see Little League, Senior League, Babe Ruth, Ladies Softball, college, World Series, the question I asked continually was: Where are we? Why can we not be live?

A lot of our efforts locally, as well as those efforts from the national office, has been how do we get there? Well, I'm here to say the door is open. The door is open. I got a phone call a few days ago from ESPN, the person that we have dealt with with web streaming and ESPN3, asking for us to discuss several things that would be very important in order for us to go live, one of those things being a change of format. I relayed to him that I would be visiting with the national office. Before we could take any steps, we would have to present some ideas, some recommendations, some discussion with the national office concerning things of that nature.

Yesterday I received another phone call from ESPN. While negotiations are going on, they will be going on, it's not a confirmed deal, but I want to say thank you to the people here who are making it possible for us on your behalf to carry on with ESPNU for negotiations on the World Series going live, with the possibilities of the championship series being televised as early as 2014, with extended coverage, perhaps semi-finals and championship, following in 2015.

I can only visualize when you sit in your bedroom or in your living room or in your den and you have the opportunity to see live on TV The American Legion World Series, and you have an opportunity to see great PSA announcements coming live over a channel that has 75 million subscribers, PSA announcements that pay tribute to you and to your organization and the military of this great country, because that's what we all should be about.

So thank you very much for allowing us the opportunity to be your official home. Thank you very much for allowing us the opportunity to proceed with these negotiations with ESPN and the national office. We'll keep you in the loop and appreciate your support. Thank you again. *(Applause)*

AMERICANISM COMMISSION CHAIRMAN CAOUETTE: Your commission enthusiastically recommends that Mr. Holbrook move forward in negotiations with ESPN and stands by to offer any assistance that's necessary.

The National Americanism Commission congratulates the Department of North Carolina and the City of Shelby, American Legion Post 82, and the many volunteers who made the 2013 American Legion Baseball World Series, once again, an overwhelming and resounding success. The World Series ended the 15-game tournament with 104,726 paid admissions shattering the attendance record of 101,925 set the previous year in Shelby.

The commission also extends congratulations to the Brooklawn, New Jersey, team sponsored by Brooklawn, New Jersey Memorial Post 72. They emerged as the 2013 American Legion Baseball World Series Championship Team. Brooklawn defeated Petaluma, California, sponsored by Post 28, by the score of 10-0.

Your commission is enthusiastically looking forward to the 2014 World Series August 15 through 19 in Shelby, North Carolina. That's just a few days preceding the National Convention, folks. Your Baseball and Recreation Subcommittee discussed various rules and recommendations offered by the chairman at the recent conference of department baseball chairmen. It's true that the recommendation of the Baseball and Recreation Subcommittee and the commission that in 2014 departments may use their Junior American Legion Baseball programs, they may use a courtesy runner for the pitcher and/or catcher, a designated hitter for any of the starting players, and a re-entry for any of the starting players. That is for the junior program.

The National Committee on Education named the following nine students to 2013 Samsung American Legion Scholars. Each will receive a $20,000 scholarship for their undergraduate studies. They are as follows: Cameron Akker from Sammamish, Washington; Tery Burt of Chesnee, South Carolina; Dallas Debruin from Greenfield, Ohio; Megan Kelley from Danbury, Nebraska; Gabrielle Lessen, Alexandria, Louisiana; Austin Owen, Vestavia Hills, Alabama; Gregory Scalise, Brewster, Massachusetts; Aidan Schneider, Flagstaff, Arizona; and Troy Timmerman from Marshall, Minnesota.

Six years ago the Americanism Commission expressed concern in the gradual, yet steady, decline of participation in the Boys State programs. Guess what? We have reversed that trend dramatically, by my estimation, dramatically. I'm happy to report that another increase with 203 participants, doesn't sound much to you people, though it does to me, because it's totaling 20,112 young men attending a Boys State program this past summer. Of note particularly, it's the first time since 2006 that we have eclipsed the 20,000 mark. So we have to continue to grow the Boys State program. More than ever, with what's happening in our country right now, we need it.

Oratorical training materials have been developed and are now on line. The dates for the 2014 contest are April 4-6 next year. That's around Easter season, never on Easter weekend. We are enthusiastically looking forward to you joining us at the 2014 National Finals. It's an experience you will never forget.

The Americanism programs of The American Legion reflect an unfailing love of country, of loyalty to its institutions and ideals, an eagerness to defend this nation against all enemies, individual allegiance to the flag of our nation, and to work at guaranteeing the blessings of liberty for ourselves and for future generations.

Our challenges remain great, but I'm confident that The American Legion is up to the task. Mr. Commander and members of the National Executive Committee, this concludes my report.

Report: Americanism Commission
Joseph E. Caouette, Jr., New Hampshire, Chairman
October 14-15, 2013

Mr. Commander and members of the National Executive Committee:

The National Americanism Commission met August 24, 2013 in Houston, Texas prior to the opening of the 95th National Convention of The American Legion. An executive section of the Commission met in Indianapolis, Indiana, October 14-15, 2013. This report will cover both meetings.

The National Americanism Commission met jointly with the National Commission on Children & Youth at its pre-convention meeting. Appearing at this session were five national youth champions. They were:

- 2013 Eagle Scout of the Year – Mark Chmielewski of Salem, Connecticut
- 2013 Oratorical Champion – Aggie Rieger of Kansas City, Missouri
- 2013 Junior Air Rifle Precision Champion – Rachel Martin of Peralta, New Mexico
- 2013 American Legion Boys Nation President - Simeon Toronto of Andover, Minnesota
- 2013 Junior Air Rifle Sporter Champion - Cody Sanchez of Los Lunas, New Mexico

National Americanism Commission Chairman Joseph Caouette (NH) and Chairman of the Commission on Children & Youth, Dennis Boland (FL) exchanged updates regarding programs of their respective commissions. The Joint Session also received remarks from Jim Smith, CEO, Mercy Medical Airlift and Louis J. Celli Jr., Director,

Legislative Division of The American Legion. Mr. Thomas Clark, history teacher at Lake Central High School, Saint John, Indiana, and the 2013 American Legion National Education Award recipient, gave a presentation on the "Remembering Our Fallen Troops" project. Through extensive research, Clark's history students track down the families of Indiana's war dead and create an archive of their letters, the stories of loved ones lost in combat and lives lived in grief.

On October 14-15, 2013, there were 33 members of the National Americanism Commission, the Americanism Council and the Counter-Subversive Activities Committee who met at the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel in Indianapolis, Indiana. The following is an overview of committee reports and program information that was discussed by those members in attendance.

We were privileged to have with us National Commander Daniel M. Dellinger (VA); Past National Commanders Daniel A. Ludwig (MN) and David K. Rehbein (IA); and other distinguished guests representing The American Legion family.

National Americanism Conference

The 15th annual National Americanism Conference, which included meetings of Boys State Directors, Girls State Directors, Department Baseball Chairmen, Department Oratorical Contest Chairpersons, and Department Chaplains, was held September 27-29, 2013, in Indianapolis. Almost 380 program volunteers came together to share in training, brainstorming, and networking within their respective conference sessions that will assist with conducting the programs in their own departments for the coming year. And on September 21-22, 2013, Scouting Chairmen convened to hold their first-ever session of the National Americanism Conference.

The National Committee on Education

The National Committee on Education met October 12-13, 2013, at the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel in Indianapolis, Indiana.

The Samsung American Legion National Selection Committee named the following nine students as 2013 Samsung American Legion Scholars; each will receive a $20,000 scholarship for their undergraduate studies:

- Cameron Akker – Sammamish, Washington
- Tery Burt – Chesnee, South Carolina
- Dallas Debruin – Greenfield, Ohio
- Megan Kelley – Danbury, Nebraska
- Gabrielle Lessen – Alexandria, Louisiana
- Austin Owen – Vestavia Hills, Alabama
- Gregory Scalise – Brewster, Massachusetts
- Aidan Schneider – Flagstaff, Arizona
- Troy Timmerman – Marshall, Minnesota

The remaining 89 "National Finalists" in the Samsung American Legion Scholarship Program will each receive a $1,100 scholarship for their undergraduate studies.

American Legion Baseball

The Baseball and Recreation Subcommittee met October 14, 2013, at the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel in Indianapolis, Indiana.

The National Americanism Commission congratulates the Department of North Carolina, the city of Shelby, host American Legion Post 82, and the many volunteers who made the 2013 American Legion Baseball World Series once again an overwhelming and

resounding success. The World Series ended the 15-game tournament with 104,726 paid admissions, shattering the attendance record of 101,925 set last year in Shelby.

The Commission also extends congratulations to the Brooklawn, New Jersey team, sponsored by Brooklawn Memorial Post 72, who emerged as the 2013 American Legion Baseball World Series championship team. Brooklawn defeated Petaluma, California, sponsored by Post 28, 10-0.

All 15 games of The American Legion Baseball World Series were webcast live on ESPN3.com. Former Wichita State University coach, Gene Stephenson, provided the commentary during the games.

Mr. Eddie Holbrook, Co-Chairman, Cleveland County ALWS Baseball World, Inc., reported to your Commission the serious interest expressed by ESPN to a live telecast of the 2014 Legion World Series "Championship Tuesday" game on ESPNU. Your Commission enthusiastically recommends that Mr. Holbrook move forward in negotiations with ESPN. Mr. Holbrook also reported on the successes of the 2013 World Series and plans for the future. Your Commission is eagerly looking forward to the 2014 World Series, August 15-19 in Shelby, North Carolina.

Your Baseball and Recreation Subcommittee discussed various rules recommendations offered by the chairmen at the recent Conference of Department Baseball Chairmen. It is the recommendation of the Baseball and Recreation Subcommittee that in 2014, departments may use for their Junior American Legion baseball programs:

- A courtesy runner(s) for the pitcher and/or catcher
- A designated hitter for any of the starting players
- Re-entry for any of the starting players

The online American Legion Baseball registration program, now in its fourth year, is a proven success, with 3,911 teams registering for play this past season.

Background Screening of American Legion Baseball Program Coaches, Managers and National Program Volunteer Staff

In accordance with Res. No.16 NEC Oct 2012, mandatory background screening of coaches, managers, and volunteer staff of Junior and Senior American Legion Baseball teams was successfully implemented in 2013.

Procedures were also successfully implemented in 2013 in accordance with NEC Res. No. 4 NEC May 2012, for the background screening of volunteers selected to staff national tournaments of American Legion Baseball, The American Legion Boys Nation, The American Legion National Oratorical Contest, The American Legion National Junior Shooting Competition, and National Boy Scout Jamborees. Protect Youth Sports, Inc., (PYS) is the contracted vendor.

In 2013, there were 14,258 applicants screened with 14,074 accepted; 84 were rejected and the remaining few were those who filed a dispute of findings requiring additional research. This is an average reject rate of .62%, well below the average of 1.46% of all background checks conducted by PYS for other organizations during the same time period. As noted, the Legion's rejection rate was less than half that of all background checks conducted by PYS. This infers that the Legion's pool of volunteers are likely better quality candidates than the average organization, and the Legion's disqualifying screening criteria does not appear to be too stringent.

American Legion Boys State

Participation in the 49 Boys State programs for 2013 showed an increase of 203 participants from the previous year with 20,112 young men attending. This is the third year in a row and four of the last five years in which an increase has been reflected in

Boys State participation. Participation particularly reducing the number of "no shows" was discussed by the Boys State directors during their annual conference September 27-29, 2013.

National High School Oratorical Contest

The 44th annual Oratorical Chairperson Conference was held September 28 – 29, 2013, at the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel, Indianapolis, Indiana, as a program segment of the 15th annual National Americanism Conference. David King (KY) served as the Oratorical Conference chairman. Forty-three departments were represented by either their Oratorical chairperson or designee; there were forty-eight attendees present. Approximately one-third in attendance were new appointees.

Conference topics presented and discussed included a review of the post, department and national final contests in 2013; "Oratorical 101" - a refresher course on conducting the contest, tabulation and tie-breaking procedures, recent rule changes, rule additions and rule clarifications; and an update on the planning and arrangements for the 2014 National Finals contests. The commission was shown the new "How to Conduct an Oratorical Contest" video module page on the website and the new oratorical public service announcement.

Junior Law Cadet Program

Your Commission received an update on the program. Seventeen departments now conduct a Junior Law Cadet program. Promotional materials and a website, www.legion.org/juniorlaw, are available for department leaders to share information with state police academy leaders with the goal of developing a program at each state's police academy or highway patrol headquarters.

Troop & Family Support

Operation Comfort Warriors has received 420 requests so far in 2013 and dispersed $186,000 to help meet the needs of wounded, injured or ill military personnel.

Family Support Network (FSN) has received 882 requests for assistance so far in 2013. Updated OCW publications are now available online at www.legion.org/ocw. Publications for the FSN are available online at www.legion.org/fsn.

At the meeting of the National Americanism Commission held at the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel in Indianapolis, Indiana, October 14-15, 2013, the following four resolutions were recommended for favorable action by the National Americanism Commission, and forwarded to the National Finance Commission for its concurrence to the National Executive Committee:

- National Forensic League Sponsorship
- Junior Air Rifle National Championship
- American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year Award Scholarships
- Oratorical Contest National Finals

Six resolutions were considered and their recommended disposition forwarded to the National Executive Committee Subcommittee on Resolutions. There is a separate appendage for your consideration.

Addendum A

Rejected

Resolution No. 29 (MD) (2013 Natl. Conv.)**: December 7 be Established as a National Holiday**

Hold for Further Study

Resolution No. 49 (IL) (2013 Natl. Conv.)**: Rescind Resolution No. 46, Fall 2011 National Executive Committee**

Register Resolution No. 2679 (IN) (2013 DEC)**: Establishment of a Girl Scout Program**

Disposed of Administratively

Resolution No. 203 (MO) (2012 Natl. Conv.)**: Clay Bird (Trap) Shooting Competition**

Register Resolution No. 2690 (WI) (2013 Natl. Conv.)**: American Legion Baseball Re-Entry Rule**

Register Resolution No. 2691 (WI) (2013 Natl. Conv.)**: American Legion Baseball Re-Entry Rule**

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, motion to receive and file the report of the Americanism Commission with the exception of one addendum. ... *Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: There's a motion on the floor and a second. Any discussion? All those in favor of the motion, signify by saying aye. Opposed. Motion carries.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HEDRICK: Mr. Commander, attached to this report is Addendum A. I move the action of the National Americanism Commission become the action of the National Executive Committee. ... *Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: We have a motion and a second on the floor. Any discussion? All those in favor of the motion, signify by saying aye. Opposed. The motion carries.

AMERICANISM COMMISSION CHAIRMAN CAOUETTE: Mr. Commander, may I ask for a point of personal privilege to address you and the NEC?

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: Yes, sir.

AMERICANISM COMMISSION CHAIRMAN CAOUETTE: Ladies and gentlemen, 18 years ago I got a call, and the call was, "You're being considered for a chairmanship." And being the blunt, ignorant type of a guy, Lydia thinks I don't recognize life, you know. I says, "Well, which one is it?" The gentleman on the other end of the line says, "Well, John was looking for you." That was John Geiger. The guy I'm speaking to is John Comer. And he says, "You're considered for a chairmanship." I said, "Which one?" He said, "Americanism." I didn't speak for about two or three minutes because it knocked me off my feet. You have to know a little bit about my background, the family I came from. Americanism to me is The American Legion, it's a way of life, it's the way you live your whole life. My father as a young man, young teenager, suffered from polio. He made a vow that if he was cured, he would make a pilgrimage to that oratory in Montreal, some of you are probably aware of, St. Joseph, where Brother André who cured so many thousands of people, he was never even a priest, just a brother. And he was cured, cured well enough he made the trip by railroad, of course. He came back and was well enough that he could join the Army in World War I. I only knew one flag

waver that was more of a flag waver than him, and that might have been Danny O'Connor.

Let me reflect a little bit on Dan O'Connor. Dan O'Connor may have been my greatest mentor. He worked at the Postal Service as an attorney, and I was the postmaster. I don't know if I outranked him or not, but he had a degree from Fordham, and I didn't have that. But he served this commission for 23 years as a chairman, and my 18 years is 41 years. Stop and think about that, do the math; that's two decades, no, that's two generations, four decades, actually. We're kind of proud. I think I'm proud of what he accomplished and maybe what my commission accomplished.

We provided a lot of people in the national commandership of this organization. I'm looking at some of them right now. I should mention names, but maybe I should not because you get in trouble when you do that. Just a couple, Tom Bock, David Rehbein, so many people. I'm not going to put these things on; I don't have time to read. Bob Turner, of course, Mr. American Legion Boys Nation. Paul Morin, Ron Conley, all you guys, in so many ways you've been so supportive.

I think we've had some tough challenges. Maybe that's why I had to serve for so long. The American Legion World Series has been a trouble stone that we've had for a long, long time. The old American Legion Baseball program. You know it's been around with us since 1926. About ten years or so ago we figured there was something going wrong here. We have to improve, make it a better program. We have a good program. So we did. It took a lot of tears, a lot of arguing, two ad hoc committees appointed by national commanders, and we finally got the gem that we have right now in North Carolina.

The Junior Shooting Sports Program, we rescued that from the National Guard when they were giving it up. Here again, one of our former commanders, Ron Conley, took the message, grabbed the ball, ran with it. The administration finally agreed with us. Now that's the main feeder group of USA Shooting. One of the Olympians in London, the last Olympics, is one of our graduates. You may see another one in the next Olympics; they're that good.

The United States Olympic Committee. I was present in New York City when Mike Buss and I were voted into the United States Olympic Committee. We're the only veterans organization in that prestigious group.

The illegal immigration issue. Boy, did that cause us some headaches. I mean big-time headaches, you know? Well, the Legislative Division in Washington wanted some answers from the representatives coming in. What is your position on this? We didn't have a position. We've always had a position on legal immigration. My father was one of those back in the '20s and '30s. I wasn't born in the '20s, believe me. But I remember in the '30s and the '40s, he would go to the town hall in his Legion cap. In our case it was all French Canadians who couldn't speak English too well. They wanted to become Americans through the naturalization program. That's the kind of a background I came up with.

My father and my mother were both very active in the World War I barracks. They called their organizations barracks, not units. Why? I don't know. I guess some Marine must have taken ahold of it, because Marine barracks are barracks. I have to say that, Mr. Foster. That's the background I have came from. So Americanism has always meant everything to me. It's been patriotism.

The background checks, I think, that we instituted a couple years ago and went into effect full time last year was a must. It was a must.

Samsung and Legacy Scholarships, I was in the middle of all those battles. We did not win all the battles. I regret one, I regret it immensely. That's the efforts of the Citizens Flag Alliance. You know, it seems to me we lost by one vote. If I had tried a little harder, I think we could have got that vote. We thought we did. I remember my NECman, Jordan

West, and myself. The political season in New Hampshire, the primary, everybody in the country is running for president. I recall one time we went to a senator from Pennsylvania. We got him to allow us to sit down with him. Two or three weeks later he went to the CFA affiliates in Pennsylvania and voted affirmatively. We tried to get all the candidates to affirm what their position would be on the flag issue when the new Congress was instituted. As you all know, we lost by one vote in the Senate. You know, a little bit more effort myself, maybe we could have gotten that other vote. So I regret not having that. For some reason or other, I was so confident that year, that I had the flag that draped my father's casket with me. I recall we knew the night before that the senator had rescinded his support. So Marty and I were ready to go to the chambers of Congress the next day, but we stayed in our rooms and drank ginger ale over our wounds.

But I'll tell you, that battle must be won. I hope it's won pretty soon because I don't have much left in this world, you know? You have to face reality sometimes. And I hope it's one that we can amend the Constitution of the United States, damn it, to protect the American Flag from physical desecration. We have to do that. *(Applause)*

Back to that phone call 18 years ago. What has stunned me is the beauty of this country, this is a great country we live in, and what a great organization we have, that you would look upon, you know, I'm not a tall, dark, and handsome kind of a guy. I don't have the virtues that you would relate to leadership. I'm just the opposite: Short, bald, and homely. *(Laughter)*

The way of life. An unpronounceable name. Child of Depression. But what a big organization that you would entrust me with the title of chairman of the Americanism Commission. Stop and think about that. I don't know. To me it means everything. It means to me like it does to Dennis with Children & Youth. It's just my fiber.

So at this time of the day, at 2:50 p.m. on October 16, 2013, I hereby resign my position as chairman of the Americanism Commission. I thank you all for your support. God bless you, God bless The American Legion. *(Standing applause)*

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: The Chair recognizes Jerry Hedrick.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HEDRICK: Mr. Commander, with what just happened here before us, I would like to read a resolution. But before I do, I would like for the resolution to be passed out to all the members. While they are passing out this resolution, I had the opportunity, I believe it was the first year that we had the World Series in Shelby, Joe and I went to a concert. I'm sitting here on the bleachers and the band's up there. You know, Joe and I are not used to all this loud rock and roll music. I look over there and Joe's like this *[fingers in ears]*. I said, "Joe, Joe, you want to go to the bus? I'm going to the bus." He beat me to the bus. *(Laughter)* We couldn't stand that loud music, could we, buddy? Joe's been a super, super chairman. As a matter of fact, I believe you might have succeeded the man from my department, Past National Commander Ray Smith. I believe so, yeah. Resolution 31. I'm going to read it in its entirety.

Resolution No. 31: Appointment of Joseph E. Caouette (NH) as Chairman Emeritus of the National Americanism Commission

Origin: Subcommittee on Resolutions

Submitted by: Subcommittee on Resolutions

WHEREAS, Joseph E. Caouette, a Legionnaire from the Department of New Hampshire, has been an active member of The American Legion for 63 years since his military service in the United States Marine Corps during the Korean War; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his membership he has demonstrated selfless commitment and exceptional leadership while serving on various committees, commissions, appointments and offices at all levels of The American Legion; and

WHEREAS, He has faithfully and loyally served The American Legion as chairman of the National Americanism Commission since 1995; and

WHEREAS, His distinguished service has developed many dynamic and progressive initiatives to increase participation in our youth programs and promote patriotism throughout our nation; and

WHEREAS, The National Executive Committee of The American Legion is desirous of recognizing this outstanding Legionnaire for his service and achievements, particularly for serving as the chairman of the National Americanism Commission; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 16-17, 2013, That Legionnaire Joseph E. Caouette (NH) is commended for his long and extraordinary service to The American Legion in key leadership positions, particularly as chairman of the National Americanism Commission; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That Legionnaire Joseph E. Caouette (NH) is hereby appointed Chairman Emeritus of the National Americanism Commission in recognition of his 18 years of outstanding service as the distinguished chairman and in this appointed capacity may continue to serve our organization with his wise counsel and advice.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HEDRICK: This resolution comes from the Resolutions Subcommittee, and I move for its approval. ... *Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: We have a motion and a second on the floor. Any discussion? The Chair recognizes Past National Commander Comer.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: I am very proud to stand up on this resolution. As he said, 18 years ago I was proud to give him a call to let him know he was going to be the next chairman of the Americanism Commission. I so proudly stand today for his 18 years of honorable service. He's a Catholic gentleman. He's always been just a gentleman that everyone knows, and gentleman personified. Joe, thank you for your service. God bless you, and we'll still be with you all the way. But whatever you do to help us, I know you will. You're a great guy. *(Applause)*

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: Any further discussion?

NEC MEMBER BEALE (NH): I want to commend Joe Caouette for his dedication to Americanism for the last 18 years. You've been an inspiration to all of us. You are one of the most respected members of The American Legion. I salute you. *(Applause)*

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: Any further discussion? All those in favor of the motion, signify by saying aye. Opposed. The motion carries. Congratulations. *(Standing ovation)*

Operation Comfort Warrior Donations

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: Are there any contributions to the Operation Comfort Warriors program at this point?

...National Vice Commander Dillard assumed the Chair.

DEPT COMMANDER GOVERNOR (NY): Mr. Commander, from the Sons of The American Legion in New York City, New York, a check for Operation Comfort Warriors for $3,410. *(Applause)*

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER KOUTZ: Commander, thank you very much. I thought this was tomorrow because I still got one in my room. I want to present you a check for Operation Comfort Warriors from the Department of Indiana for $2,500. Another check from the 11th District of Indiana for Operation Comfort Warriors, $306. I'll have you another one tomorrow. *(Applause)*

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: Thank you very much for your donations. ...*National Commander Dellinger resumed the Chair.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: I will now call on James H. Hall, New Jersey, chairman of *The American Legion Magazine* Commission for the purpose of a report.

Oral Report: *The American Legion Magazine* Commission
James H. Hall, New Jersey, Chairman

Good afternoon. Mr. Commander, Mr. Adjutant, national officers, and members of the National Executive Committee. You have my written report, so we'll just hit most of the highlights.

The American Legion Magazine Division is on pace to finish 2014 with over $11 million in advertising revenue. This would rank among the top sales years ever for the division. Sales of the November issue of *The American Legion Magazine* also exceed $1.1 million, ranked the ninth best of all time.

Advertising in *The American Legion Online Update* and on the national website is now expected to finish the year between $500,000 and $600,000 in sales as the best year ever yet.

Since the closing of the July books, costs were $229,067 before budget for paper, printing, and postage. The number will shrink as the year goes on due to the higher cost of page count for the advertising.

The national website now receives an average of approximately 1.2 million page views and between 250,000 and 350,000 unique visitors. *The American Legion Online Update* now has 480,000 weekly subscribers and an open rate of 31 percent.

The American Legion Facebook audience has grown by more than double in the last 15 months, to 58,094 Likes with a 28-day reach of 282,611 Facebook users. The American Legion Twitter following is up with 121 percent this year to 21,934.

The American Legion Magazine Division is also busy working on brochures, internal documents, outside media events, the 100th Anniversary materials, and the performing of many other functions to help share the message of our great organization.

Mr. Commander, on behalf of The American Legion Magazine, The Magazine Commission, that concludes my report. I would also like to say that all you people here today have witnessed a piece of *The American Legion Magazine* history because this is the last report under *The American Legion Magazine* Commission name. Thank you.

Report: *The American Legion Magazine* Commission
James H. Hall, New Jersey, Chairman
Oct. 16, 2013

The American Legion Magazine Division is on pace to finish 2014 with over $11 million in advertising revenue. This would rank among the top sales years ever for the division. Higher-than-expected sales are coming in print and digital media alike.

Sales into the November issue of *The American Legion Magazine* alone exceeded $1.1 million, ranking ninth-best all time. Advertising in The American Legion Online Update is dramatically exceeding budget, with $302,359 in actual sales through September against a total budget of $149,985 for the year. Combined with the national website, which is also ahead of budget, the division hopes to finish the year with over $500,000 in online advertising sales.

Increased advertising has increased budgeted page count in the magazine. Paper, printing and postage costs, however, were $229,067 below budget through July closings. That figure is expected to be closer to even by the end of the year, due to increased page

count. Through July, the *The American Legion Magazine* was running $125,083 under budget for postage, $85,582 under budget for paper, and $18,402 under budget for printing. Reduced circulation is another factor keeping production and distribution costs lower than expected.

While magazine circulation, as a function of membership, continues to decline, online audience numbers are stable and growing. The national website averages 1.2 million page views per month and between 250,000 and 350,000 unique visitors per month.

The American Legion Online Update now has 480,000 weekly subscribers and an open rate of 31 percent. The National Commander's E-mail Blast that goes out twice a month has 455,000 subscribers and an open rate of 28 percent. The American Legion Flag Alert has 31,000 subscribers and an open rate of 130 percent, due to forwards.

The American Legion Facebook audience has grown by more than double in the last 15 months, to 58,094 Likes with a 28-day reach of 282,611 Facebook users. The American Legion Twitter following has grown by 121 percent in the last year, to 21,934.

The American Legion Magazine is also working on a number of other media projects for the organization, including the continuing effort to revamp the national portfolio of brochures and internal documents; media support for The American Legion 100th Anniversary Observance Committee; assistance with speeches, press conferences and news releases; and such diverse activities as parade float design and advertisements for outside publications.

The division is also responsible for outside media outreach from the Washington headquarters office. That effort has produced regular and frequent appearance on Military.com, the nation's largest military and veteran website, increased coverage by the Gannett-owned Military Times publications, interviews on National Public Radio and many other national outlets.

All of the division's efforts are guided by a strategic plan developed and adopted by staff at the first of the year, and all of the division's media channels are cross-pollinated to drive traffic to each other and to raise awareness of the organization, its programs and activities.

Addendum A

Hold for Further Study

Register Resolution No. 2683 (NC) (2012 DEC)**: Place the Emblem of The American Legion on the Cover of The American Legion Magazine**

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, motion to receive and file the report of the *Magazine* Commission with exception of one addendum. ... *Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: We have a motion on the floor and a second. Any discussion? All those in favor of the motion, signify by saying aye. Opposed. Motion carries.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, I move that the action of *The American Legion Magazine* Commission become the action of the National Executive Committee. ... *Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: We have a motion and second on the floor. Any discussion? All in favor of the motion, signify by saying aye. Opposed.

We have one more report, and that will be Randall Fisher, Kentucky, chairman of the Foreign Relations Commission, for purposes of the report.

Oral Report: Foreign Relations Commission
Randall Fisher, Kentucky, Chairman

Thank you, national commander, head table, NEC, past national commanders, Legionnaires, and guests. My committee didn't have any resolutions; it's a fairly short report. One less report we'll have to give in the morning, too.

You have a copy of the Foreign Relations written report before you. The commission met on Monday to discuss current foreign relations issues, and now it's going to be a subcommittee under National Security. We've worked closely with that group and those staff and done an excellent job.

We also talked about the incident with JPAC, or Joint Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Accounting Command, with the static reviews that they've been doing in Hawaii there, when the interred remains were not there. And basically what The American Legion wanted to emphasize is the importance of JPAC'S mission to recover and return the remains of our fallen. We emphasize the importance of The American Legion's support for that important mission.

On Tuesday the National Security and Foreign Relations Commissions met jointly and we reviewed a film. It was basically a unit going out and destroying IEDs in Afghanistan. You couldn't be prouder of these young men. The patriotism, the flags in their barracks. It was an excellent film. If you haven't seen it, you ought to be able to get it from headquarters. Just showed the mission and how proud they were to be an American soldier and proud of their mission there.

Since 2001 in Iraq and Afghanistan there have been 7,000 troops that have been killed, 50,000 wounded, over 2,000 requiring amputations. 1,400 killed by IEDs, improvised explosive devices. This year alone we've had 50 IED attacks, and 16 more troops have given their lives.

I want to thank the commander for letting me serve on this commission, Commander Dellinger and the NEC, for allowing me to serve. I want to thank the Washington staff. Freddie Gessner, stand up, assistant director of foreign relations. Joe Grassi, Mike Schlee, John Stovall is the director. *(Applause)* These guys do an excellent job. They work really hard for The American Legion and staff and mentored me and helped me along the way. I want to thank you for all your support. Commander, this concludes my report.

Report: Foreign Relations Commission
Randall Fisher, Kentucky, Chairman
October 14-15, 2013

An executive session of the Foreign Relations Commission met on Monday, October 14, 2013 in the Circle Center of the Sheraton Hotel to discuss current foreign policy issues pertaining to the vital interests of the United States.

Randall Fisher, Chairman of the Foreign Relations Commission, opened the business session and welcomed attending members of the commission and members of the committee.

This first topic addressed by Chairman Fisher was the realignment of the Foreign Relations Commission to the National Security Commission as a committee. The commission reviewed Resolution 1: Outline of Authorization, specifically related to foreign relations. The members engaged in discussion regarding the transfer of resolutions and the committee's role within the National Security Commission.

The business meeting also included a recount of the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) and the Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office's (DPMO) recently mandated restructuring. The commission also discussed the recent events involving JPAC using static aircraft during the returning ceremonies for the remains of

U.S. servicemembers. The discussion included expressions of frustration about the deception and this method of conducting ceremonies requires reform. The commission concluded by stating the importance of JPAC's mission to recover and return the remains of our fallen and emphasized the importance of The American Legion's support for that mission.

On Tuesday, October 15, the National Security and Foreign Relations Commissions met in joint session at the Circle Center Conference Room of the Sheraton Hotel in Indianapolis and watched a film that demonstrates the life or death importance of properly equipping our armed forces with the best innovations and technology for combating enemies who embrace asymmetrical warfare tactics. Since 2001 in Iraq and Afghanistan approximately 7,000 troops have been killed, 50,000 wounded, over 2,000 requiring amputations, and 1,400 killed by improvised explosive devices (IEDS). This year alone, there have been 50 IED attacks and 16 more troops have given their lives.

The Foreign Relations Commission thanks National Commander Dan Dellinger and the distinguished members of the National Executive Committee for their continuing support.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, motion to receive and file the report of the Foreign Relations Commission. ... *Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: We have a motion and second on the floor. Any discussion? All those in favor of the motion, signify by saying aye. Opposed. Motion carries.

Confirmation of Committee Appointments

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: Members of the National Executive Committee, I have several appointments to recommend for your approval.

Appeals Committee

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: The first being the National Executive Committee Appeals Committee. I appoint David O. Warnken from Kansas; Paul A. Evenson, South Dakota; and Charles D. Aucoin from Louisiana.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HEDRICK: I move for the approval of your appointments, Mr. Commander. ... *Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: We have a motion and second on the floor. Any discussion? All those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed. Motion carries.

U. S. Government 50th Anniversary of Vietnam War Commemorative Committee

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: Next, Fiftieth Anniversary of Vietnam War Commemorative Committee. Daniel A. Ludwig, Chairman, Minnesota, Past National Commander; Howard L. Darter, Jr., California; Ardie R. Frantzich, California; Charles F. Wessinger, Georgia, National Executive Committee; James E. Koutz, Indiana, Past National Commander; Dennis M. "Mike" Duggan, Maryland, Foreign Relations Council; Joseph J. Frank, Missouri, Past National Commander; Charles W. Goodin, Missouri, National Executive Committee; and Terry D. Schow, Utah, National Executive Committee. You will be contacted by Peter Gaytan.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HEDRICK: Mr. Commander, I move for approval of your appointments. ... *Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: We have a motion and a second on the floor. Any discussion? All those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed. Motion carries.

The American Legion's 100th Anniversary Observance Honorary Committee

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: Finally, the following have agreed to serve on The American Legion's 100th Anniversary Observance Honorary Committee, pending confirmation from myself: Former network newscaster Tom Brokaw; Purdue University President Mitch Daniels; General Lester Lyles, former vice chief of staff, U.S. Air Force; Major General Patrick Brady, Medal of Honor Recipient; and Jamie Gray, former American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Champion and 2012 Olympic Gold Medalist.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HEDRICK: Mr. Chairman, I move the approval of your appointments. ... *Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: We have a motion and second on the floor. Any discussion? All those in favor of the motion, signify by saying aye. Opposed. Motion carries. Announcements by the national adjutant.

Announcements

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: Would any member of this body who has not turned in his conflict of interest statement, please give it to National Judge Advocate Onderdonk, if possible before you leave, certainly no later than the end of tomorrow's session.

Those past national commanders who have not had their photos taken, please stop by the fourth floor lounge to get that done.

Tonight at 6:00 o'clock there will be a reception for the National Commander's Dinner honoring the NEC. It will be in the Circle Suites of the Sheraton Centre Hotel. 7:00 o'clock dinner in the Meridian Ballroom.

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: Colors of our country being in place, hand salute. Two. We stand in recess.

...At 3:10 p.m., Wednesday, October 16, 2013, the National Executive Committee rendered a salute to the Colors and stood in recess until 8:30 a.m., Thursday, October 17, 2013.

PROCEEDINGS

of the

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Thursday, October 17, 2013

... At 8:32 a.m., the Fall Meeting of the National Executive Committee of the American Legion resumed. National Commander Dellinger presiding.

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: Please rise. Colors of our country being in place, hand salute. Two.

... The National Executive Committee rendered a salute to the Colors.

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: Please uncover. I now call on Dr. Daniel McClure, national chaplain, for the invocation.

Invocation
Dr. Daniel A. McClure, Iowa, National Chaplain

Let us pray together. Father, thank You again for another day that You've given us. Thank You for the weather. We ask that You might give us a little of the moisture in the places that's really needed. Father, we think about the time constraints that are upon us today. Help us to make sure that our deliberations are done timely and not done quickly, but done in a manner that be would be wise as well.

Again, thank You for this day, thank You for this country, thank You for helping us, I suppose, to kick the can once more. But, Father, we just thank You for Your obvious blessing in this land. We ask now that You might bless this group, You might bless each family that's represented here, each community that's represented here, each state that's represented here, and continue to bless our country for us. In Your name we pray. Amen.

Pledge of Allegiance and
Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: Call on Ronald Miluszewski from Virginia, the national sergeant-at-arms, to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

... The National Executive Committee recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: Be seated. I now call on Daniel Wheeler, national adjutant, for roll call.

Roll Call
National Officers

National Commander
Daniel M. Dellinger, Virginia

National Adjutant
Daniel S. Wheeler, Virginia

National Vice Commanders

Douglas W. Wooddell, Colorado
Robert E. Newman, Indiana
William A. Rakestraw, Jr., New Jersey
Wayne D. Satrom, North Dakota
Paul E. Dillard, Texas

Past National Commanders

Keith A. Kreul, Wisconsin (Excused)
Clarence M. Bacon, Maryland
John P. 'Jake' Comer, Massachusetts
Hon. H.F. Gierke, North Dakota (Excused)
Miles S. Epling, West Virginia
Robert S. Turner, Georgia
Dominic D. DiFrancesco, Pennsylvania (Excused)
William M. Detweiler, Louisiana (Excused)
Daniel A. Ludwig, Minnesota
Joseph J. Frank, Missouri
Anthony G. Jordan, Maine
Bruce L. Miller, Virginia
Hon. Alan G. Lance, Sr., Idaho (Excused)
Richard J. Santos, Maryland
Ronald F. Conley, Pennsylvania
Hon. John A. Brieden, III, Texas
Thomas P. Cadmus, Michigan
Thomas L. Bock, Colorado
Paul A. Morin, Massachusetts
Martin F. 'Marty' Conatser, Illinois (Excused)
Robert W. Spanogle, Michigan
David K. Rehbein, Iowa
Clarence E. Hill, Florida
Jimmie L. Foster, Alaska
Richard M. Pedro, New York
Fang A. Wong, New York
James E. Koutz, Indiana

National Executive Committeemen

Department	Committeeman	Alternate
Alabama	Willis Frazier	
Alaska	James E. Pisa	
Arizona	S. Paul Griffin (Excused)	Richard W. Perry
Arkansas	James V. Bynum	
California	Alan C. Lennox	
Colorado	Francis W. McCurdy	
Connecticut	Richard W. Anderson	
Delaware	Larry J. Marcouillier	
D. C.	Arturo Rivera	
Florida	Dennis R. Boland	
France	John H. Miller (Excused)	H. Ownby
Georgia	Charles F. Wessinger	
Hawaii	Marvin R. Siegfried	
Idaho	Thomas E. Mattice	
Illinois	Larry W. Moore	
Indiana	Paul I. Steward	
Iowa	Bruce C. Feuerbach	
Kansas	David O. Warnken	
Kentucky	Randall Coffman	
Louisiana	Charles D. Aucoin	
Maine	Paul A. L'Heureux	
Maryland	David E. Winpigler	
Massachusetts	Steven M. Jimmo	
Mexico	Michael D. Wood	

Michigan	John H. Skinner
Minnesota	Raymond DeZurik
Mississippi	Robert E. Gosa
Missouri	Charles W. Goodin
Montana	Mervin G. Gunderson
Nebraska	Jerry Landkamer
Nevada	Dale R. Salmen
New Hampshire	Earlon L. Beale
New Jersey	Daniel E. McCole
New Mexico	Felix M. Trujillo
New York	Stanley H. Clark
North Carolina	Jerry L. Hedrick
North Dakota	Curtis O. Twete
Ohio	William K. Balser
Oklahoma	John Wesley Benge
Oregon	Charles E. Schmidt
Pennsylvania	Richard A. Coccimiglio
Philippines	Herbert J. Scholten
Puerto Rico	Ildefonso Colon, Jr.
Rhode Island	David A. Golde
South Carolina	Mickey C. Taylor
South Dakota	Paul A. Evenson
Tennessee	Charles R. Dornan
Texas	James E. Prendergast
Utah	Terry D. Schow
Vermont	Royal E. Sheeley
Virginia	Thomas E. Saunders
Washington	William R. Bob Wallace
West Virginia	William W. Kile
Wisconsin	David L. Gough
Wyoming	William R. Wright, III

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: Mr. Commander, that completes the roll call. You have a quorum.

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: A quorum is present. Is there any unfinished business from the preceding day? Do we have any donations to be presented this morning? ... *National Vice Commander Rakestraw assumed the Chair.*

Acceptance of Donations

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER KOUTZ: Commander, I think this is a story worth telling. As you know, we had The American Legion Legacy Ride on the way to the last convention in Houston. We stayed in a Holiday Inn hotel around the area of Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. Three little girls came up to me and brought this jar. They said they heard what we're doing for Operation Comfort Warriors. Their mom told me these three little girls, Jacinda, she's age 8; Emily, age 9; Brianna, age 7, busted open their piggy banks and gave me this jar full of money for Operation Comfort Warriors. Their dad is stationed at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. He's been there about four years, and he's getting ready to transfer to Alaska. He's going to be stationed in Alaska in about a month or two.

I thought it was a story worth bringing up. I don't know how much money is in there, it's probably not a hundred dollars, but it's money, and the meaning is what it's all about. So maybe I'll keep that jar. I want to give you a hundred dollars, I'm sure there's not a hundred dollars in there, for that jar, and another five dollars for a certain guy last night wearing his cap eating his dessert at his table. *(Laughter)*

So I'll give you another $105 for this Operation Comfort Warriors. *(Applause)*

... National Commander Dellinger resumed the Chair.

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: Thank you very much. It is good thing you kept that jar, because I don't know how Dan would ever put that in his pocket. *(Laughter)* At this time I call on Brett Reistad, Virginia, chairman of the Legislative Commission, for the purpose of a report.

Oral Report: Legislative Commission
Brett Reistad, Virginia, Chairman

Commander Dellinger and members of the National Executive Committee, the National Legislative Commission met in the Sheraton Hotel on October 14 and 15. We were privileged to have some distinguished guests including Past National Commanders Jim Koutz and John Brieden, as well as our commander himself. We welcomed their counsel and insights into the thorny problems plaguing Capitol Hill.

The resolution entitled, "Scheduling of the National Commander's Annual Congressional Testimony" was referred to this commission for consideration. You've already heard this resolution through the Finance and Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commissions. Our commission considered the resolution and unanimously recommended passage. Each of you should have a copy of the commission's written report. Attached to the report is Addendum I listing resolutions with legislative intent, approved at this NEC.

On September 10, National Commander Dellinger delivered his presentation to a joint session of the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees. Commander Dellinger laid out several of the major priorities for the Congress, including getting our veterans back to work, fighting the claims backlog for disabled veterans, and drawing the line against further cuts to vital programs through sequestration. I, for one, think the commander and Legionnaires did a tremendous job carrying the message to the Hill and also back to the home districts. Little did any of us know at the time that a few short weeks later concerns on Capitol Hill would be very different. The government shutdown that has plagued Washington and all of America this month was not visible on the horizon then, but it has dominated our legislative discussions in meetings at this NEC.

Regardless of whatever 11th-hour agreement Congress has come to in staving off default and ending the deadlock, we know it was not heroics that brought us to this point. The members of Congress seem to have lost the ability to hear the voice of the American people. To put aside partisan bickering and to ensure uninterrupted support for veterans and others, the members of Congress need now more than ever to be reminded of the voice of America, and nobody is better suited to deliver the message of the American people, especially American veterans, than The American Legion. To most effectively deliver our message we need a robust and vigorous legislative council. We need a Legionnaire in the ear of every single member of Congress so they will never forget how veterans suffer when they try to use us as pawns in their political games.

Commander Dellinger was pointed in his remarks, drawing on his own experiences working with our commission, as to how important the role of the council is. The Legislative Commission spent much time discussing how we can more effectively utilize

our massive grassroots presence, and I exhort all of you to help us energize your home departments to maximize the voice of The American Legion in the arena of government.

Defaulting on what is due to veterans is unacceptable. That we could come to a state of affairs where even the possibility that a disabled veteran might not get their benefits, paid for in blood, because of the political games of petty politicians is, quite frankly, sickening. The voice of The American Legion during this crisis has been loud, and we can and we must make it louder. With a robust and active council, we will make our collective voice heard.

Commander Dellinger, on behalf of the commission, I want to thank you for your outstanding leadership. I would like to thank the commander and the NEC for entrusting me with the leadership of the Legislative Commission and providing me with a superb professional staff. It has been my honor and my privilege to serve The American Legion as its chairman, and this concludes my report.

Advance Report: Legislative Commission
Brett P. Reistad, Virginia, Chairman
September 9, 2013

Nineteen (19) members of the National Legislative Commission, four (4) members of the Liaison Committee, and ninety-eight (98) members of the National Legislative Council, as well as other guests – including a number of Past National Commanders, national officers of The American Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary and the Sons of The American Legion – met in the Senate Rooms A & B of the Capital Hilton Hotel in Washington, DC on September 9, 2013. This meeting was convened on the eve of the National Commander's scheduled presentation of legislative priorities to a joint meeting of the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs committees.

National Commander Dan Dellinger (VA) made remarks outlining the importance of visiting with lawmakers and leaving the Legislative Drop Sheets with lawmakers and their staffs. In addition, Legislative Commission Chairman Brett Reistad gave a brief review of major issues. An update on the National Legislative Council was also presented. Members of the Legislative Division staff discussed the various legislative priorities outlined on the Drop Sheet.

The next day, September 10, National Commander Dellinger delivered a presentation to a joint session of the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs committees that summarized his written testimony. Copies of his written statement were delivered to all members of the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs committees, as well as all members of Congress.

Many issues in The American Legion's legislative portfolio on Capitol Hill are currently under consideration. Rather than attempting to provide an interim report to this committee on these issues, a complete account of recent congressional activities will be provided when the National Legislative Commission presents its report to you on October 16-17, 2013.

Report: Legislative Commission
Brett Reistad, Virginia, Chairman
October 14-15, 2013

The National Legislative Commission met at the Sheraton Circle East Conference Room in Indianapolis on October 14-15, 2013. Six (6) members of the National Legislative Commission were in attendance. In addition, Past National Commanders John Brieden (TX), and James Koutz (IN) were also in attendance, as was the Leading

Candidate for National Commander Mike Helm (NE). National Commander Dan Dellinger (VA) spoke to the Commission about the importance of the work of the Legislative Commission and in particular the Legislative Council in raising the organization's issues with Congress, particularly in light of recent developments with the government during the shutdown.

In the absence of a Council Chairman, National Staff Deputy Director Ian de Planque presented the Council's recent activities to the Commission.

In conjunction with the Finance Commission and the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission, a resolution entitled *"Scheduling of The National Commander's Annual Congressional Testimony"* was referred to the Commission for consideration. The resolution dealt with moving the annual testimony of the National Commander to coincide with the annual Winter Conference. The resolution was passed unanimously after discussion. Attached to this report is an Addendum for consideration by the National Executive Committee. The Addendum was adopted by the Post-Convention meeting of the National Executive Committee and has been amended to reflect resolutions of a legislative nature passed during the Fall Meetings of the National Executive Committee on October 16-17, 2013.

The Commission received in-depth briefings from the Legislative staff on various congressional actions since the Commission's last meeting. The remainder of this report provides a summary of congressional actions since the National Convention on issues of particular concern to The American Legion. The report is arranged by program areas.

113th Congress, First Session

The FY 2014 appropriations process has ground to a halt, with the deadline for passage of the 12 appropriations bills to fund federal programs – October 1, 2013 – already passed. The House has passed 4 of the 12 spending bills, while the Senate has passed none.

Since none of the appropriations bills were enacted by the end of September, a continuing resolution was needed to keep the federal government running. On September 20, the House passed – by a vote of 230-189 – House Joint Resolution (H.J. Res.) 59, a continuing resolution, which contained stop-gap funding for the entire federal government until December 15. One of the controversial provisions of this measure was an attempt to defund the Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare.

The Senate passed the measure on September 27 by a 54-44 recorded vote. Prior to voting, the Senate scrubbed the Obamacare defunding provision from the House version. When H.J. Res. 59 was returned to the House on September 29, the House passed the revised Senate version, but added a provision to delay implementation of the controversial program until January 1, 2015. The Senate has refused to consider any changes to Obamacare. A government shutdown occurred on October 1, with no quick resolution in sight.

Americanism

On May 22, **House Joint Resolution (H.J. Res.) 47** was introduced by Rep. Spencer Bachus (AL). This legislation is a proposed constitutional amendment to protect the American flag from physical desecration. Its text states simply: "The Congress shall have power to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States." The measure currently has 23 cosponsors. On June 13, Sen. Orrin Hatch (UT) introduced **Senate Joint Resolution (S.J. Res.) 17**, a companion measure. This measure currently has 22 cosponsors.

Economics

President Obama on September 30 signed into law **H.R. 1412**, the Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2013. This measure would extend the VA's authority to provide grants and assistance to veterans under programs scheduled to expire with the beginning of fiscal year (FY) 2014.

This legislation includes extensions to provide grants to disabled veterans requiring housing modifications and to set policies for addressing defaults on VA home loan guarantees. The measure also will allow VA to continue collecting copayments for hospital and nursing home care from veterans, extend the department's authority to provide 30 additional specially adapted housing grants to veterans who have lost – or lost use of – one or more lower extremities and its authority to provide child care assistance for certain veterans receiving intensive health care services.

Under the bill, the Labor Department will maintain authority to run the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program, which provides employment assistance to homeless veterans. The VA would be authorized to use FY 2014 funding to continue the Grant and Per Diem Program, to provide increased transitional housing assistance for homeless veterans and the Supportive Services for Veteran Families Program, which provides rapid re-housing and homelessness prevention assistance to at-risk veterans.

Internal Affairs

Other casualties of the federal shutdown – which began October 1 – were a number of veterans' memorials being cordoned off from public access (although such actions were never taken during previous federal shutdowns) by the National Park Service. These included the National World War II Memorial, the Vietnam Memorial, the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial (the Iwo Jima Flag-Raising statute), and Mount Rushmore.

In response to these ridiculous acts, the House of Representatives on October 2 passed H.J. Res. 70, entitled the Open Our National Parks and Museums Act. This measure would provide FY 2014 funding to the National Park Service, the various museums of the Smithsonian Institution, the National Gallery of Art, and the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. The Senate has refused to consider this bill for passage.

National Security

On September 30, the President signed **H.R. 3210**, the Pay Our Military Act. This bill's passage was necessary to avoid any interruption of military pay because of the shutdown of the federal government. The House vote for passage on September 29 was 423-0, while the Senate approved the measure by unanimous consent the next day. This legislation will ensure that all members of the armed forces – including active reservists and the Coast Guard – as well as DOD civilian employees and contractors receive their pay, whether the rest of the government is funded or not. Spending authority under the bill would end on January 1, 2015, or with the enactment of a regular or stopgap appropriations measure that includes military pay. The law's provisions would be valid for the entirety of FY 2014 and would go into effect in any instance of a lapse in government funding affecting military pay during the fiscal year.

The House on October 3 passed H.R. 3230, Pay Our Guard and Reserve Act, by a recorded vote of 265-160. This measure would make appropriations for FY 2014, for any period during which interim or full-year appropriations are not in effect, for pay and allowances to members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces who perform inactive-duty training during FY 2014. Despite House passage, the Senate has refused to pass any further "piecemeal" funding bills.

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation

Under the provisions of H.R. 1412 (outlined above), VA is authorized to provide grants to organizations that offer transitional housing to homeless veterans with special needs, including women, as well as single parents, the frail elderly and those with severe mental illnesses.

In addition, through the end of 2013, the VA will retain authority to provide allowances to disabled veterans who have been invited by the U.S. Olympic Committee to participate in the U.S. Paralympics program. The bill also will extend through December 31 the authority to provide VA grants to the USOC to plan, develop, manage and implement integrated adaptive sports programs for disabled veterans and service members.

In an effort to ensure continued operations by all divisions of VA, the House on October 3 passed **H.J. Res. 72**, a bill entitled *Honoring Our Promise to America's Veterans Act*. The vote for passage was 259-157. This bill would make appropriations for FY 2014 for veterans' benefits, specifically for entitlements and other mandatory payments whose budget authority was provided in P.L. 113-6. (the FY 2013 omnibus spending measure). The resolution would continue activities at the same rate of appropriations to maintain program levels under current law, through December 15, 2013. It also contains $2.4 billion for the Veterans Benefits Administration for the processing of veterans benefit claims. The Senate has not taken up the measure, and has again refused to consider any further "piecemeal" funding measures.

This concludes The American Legion National Legislative Commission's Report to the National Executive Committee.

Addendum I

The National Legislative Commission is required, under Rule 8-b of the National Executive Committee, to compile a list of resolutions with legislative intent adopted during meetings of The American Legion National Convention and The American Legion National Executive Committee. The following resolutions constitute an ongoing list of all resolutions that are legislative in nature. This list of resolutions will constitute part of The American Legion's legislative program through the 113th Congress.

The following resolutions were adopted at the 94th National Convention in Indianapolis, IN August 28-30, 2012

Americanism

Res. No.	217	English Language be declared as the Official United States Language
Res. No.	268	Strategy to Address Social, Economic and Population Problems Related to Illegal Immigration
Res. No.	269	Return Patriotic Holidays to Traditional Dates
Res. No.	270	English Language be used in Naturalization Ceremonies
Res. No.	271	School Prayer
Res. No.	272	Constitutional Amendment to Protect the Flag of the United States
Res. No.	273	Oppose Importation of Foreign Manufactured American Flags
Res. No.	274	Conscientious Objectors Tax Diversion
Res. No.	275	Amend the "Temporary Protected Status" Portion of the Immigration Act of 1990
Res. No.	276	Support Fairness for Immigrant Spouses
Res. No.	277	Oath of Renunciation and Allegiance
Res. No.	278	The Boy Scouts of America and the Department of Defense
Res. No.	279	The Pledge of Allegiance

Res. No.	280	Oppose Flag Code Change Conduct During Hoisting, Lowering or Passing of the Flag or During the National Anthem
Res. No.	281	Eliminate Damages and Attorney Fees in Establishment Clause Lawsuits
Res. No.	282	Star Spangled Banner

Children & Youth

Res. No.	250	Protect Children from Unrestricted Media
Res. No.	251	Financially Assist Families Faced by Catastrophic Illness of their Children
Res. No.	252	Maximize Efforts to Screen Children for Sickle Cell Disease
Res. No.	254	Oppose any Attempt to Weaken Present Laws Governing Penalties for the Production, Sale and Distribution of Pornographic or Obscene Materials to Minors
Res. No.	256	Support Efforts to Immunize all Children
Res. No.	257	Support Funding Comprehensive Health Care for Children & Youth Programs
Res. No.	258	Funding for Drug Trafficking Prevention Programs
Res. No.	259	Prevention of Child Sexual Exploitation
Res. No.	260	Reducing or Preventing Teen Pregnancy
Res. No.	261	Locate Missing Children and Prevent Child Victimization
Res. No.	262	Prevent Child Maltreatment
Res. No.	263	Programs and Organizations that Promote Child Safety
Res. No.	264	National School Lunch Program
Res. No.	265	Establish "National Family Week"
Res. No.	266	Improving Services for Children Living in Foster Care

Economic

Res. No.	37	Support for the Strengthening and Adequate Funding of the National Veterans Training Institute (NVIT)
Res. No.	47	Support Improvements in the Reporting Programs Available to and Administered by Veterans' Employment and Training Service
Res. No.	48	Support the Restoration of the Duties and Responsibilities of the Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program (DVOP) Specialist and Local Veterans' Employment Representative (LVER)
Res. No.	50	Support Legislation that Bolsters the Hiring of Veterans in the Public and Private Sectors
Res. No.	52	Support Legislation that would return Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program (DVOP) and Local Veterans' Employment Representative (LVER) Funding to a Staffing Grant
Res. No.	53	Support Legislation that Ensures that all Agencies that Receive Funding from the U.S. Department of Labor or the Workforce Investment Act meet the Mandatory Compliance Standards for Veterans Preference
Res, No.	54	Support Legislation that would change the 12 Years Delimiting "Date for Eligibility to Chapter 31benefits (VA Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Program
Res. No.	220	Surviving Spouse Mortgage Eligibility
Res. No.	296	Amending the Eligibility for the Transfer of the Post-9/11 GI Bill Educational Benefits
Res. No.	297	Support Legislation to Amend Title 38 United States Code, to Prohibit Discrimination and Acts of Reprisal by Employers against Veterans that seek Treatment for their Service-Connected Disabilities
Res. No.	298	Transition Assistance Program Employment Workshops for National Guard and Reserve Members

Res. No.	299	Authorize Small Business Administration to Re-Establish a Direct Loan Program for Veteran Entrepreneurs
Res. No	300	Supporting the U.S. Economy and increase U.S. Energy Security through a Canadian-American Oil Pipeline
Res. No	301	Eliminate Delimiting for the Montgomery GI Bill and Post 9/11 GI Bill
Res. No.	302	Elimination of the VA Home Loan Funding Fee
Res. No.	303	Support Regulation of For-Profit Schools and State Approving Agencies
Res. No.	304	Support Full Funding and Staffing for the Veterans Employment and Training Services (VETS)
Res. No.	305	Support Funding for Additional Housing for Homeless Veterans with Families
Res. No.	306	Funding for Homeless Veterans
Res. No.	307	Home Loan Guaranty Program
Res. No	308	Homeless Veterans Assistance
Res. No.	309	Support Expanding the Departments of Housing and Urban Development and Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing Voucher Program
Res. No.	310	Support an Investigation of Hiring Practices in the Federal Government
Res. No.	311	Support Major Enhancements for the Montgomery GI Bill
Res. No.	312	Allow Military Retirees to apply for Position in Federal Law Enforcement after Age 37
Res. No.	313	Support for the Military Transition Program
Res. No.	314	Support Extended Time for Mortgage Payments for Service Members
Res. No	315	Oppose Department of Labor Veterans Employment and Training Services Hiring of Non-Veterans
Res. No.	316	Oppose the Transfer of Veterans' Employment and Training Service to the Department of Veterans Affairs
Res. No.	317	Oppose any Weakening of the Disabled Veterans Outreach Program and Local Veterans Employment Representative
Res. No.	318	Support Recognition of Military and Pay when Calculating Starting Federal Civilian Salaries
Res. No.	319	Support Increase in Reporting Fees for Educational Institutions
Res. No.	320	Support Effort of the Small Business Administration's (SBA) Office of Veterans Business Development
Res. No.	321	Support Reasonable Set-Aside of Federal Procurements and Contracts for Business Owned and Operated by Veterans
Res. No	322	Oppose Efforts to Change the Residency Requirements for State Directors of the Veterans Employment and Training Service (VETS)
Res. No.	323	The Status of Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Business after the Death of the Veteran Owner
Res. No.	324	Support the Rollover of IRA Account Penalty of Tax Liability of a Permanent and Total 100 percent Service-Disabled Veteran with Individual Unemployability
Res. No.	325	Support Licensure and Certification Standards for Veterans' Health Administration
Res. No.	326	Support Licensure and Certification of Active Duty and Selected Reserve Personnel
Res. No.	327	Support Legislation to Improve the Post 9/11 GI Bill
Res. No.	328	Support and Strengthen the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA)
Res. No	329	Support for Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Program Hiring more Counselors and Employment Coordinators
Res. No.	330	Support Veterans' Preference in Public Employment

Res. No.	331	Support Legislation to Enable Veteran Service Organizations to Gain Better Access to Federal Surplus Property by making them their Own Category of Eligibility
Res. No.	332	Support Tax Credit for Certain Employers
Res. No.	333	Work Opportunity Tax Credit Program
Res. No.	334	Transitional Housing Allotments for Returning Combat Veterans
Res. No.	335	Veterans Employment Initiative
Res. No	336	Veterans Entrepreneur Training Program
Res. No.	337	Veterans Home Loans

Foreign Relations

Res. No.	75	Social Security Survivor Benefits for Non-Resident Alien Spouses and Dependents
Res. No.	76	Securing Pakistan's Nuclear Arsenal
Res. No.	77	Middle East/Gulf States Foreign Policies
Res. No.	78	POW/MIA Policies
Res. No.	79	Vietnam Human Rights
Res. No.	80	Support for Foreign Exchange Education Programs
Res. No.	81	The American Legion Global Trade Policies
Res. No.	82	Policy on Africa
Res. No.	83	The American Legion Foreign Policy Objectives
Res. No.	84	Central America's Democracy Promotion
Res. No.	85	The American Legion's Policy on the United Nations
Res. No.	86	The American Legion's Policy on Veterans Mail at Overseas Embassies
Res. No.	87	Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation (WHINSEC)
Res. No.	88	The American Legion's Support for World Press Freedom
Res. No.	89	Enhanced Funding for USAID
Res. No	90	Expand Foreign Service Officer Corps
Res. No.	91	Secure National Boarders against Illegal Drugs
Res. No.	92	Policy on Cuba
Res. No.	267	Taiwan Defense Arms Sales

Internal Affairs

Res. No.	46	Man in the Sea Memorial Monument
Res. No.	158	Battle of Camden Site and Historic Camden Revolutionary War Site be Place under the National Park Service
Res. No.	215	Increase Income Tax Deduction for Volunteer Mileage

National Security

Res. No.	15	Authorize and Fund Tricare for Reserve Components and Dependents
Res. No.	17	Establish a Strategic Plan for Internal Security within the United States
Res. No.	18	Flexible Savings Accounts
Res. No.	19	Fully Enforce Immigration Laws
Res. No.	21	Illegal Immigration Policy
Res. No.	22	Include Chiropractic Care and Services in Tricare Coverage
Res. No.	24	Oppose Tricare Fee increases
Res. No.	25	Prohibit Foreign Investments in U.S. Defense Industry
Res. No.	26	Reference Veterans Service Organizations at Discharge
Res. No.	28	Support for Concurrent Receipt of Military Retirement Pay and VA Disability Compensation
Res. No.	29	Support for Military Quality of Life Standards
Res. No.	30	Support for Pain Management Research, Treatment and Therapies at DoD, VA and NIH
Res. No.	31	Support for the Jones Maritime Act and Related Cabotage Laws

Res. No.	33	The American Legion Policy on the Correction of Military Records
Res. No.	49	Retirement Pay and Disability Compensation
Res. No.	55	Codify Burial Eligibility for Arlington National Cemetery
Res. No.	56	Commercial Shipbuilding for Defense
Res. No.	57	Department of Defense (DOD) Personnel Policy
Res. No.	58	The Department of Defense Military Retirement System
Res. No.	59	Earned Military Benefits
Res. No.	60	Handling of Military Remains
Res. No.	61	National Defense Funding
Res. No.	62	Protection, Preservation and Retention of Federal and Military Monuments in the United States
Res. No.	63	Rebuild America's Defense Industrial Base
Res. No.	64	Support for Armed Forces Retirement Homes
Res. No.	65	Support for Financial Anti-Terrorism Law Enforcement
Res. No.	66	Support for Legislation Prohibiting Hate Speech at Military Funerals
Res. No.	67	Support for the American Battle Monuments Commission
Res. No.	68	Second Amendment
Res. No.	69	Support for the Department of Homeland Security and Coast Guard
Res. No.	70	Support for the United States Air Force
Res. No.	71	Support for an Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences
Res. No.	72	Support Full Funding and Resourcing for the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps
Res. No.	73	Support Full Funding for the Department of the Army Budget
Res. No.	74	The American Legion's Position on the Operational Reserve
Res. No.	138	Long-Range Strike Capabilities
Res. No.	139	Military Occupational Specialty Standards
Res. No.	140	Support for Research and Development of Air Breathing Scramjet Powered Vehicle
Res. No.	141	Support for the Reformation of the Military Voting System
Res. No.	142	Support for the Selective Service Registration Program
Res. No.	144	Identifying National Interests before Committing Military Forces and Assets
Res. No.	145	Support Domestic Energy Production
Res. No.	146	Support Fight against Cyberspace Threats
Res. No.	147	Support Research and Funding for Alternative Energy Resources
Res. No.	148	Support for the Global War on Terrorism
Res. No.	149	Buy American
Res. No.	150	Military Commissaries
Res. No.	151	Support for the Non-Federal Roles of the National Guard
Res. No.	152	Support Unmanned Vehicles
Res. No.	153	Support for NASA and Advancements in Aeronautical and Space Research
Res. No.	154	Support for National Missile Defense System
Res. No.	155	Rare Earth Elements
Res. No.	156	Reserves and National Guard Retirement Benefit Fairness
Res. No.	157	Develop Defense against Electromagnetic Pulse Attack
Res. No.	167	Fully Fund NASA
Res. No.	207	Pipeline Construction and Energy Independence
Res. No.	283	Amend Stolen Valor Act
Res. No.	284	Guard and Reserve Space-A Travel

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation

Res. No.	93	Strategic Capital Investment Planning (SCIP) Program

Res. No.	94	The Department of Veterans Affairs Pharmacy Benefits`
Res. No.	95	Environmental Exposures
Res. No.	96	Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans
Res. No.	97	Protection of Religious Rights and Ceremonies at National Cemetery Administration (NCA) National and State Cemeteries
Res. No.	98	Provide the Department of Veterans Affairs the Ability to Purchase Medications Located Outside the United States
Res. No.	99	Increase the Transparency of the Veterans Benefits Administration's (VBA) Claims Processing
Res. No.	100	Oppose Legislation Authorizing Legion-Accredited Representatives to Develop Claims Directly on Behalf of The Department of Veterans Affairs
Res. No.	101	Clarification of" Service in Vietnam" for the Purpose of Agent Orange Presumption
Res. No.	103	Exempt Purple Heart and Medal of Honor Recipients from VA Prescription Co-Payment
Res. No.	104	Gulf War Illnesses
Res. No.	105	Support Presumption of Service Connection for Hepatitis C
Res. No.	106	Disability and Death Pension Program
Res. No.	107	Recognize Operations in Lebanon (1958), Grenada (1983), and Panama (1989-1990) as Periods of War for Department of Veterans Affairs Pension Purposes
Res. No.	108	Request Congress Provide the Department of Veterans Affairs Adequate Funding for Medical and Prosthetic Research
Res. No.	109	The Department of Veterans Affairs Mental Health Services
Res. No.	110	Department of Veterans Affairs Life Insurance Program
Res. No.	111	Open-Ended Presumptive Period for Undiagnosed Illnesses for Gulf War Veterans
Res. No.	112	Oppose any Reduction of Eligibility Criteria for Department of Veterans Affairs Per Diem Payments to State Veterans Homes
Res. No.	113	Amend the Eligibility Requirements and Extend the Eligibility Time Period for Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance
Res. No.	114	Radiation Exposure
Res. No.	115	Extend Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Protection Life Insurance to Service-Connected Veterans who are Permanently and Totally Disabled
Res. No.	117	All Veterans Receive "Wartime" Benefits for Active Military Service between February 28, 1961 and August5, 1964
Res. No.	118	Revision of Work-Rate Standards for Department of Veterans Affairs Adjudicators
Res. No.	119	Veteran Treatment Courts
Res. No.	120	Include World War II Veterans in Priority Group 6 for Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care
Res. No.	121	The Department of Veterans Affairs Nursing Home Capacity
Res. No.	122	Prostate Cancer Research and Treatment
Res. No.	123	Support Legislation to Place Mariner Medal Recipients in Priority Group 3 for the Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care
Res. No.	125	Means Test for Married Veterans
Res. No.	126	Veterans Receive Same Level of Benefits
Res. No.	127	Service Dogs for Injured Service Personnel and Veterans with Mental Health Conditions
Res. No.	128	Designate United States Air Force C-123K Transport Aircraft as Agent Orange Exposure Sites
Res. No.	129	The Department of Veterans Affairs Enhanced-Use Leasing

Res. No.	131	State Veterans Homes' Extended Care Facilities Grant Program
Res. No.	132	The American Legion Policy on State Veteran Homes Inspections
Res. No.	133	Support Medicare Reimbursement for the Department of Veterans Affairs
Res. No.	135	Opening the Federal Supply Schedule for Pharmaceuticals to Medicare and Medicaid
Res. No.	136	The Department of Veterans Affairs to Develop Outreach and Peer to Peer Programs for Rehabilitation
Res. No.	162	Department of Veterans Affairs Veteran Integrated Service Networks
Res. No.	172	Dependency and Indemnity Compensation Benefits to Surviving Spouses of Former Prisoners of War
Res. No.	173	Allow Beneficiaries to Retain some of their Benefits while in Medicaid-Covered Nursing Homes
Res. No.	174	Extend the Filing Period of an Appeal Notice to the Court of Veteran Appeals for Veterans Claims
Res. No.	175	National Cemetery Administration
Res. No.	176	State Veteran Home Per Diem Reimbursement
Res. No.	178	Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Disability Compensation
Res. No.	179	Amend Title 38, United States Code to increase the special Monthly Compensation (K) Award
Res. No.	180	Assured Funding for VA Medical Care
Res. No.	181	The Department of Veterans Affairs Dental Care
Res. No.	182	Presumptive Conditions for Former Prisoners of War
Res. No.	183	The Department of Veterans Affairs' Role in National Emergency Preparedness
Res. No.	193	The Department of Veterans Affairs to Provide Benefits for Pending Claims over 90 Days
Res. No.	196	Co-Payments and Enrollment Fees for Priority Groups 7&8
Res. No.	197	Tobacco-Related Disabilities
Res. No.	198	Exempt Certain Income from VA Pension Rate Determination
Res. No.	199	Agent Orange
Res. No	200	Exempt VA Benefits and Services from Pay-Go Provisions
Res. No.	212	Increase Maximum Coverage under the Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance
Res. No.	222	Extend Eligibility for National Cemetery Administration Medallion
Res. No.	224	Department of Veterans Affairs Service-Disabled Life Insurance
Res. No	225	United States Census to Include Veterans Information
Res. No.	226	Automatic Waiver for Over-Payments of $300 or Less
Res. No	234	Oppose Lump Sum Payments for Department of Veterans Affairs Disability Compensation
Res. No.	237	Urn Markers Provided by the National Cemetery Administration
Res. No.	285	Traumatic Brain Injury and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Programs
Res. No	286	Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Involvement in the Department of Homeland Security
Res. No.	288	Department of Veterans Affairs to Include and Treat Family Members of Veterans with Illnesses and Injuries
Res. No.	289	WWII Veterans Hospital and Medical Entitlements
Res. No.	290	The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Means Test
Res. No.	291	The Department of Veterans Affairs to Receive Private Hospital Documentation within One-Year of Services
Res. No.	292	Eliminate the Requirement that a Veteran had to Serve in Vietnam to be Eligible for Wartime Benefits
Res. No	293	Veterans Transportations System (VTS) & benefits Travel
Res. No.	294	Department of Veterans Affairs Rural Healthcare Program

Res. No.	295	Military Sexual Trauma (MST)

The following resolutions were adopted in the Fall meetings of the National Executive Committee, October 17-18, 2012

Americanism

Res. No.	60	Flag Code Amendment

Economic

Res. No.	20	Support "Buy American" Policy at the Department of Veterans Affairs to Create Jobs and Opportunities for Veterans
Res. No.	21	Support Veterans Housing Repair and Modification Pilot Program
Res. No.	22	Support Federal Legislation the Protects the Employment of Veterans in the US Postal Service Mail Processing Facilities that are Slated for Closure
Res. No.	23	Improve Transition Assistance Program
Res. No.	24	Federal and State Incentives for Employers to Use Veterans Preference

National Security

Res. No.	26	Piracy Against American Flagged Vessels
Res. No.	27	Military Honors Detail Stipend
Res. No.	28	National Guard Patriot Academy
Res. No.	29	Clark Veterans Cemetery
Res. No.	31	Military Service Authorized Strength
Res. No.	55	Protecting the Defense Budget

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

Res. No.	37	Department of Veterans Affairs Child Care Programs
Res. No.	38	Legislation to Provide Reporting, Tracking and Action Dealing with Sexual Assaults in Department of Veterans Affairs Facilities
Res. No.	40	Extended Hours and Weekends for Veterans Health Care
Res. No.	41	Dependency and Indemnity Compensation
Res. No.	42	Virtual Lifetime Electronic Record
Res. No.	47	Prevent Exploitation of Veterans and Family Members Applying for Aid and Attendance

The following resolutions were adopted at the spring meetings of the National Executive Committee May 8-9, 2013

National Security

Res. No.	9	Secretary Of Defense Directive For A Zero-Tolerance Policy On Sexual Assault
Res. No.	10	Support Veteran Status For National Guard And Reserve Servicemembers

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

Res. No.	24	Congressional Budget Office Scoring On Department Of Veterans Affairs Leasing
Res. No.	25	Oppose Lowering Of Cost-Of-Living Adjustments
Res. No.	27	Licensed Professional Mental Health Counselors And Marriage And Family Therapists
Res. No.	28	Agent Orange Presumption For Service In Southeast Asia Since 1975

The following resolutions were adopted at the 2013 National Convention of The American Legion

Economic

Res. No.	44	Veteran Education Debt Forgiveness
Res. No.	66	Enforcing Veterans Preference Hiring Practices in Federal Civil Service
Res. No.	67	Student-Veterans Return-on-Investment Education Outcome
Res. No.	68	Federal and State Incentive for Employers to use Veterans Preference
Res. No.	70	Support the Development of Veterans On-The-Job Training Opportunities
Res. No.	72	Support and Strengthen the Service-members Civil Relief Act
Res. No.	73	Support Verification Improvements for Veterans' Business within the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense
Res. No.	74	Support Legislation to Increase Telework (Telecommuting) Opportunities for Service-Disabled Veterans and Military Spouses

Foreign Relations

Res. No.	80	Ratify Disabilities Treaty

Internal Affairs

Res. No.	16	National Desert Storm and Desert Shield War Memorial
Res. No.	50	Increase Income Tax Deduction for Volunteer Mileage
Res. No.	62	Change Internal Revenue Rules in Counting Sons of The American Legion Membership at the Post Level as Outlined in Section 501 (C) (19) of The US Code Correction of Internal Revenue Service Audit Manual
Res. No.	63	Correction of Internal Revenue Service Audit Manual
Res. No.	64	IRS Audit Manual on Sons of The American Legion Eligibility

National Security

Res. No.	10	Medal of Honor for James P. Simons
Res. No.	25	NASA Funding
Res. No.	27	Reclassify Fort Hood Shooting
Res. No.	30	Support Fight against Cyberspace Threats
Res. No.	34	National Defense Funding

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation

Res. No.	42	VA Prescribed Service Dog Allowance
Res. No.	75	Automatic Enrollment
Res. No.	76	Reinstate Enrollment of Priority Group 8G Veterans into the Department of Veterans Affairs' Patient Enrollment System
Res. No.	77	Advance Appropriations for all of the Department of Veterans Affairs' Discretionary Accounts
Res. No.	78	Oppose any Reductions to the Department of Veterans Affairs' Budget due to Sequestration
Res. No.	79	Veteran Discounts on Federally Funded Public Transportation

The following resolutions were adopted in the Fall meetings of the National Executive Committee, October 16-17, 2013

Economic

Res. No.	26	Expanding Post 9/11 GI Bill for Entrepreneurship
Res. No.	27	Veterans GI Bill Education Improvement

Res. No.	28	Support Eligible Veterans to Receive A First Time Homebuyer Tax Credit or Tax Credit for Adaptive Housing Improvements

Internal Affairs

Res. No.	23	Award Congressional Gold Medal Posthumously to Harry Colmery

National Security

Res. No.	14	Modify Battlefield Helmet

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

Res. No.	16	Dependency and Indemnity Compensation for Surviving Spouses
Res. No.	17	Congress to Provide Back Pay to Veterans and their Dependents for Any Government Lapse in Appropriations
Res. No.	18	State Veterans Home Funding for Construction Grants
Res. No.	20	Service Officers Participation in the Transition Goals, Plans and Success (GPS) Program
Res. No.	21	Improvements to Department of Veterans Affairs' Women Veteran Programs
Res. No.	22	Research to Develop a Blood Test to Detect Colorectal Cancer

RESOLUTION SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HEDRICK: Commander, I move the Legislative Commission report be received and filed, with the exception of Addendum I. ... *Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: There is a motion on the floor and a second. Any discussion? All those in favor of the motion, signify by saying aye. Opposed. Motion carries.

RESOLUTION SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HEDRICK: Mr. Commander, pursuant to Rule 8B of the National Executive Committee, I move the resolutions on Addendum 1 with legislative intent be ratified for distribution as part of the legislative program through the 113th Congress. ... *Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: There is a motion on the floor and a second. Any discussion? All those in favor of the motion, signify by saying aye. Motion carries. Thank you, Brett. Next I call on Charemon Dunham, national historian, from South Dakota for purposes of a report.

Report: National Historian
Charemon Dunham, South Dakota

National Commander Dan Dellinger, national vice commanders, members of the National Executive Committee, and fellow Legionnaires, it is a privilege and an honor to be the national historian of the world's largest and most respected veterans organization.

I would like to thank Commander Dellinger for this appointment as your national historian. I would like to thank National Executive Committee member, Paul Evenson, for his support and guidance. It is with much sadness that the late Past Department Commander Glenn Green was not able to witness my appointment. He, along with Paul Evenson, provided great support.

As my first task as national historian, I updated the judge's instructions with the help of members of The National Association of Department Historians of The American Legion. I then oversaw the judging of the post and department histories in the national contest. Thank you to the historians for their many hours of hard work on preserving their histories.

As a department historian who has received awards in the first three places every year for 10 years and NADHAL President for two years, I can truly attest to the fact that completing the histories for the post and department is a very time-consuming task. It takes a year of many hours of dedicated hard work. The histories are an important part of the post and departments activities. The members of The National Association of Department Historians of The American Legion again did a great job of judging the best of the books submitted.

I would like to give a very special thanks to five members of NADHAL: Past National Historian Delfo Barabani of Massachusetts, who coordinated the judging of the contest; and Past National Historian Larry Rozier of North Carolina, who helped me conduct the orientation and training of the new department historians. Past National Historian Frazier Brinley of Connecticut; Dan Watrous of Ohio; and James Copher of Minnesota provided additional help.

Finally I would like recognize and express my sincere thanks to Howard Trace and his wonderful library staff for their help and support. Also to Lynda Lydick of the library staff who processed the paperwork for the judging of the contest.

As the 100th Anniversary of the American Legion is approaching, I would like to challenge all departments to enroll their posts at the Legion's website http://centennial.legion.org. Posts will be able to share their histories by word and picture with fellow legionnaires. Now for the results of this year's contest winners:

The results of the One-Year Department Narrative History Contest are:

First Award, Plaque, Department of Pennsylvania

There were no other participants in this category.

The results of the One-Year Department Yearbook History Contest are:

First Award, Plaque, Department of North Carolina
Second Award, Plaque, Department of Florida
Third Award, Plaque, Department of Ohio

Certificates of Participation are awarded to Departments:

Department of Massachusetts.
Department of Missouri
Department of Iowa
Department of Vermont
Department of Washington

The results of the One-Year Post Narrative History Contest are:

First Award, Plaque, Pony Express Post 359, Saint Joseph, MO
Second Award, Plaque, Frank B. Bartlett Post 7, Buckhannon, WV
Third Award, Plaque, Frank E. Booma Post 6, Portsmouth, NH

Certificates of Participation are awarded to Posts:

Bemis-Hunter Post 379, Birchwood, WI
Hampstead Post 200, Hampstead, MD
Colonial Heights Post 284, Colonial Heights, VA

The results of the One-Year Post Yearbook History Contest are:

First Award, Plaque, Bella Vista Post 341, Bella Vista, AR
Second Award, Plaque, Charles S. Hatch Post 79, Berwick, ME
Third Award, Plaque, Julius L. Shryer Post 430, Durant, IA
Honorable Mention, Veterans Memorial Post 347, Lady Lake, FL
Honorable Mention, Montpelier Post 3, Montpelier, VT
Honorable Mention, Colonial Heights Post 284, Colonial Heights, VA

Certificates of Participation are awarded to Posts:

Lowe-McFarlane Post 14, Shreveport, LA
Alois Dreikosen Post 469, Marathon, WI

Gensi-Viola Post 36, Windsor Locks, CT
Alamo Post 2, San Antonio, TX
La Pine Post 45, La Pine, OR
Adam Township Post 553, Toledo, OH
Boiling Springs Post 200, Boiling Springs, SC
New Hartford Post 1376, New Hartford, NY
Herman Granados Post 739, India, CA.
Lonnell Williams Post 143, Clarksville, TN
Harold B. Jarrett Post 342, Salisbury, NC
Berkeley Post 14, Martinsburg, WV
Clark Post 328, Clark, NJ.
Bryan Mudgett Post 7, Carlsbad, NM
Fort Owen Post 94, Stevensville, MT.
Green Valley Post 66, Sahuarita, AZ

The instructors and judges for the contest were:

Virgil Arling (OH); Delfo Barabani (MA); Paul Bennett (MO); W. Frazier Brinley (CT); Fae Casper (GA); John Davis (IL); Nellie DeBaker (WI); Art Ellison (MT); Jackie Evonsion (CT); Robert B. Gilmore, Jr. (AZ); Cecil Groves (WI); James Heath (AR); Joseph Hovish (IN); Joseph Johnston (KS); Johnny Keel (LA); Dennis Kimball (NE); Ken Lee (WA); James A. Mariner (NM); Susan Mason (FL); N. Larry Rozier (NC); Raymond St. John (VT); J. R. Stillwell (IL); Jerri Strande (AZ); Dan Watrous (OH); Robert F. Woodruff (GA); Chuck Zelinsky (IL)

RESOLUTION SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, a motion to receive and file the report of National Historian Charemon Dunham.

... Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: We have a motion and second on the floor. Any discussion? All those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed. Motion carries. Thank you. Give them all a big hand. *(Applause)*

Next we will have remarks from the national vice commanders. First, Doug Wooddell, Colorado.

Report: National Vice Commander
Douglas Wooddell, Colorado

Mr. Commander, members of the NEC, we've been asked to give a little bit of history of ourselves, so I went back to the beginning. You want history, we're going to do history. I was born in Ohio, Sydney, Ohio, in March of 1946. Family moved to Colorado in 1955 where I've lived there ever since and love it. By the way, thank you, Indiana, for sending Peyton Manning out there. We really do appreciate that. *(Laughter)*

I met my wife when she lived next door to me in Aurora. We were married in 1965, have three children and two grandchildren. I joined the U.S. Air Force in 1966, done my basic training down in Lackland Air Force Base for every bit of thirty days. Really was tough. *(Laughter)* Assigned to Denver as a fire control technicians for schooling, and then assigned to Lackland Air Force Base in 1967. I actually volunteered to go to Southeast Asia in 1968, assigned to the 369th Fighter Squadron, Korat, Thailand, from November of '68 through November of '69. I worked airborne radar and weapon release computers on F4E Phantoms. I returned to the States and discharged in November 1969.

I returned to Aurora, got a job as a machinist because that's what my dad did. That was his profession. That job lasted 89 days. Anyone with less than 90 days at the

company got laid off. That was the last time I was ever laid off for a job. For those of you that might have been at convention, you noticed I did turn in a letter of resignation to the national commander, keeping with that tradition of not being laid off again. *(Laughter)*

The following Monday I started a profession as a plumber, got my master's license in '78, and started my own business in the Denver metropolitan area. New construction on housing and light commercial. Closed my shop in 1990, worked at another plumbing shop in the metro area simply because he was paying my three dollars more than I was paying myself. *(Laughter)*I sat there put that together and thought that doesn't make a lot of sense, so I ran his business until 1990 when I got a job at the University of Colorado as a plumber and retired from there in June of this year.

I joined The American Legion in 1981, got active in post level in the late '80s, and held many offices at the post and was elected commander in 1992. I was elected post commander two more times as the need arose in the post, and I'm also a dual member of the SAL. I became active in the department level in the mid '90s and was elected department commander in 1997. I continued my interest at the local level and expanded to the national level, sat on several different committees at national, and the last five years as the chairman of the Cemetery Committee. I was aide to National Commander Tom Bock in 2005. See, I thought I was sure I'd get a "boo" in that, but we did have an exciting, exciting year. *(Laughter)*

At the Department Convention 2012 I was elected candidate for the national vice commander and elected to the position at National Convention 2013.

As Western Division national vice commander, I want to help those departments in my area with membership and anything else they might need. When I'm in the area, put me to work. I'm blue collar, a blue-collar guy. I'm here to serve and build for the future today. Thank you. *(Applause)*

RESOLUTION SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, motion to receive and file the report of National Vice Commander Douglas W. Wooddell. *... Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: We have a motion and second on the floor. Any discussion? All on those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed. Motion carries. Next, Robert E. Newman, Indiana.

Report: National Vice Commander
Robert E. Newman, Indiana

Commander, vice commanders, NEC, Legion guests. I'm sorry that we gave you Peyton, but that's the way it goes. *(Laughter)* I enlisted in the United States Navy in July of 1965 and received my boot training at Great Lakes Training Center in Illinois. Upon completion of boot camp, I was transferred to the aircraft carrier *USS Bon Homme Richard*, CVA 31. At the time it was carrying out bombing missions against North Vietnam from "Yankee Station." I was assigned there as radarman striker

In July of 1966 I was transferred to Radar A School at Great Lakes Naval Training Center in Illinois. In February '67 I was transferred to the *USS Long Beach,* CGN-9, the Navy's first nuclear-powered surface ship. While stationed off the coast of North Vietnam, the Long Beach scored the first-ever shoot-down of an enemy aircraft by a surface-to-air missile.

I was honorably discharged in July of 1969 after having served four years of active duty. I returned home to Fort Wayne, Indiana after I was discharged. I went to visit my father in Garrett, Indiana in August of 1969, and he wasn't home but my grandfather

informed me that he was at the local Legion post. I went there to visit him where he promptly signed me up.

My first office at Garrett Post was historian in 1973. I went onto become post commander in 1976. I'm still involved at my local post as their finance officer and have been for the last eleven years. I held my first district office in 1977, and held most of the district offices, including district commander, in 1985. At the district level I was on the SAL Committee, Children & Youth Committee, and chairman of the district Finance Committee for twelve years. I am presently the chairman emeritus of the Finance Committee of the district.

I moved on to the department level. I served on a number of committees at that level. I was chairman of all four of the department commissions. I served as department vice commander in 1992-1993. I was elected department commander in 2009. I presently serve as a member of the Commander's Advisory Committee.

At the national level I have served on the Insurance Committee and the Veterans Preference Committee. This year I hope to help Commander Dellinger in reaching his membership and other goals by communications and travel to my assigned departments. Thank you very much. *(Applause)*

RESOLUTION SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, motion to receive and file the report of National Vice Commander Robert E. Newman.

... Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: We have a motion and a second. Any discussion? All those in favor of the motion, signify by saying aye. Opposed. Motion carries. Thank you. Next, William A. Rakestraw, Jr., New Jersey.

Report: National Vice Commander
William A. Rakestraw, Jr., New Jersey

Good morning, members of the NEC, Legion Family, and guests present. Commander, I intend to give a report that will astound you. *(Laughter)*

I originally was born in Pennsylvania. So promptly upon graduation from high school I joined the Army. Mostly because that's the only thing to do in Pennsylvania; right, Cocc? *(Laughter)* I served five years in the Army. I did tours of duty in Korea and Japan. That's why I have a slight distaste for the Navy, because they take you there, drop you off, and never come back and pick you up. *(Laughter)* But we managed to survive it.

I got out of the service in 1958, and I proceeded to return to Pennsylvania for my previous job, which was unemployed. *(Laughter)* I decided, well, I'm going to go somewhere where the work is, so I moved to New Jersey. And here I am, still in New Jersey. The idea was we were going to go to the East Coast to go to California. I haven't seen California yet. *(Laughter)*

I decided to get involved in the Legion through a set of circumstances that's not really I'm proud of, but I was approached by a member, I worked for the post office. Unlike Mr. Newman, I really worked at the post office. *(Laughter)* Mr. Hedrick will attest to the hard work that we do and the abuse that we take, much like here. *(Laughter)* We were approached at the post because really we had quite a social group. Our activities consisted mostly of Saturday afternoons at the post talking about absolutely nothing that made sense. But I'm sitting there one day at the bar and the gentleman comes out and he says, "We need a sergeant-at-arms." I says, "What do you got do?" He says, "Nothing." "I'll take the job." Thirty-nine years later, I'm still looking for nothing to do it. *(Laughter)*

But I was a member of that post for 39 years, still am. In our post you had to start at the bottom: sergeant-at-arms, chaplain, vice commander, junior vice, senior vice. You got

to be commander, finally. But in the meantime I got very involved with the post, especially on the hospital end of it. We used to visit nursing homes once a month. Even when I was involved with it, we started a post in several nursing homes which was something near and dear to us in helping the veterans. We did an outstanding job, I thought.

From the post level, we don't have districts in New Jersey, we're too darn small. We just have counties. So I went on to get involved with the county. I was made county commander, and then I became the county finance officer when I found out how much money was there. *(Laughter)* Backtrack a bit, also my post bestowed upon my an honor which I really hold near and dear to me heart. They made me a life member. I didn't know, really, what that meant. It meant nothing, except they pay my dues. Which is nice. *(Laughter)* Which is nice. I mean, just goes to show many works go unrewarded, but I'm sure that was very well appreciated.

As I said, I got involved with the county. I was the Legislative chair. I've been involved with the homeless, and on the county level we do have quite a bit of that in New Jersey. So I got a lot of background on the homeless veterans, which really you would be surprised how many are out there that need help. That's what we're here for. That's the way I looked at it.

On the national level, I served as an a ANEC, NEC. I got to serve on the National Security Council and Commission. I got to serve on the Subcommittee on Resolutions with Mr. Hedrick. I really appreciate the knowledge that was imparted up in that level. It gave you a real background of what the Legion is all about, and I was very glad to serve on that committee.

Then in 2013, lo and behold, they said, "Stand up. You're now a vice commander." So I take great pride in this position, and I hope to serve this organization well. Commander, if these other four vice commanders don't hold up to the standards, just let me know their names. *(Laughter)* I thank you very much for your attention. *(Applause)*

RESOLUTION SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Motion to receive and file the report of National Vice Commander William A. Rakestraw, Jr.

... Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: We have a motion and second on the floor. Any discussion? All those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed. The motion carries. Thank you. Wayne D. Satrom, North Dakota, national vice commander.

Report: National Vice Commander
Wayne D. Satrom, North Dakota

Commander and my fellow Legionnaires, being around that guy all these last weeks, now you know what we put up with. How do you follow something like that? *(Laughter)*

I've been married to my wife, Virginia, for 48 years, and we have two children, five grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. I served in the Army National Guard in 1964 to 1970. I joined S.B. Aasen Post 210, and I've been a member at Galesburg for 43 years now. A World War I veteran approached me and asked to join The American Legion. He said he would pay my first year membership, but from then on it was my responsibility. That has been one best things that anyone has ever done for me, was to ask me to join The American Legion. I've been post commander, post oratorical chairman, post Boys State chairman, and on the post honor guard.

On the state level I've held the positions of district vice commander, district commander, region vice commander, commander-elect, and then in 2005-2006, I was department commander. I served on the North Dakota American Legion Foundation

Board for six years. I currently serve on the North Dakota Veterans Foundation Board. The last few years I've had the privilege of serving with Dick Holmes at the time, and now Bridget, on the National Convention Commission.

As national vice commander for the Midwest Region, I will help them to push to be the number one region in the United States. I feel if they follow their five-year plan, they will accomplish what they are after. We have to keep telling people, all the veterans, about the greatest veterans organization there is. We have to tell our story how it was started in 1919, with veterans, for veterans and their families. And I'm so proud of how we start out with our preamble, "For God and country." That is something that we need to get that out there, not only to our veterans, but to everyone. We are one of the few organizations that stands for God and country, and I'm so proud of that. Thank you. *(Applause)*

RESOLUTION SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, motion to receive and file the report of the National Vice Commander Wayne D. Satrom. ... *Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: We have a motion and second on the floor. Any discussion? All in favor of the motion, signify by saying aye. Opposed. Motion carries. Next, Paul E. Dillard, Texas, national vice commander.

Report: National Vice Commander
Paul E. Dillard, Texas

Thank you, Mr. Commander, members of the NEC. I have one request, that our buddy Junior here gets up again, because you have to have a gong bell back there. *(Laughter)*

I'm just glad I didn't have to follow that, Junior. But good morning, all. I'm Paul Dillard. I'm from the Department of Texas. I served in the United States Navy during the Vietnam era in 1965 to '69. I was stationed aboard two different destroyers, the *USS Soroston* and the *USS Carpenter*. We made three West Pac deployments to the Far East operating in the Gulf of Tonkin off the coast of Vietnam. While there, we gave fire support to troops inland, trawler surveillance, inland medi-vacs, and Operation North Sea Dragon where we conducted H&I fire 24/7 off the coast of North Vietnam.

I've been a member of The American Legion for 37 years. My experience in that portion of The American Legion, I didn't know they had meeting at my post. I just thought it was a place you went and hung out. After about two years, someone came up to me, wanted me to go to a meeting next door. I said, "Meeting?" He said, "Yeah." I thought maybe it was an AA meeting. I wasn't sure. *(Laughter)* He finally talked me into going over there. Of course, when I went over there, they needed a sergeant-at-arms because that's what I was elected that night. It was election night. As I sat there that night and watched that meeting, old Charles up there was the post commander, and I said, "There's no way I'll ever do that." Same experience with my first district convention I went to later on that year. I said there's no way I'll be up there wearing that skunk cap. *(Laughter)* Those guys, they work, it was a job. They had to do something. Then, of course, when Lee Guy was the first department commander I'd ever meant, I went to his convention and I knew dang good and well I didn't want to get up and do that in front of all those people. Well, folks, look where I'm at today.

We had some great mentors in Texas, in my district, my post, and of course, our great friend Joe L. Matthews. During that 37 years I served most post offices and many post committees, and I served as district vice commander and district commander. At the department level I served on the Membership and Organization Commission for 14 years,

National Security Commission, Long-Range Planning Committee, and currently I served on the Board of Trustees. I served as department commander for Texas in 2007-2008, and Alternate National Executive Committeeman in 2011-2013. I never did carry my NECman's bags. *(Laughter)*

At national I served on the Distinguished Guests Committee, the Insurance Committee, and the Children and Youth Commission. But during this year, I will carry the national commander's message and represent the national organization to the best of my ability. While building for tomorrow, today, I will encourage growth and membership of each of my departments, while making myself available at any time to ensure we may reach our goals. In working with each department, we will review their five-year membership plan to make certain that they are on target. Once again, commander, look forward to this year. Thank you. *(Applause)*

RESOLUTION SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Commander, motion to receive and file a report of National Vice Commander Paul E. Dillard.

... Second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: We have a motion and second on the floor. Any discussion? All those in favor of the motion, signify by saying aye. Opposed. Motion carries. I now call on National Judge Advocate Phil B. Onderdonk for eligibility of national officers.

Eligibility of National Officers

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE ONDERDONK: Mr. Commander, members of the National Executive Committee, certification of officers. In accordance with the action of the 13th Annual National Convention of The American Legion held in Detroit, Michigan, September 21-24, 1931, a copy of the discharge from service, certified copy of same, or other satisfactory evidence of service record providing eligibility to membership in the American Legion has been submitted to the office of the National Adjutant by the following national officers: Daniel M. "Dan" Dellinger, National Commander, Virginia; Paul E. Dillard, National Vice Commander, Texas; Robert E. "Bob" Newman, National Vice Commander, Indiana; William A. "Bill" Rakestraw, Jr., National Vice Commander, New Jersey; Wayne D. Satrom, National Vice Commander, North Dakota; Douglas W. "Doug" Wooddell, National Vice Commander, Colorado; Dr. Daniel A. "Dan" McClure, National Chaplain, Iowa; Charemon Dunham, National Historian, South Dakota; Ronald A. "Ron" Miluszewski, National Sergeant-at-Arms, Virginia.

The above proofs have been examined by the National Judge Advocate and were certified to the eligibility of the above-named officers for membership in The American Legion. Proof of eligibility for other national officers has been submitted to the National Executive Committee on earlier occasions.

Signed, Daniel S. Wheeler, National Adjutant, attested, National Judge Advocate.

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: Thank you. Next we'll have a confirmation of interim appointments.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HEDRICK: Mr. Commander, may I address the national adjutant?

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: Yes.

RESOLUTION SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HEDRICK: Do you certify the list of interim appointments as a true and correct list?

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: I so certify.

RESOLUTION SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HEDRICK: Mr. Commander, without being read, I move that the list be approved. ... *Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: We have a motion on the floor and a second. Any discussion? Those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed. The motion carries.

Confirmation of Interim Appointments
National Executive Committee Meeting
October 16-17, 2013

Michael L. Montaney (Washington), Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission, 2013 General Member (For purpose of a call-in only.)

Glenn A. Hickman (Ohio), Commission on Children & Youth, 2015 General Member (For purpose of a call-in only.)

George C. Lussier, Jr. (Virginia), Commission on Children & Youth, 2015 General Member (For purpose of a call-in only.)

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: Next, confirmation and cancellation of post and/or squadron charters.

RESOLUTION SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HEDRICK: Mr. Commander, may I again address the national adjutant?

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: Yes.

RESOLUTION SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HEDRICK: I may also tell you this list is on your desk. We used to not do that, but you do have the list now. Mr. Adjutant, will you certify the list of cancellation of post and squadron charters is a true and correct list?

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: I so certify.

RESOLUTION SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HEDRICK: Mr. Commander, I move the list be approved without being read. ... *Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: We have a motion and second on the floor. Any discussion? All those in favor of the motion, signify by saying aye. Opposed. The motion carries.

Confirmation of Cancellation of Post and/or Squadron Charters

On August 26, 2013, at National Convention in Houston, Texas the National Executive Committee approved the cancellation of forty-nine (49) posts. The research done on each post prior to any recommendation made as an attempt to see whether these posts could be revitalized is based on the following criteria:

Community Size
Veteran Population

Twenty-three (23) posts have been submitted for cancellation consideration during the Fall NEC Meeting in Indianapolis, IN.

It is recommended the twenty-three (23) posts listed below be approved for cancellation:

Department	**Post #**	Name	**Location**
ARKANSAS	126	Monk-Hildersheim	Pine Bluff
	164	Spring River	Imboden
	177	Sam Merryman	Clinton

	201	Robert R. Greenwood-Arnold D. Mahan	Hickory Ridge
	456	Earnest Tolbert	North Little Rock
	457	Floyd-Cowan	Kensett
CALIFORNIA	883	Wounded Warriors (merge with Riverside Post 79)	Riverside
	888	Chilelli Memorial	Covina
KANSAS	85	Onaga (merge with Havensville-Onaga Post 333)	Onaga
	110	Silvers-Caldwell	Arcadia
MARYLAND	20	Hamilton (merge with Rosedale Post 180)	Baltimore
MICHIGAN	343	General George Pomutz	Detroit
OREGON	128	Waldport-Alsea	Waldport
	154	Sauvies Island	Portland
PENNSYLVANIA	599	Argonne (merge with Continental Post 263)	Nicetown, Philadelphia
	939	Versailles Boro (merge with General Smedley D. Butler Post 701)	Versailles Boro
SOUTH CAROLINA	55	Columbia	Columbia
TENNESSEE	161	Halls (merge with Ripley Post 86)	Halls
	224	Lynnville (merge with Pulaski Post 60)	Lynnville
TEXAS	286	Sugar Land	Sugar Land
	508	Jacquez-Estes	Van Horn
	608	Northwest San Antonio	San Antonio
	631	Matagorda	Matagorda

SAL Charters of The American Legion Presented to the National Executive Committee for Cancellation At The October 17, 2013 Meeting

On August 26, 2013 at National Convention in Houston, Texas the National Executive Committee approved the cancellation of ten (10) Squadrons.

Three (3) Squadrons have been submitted for cancellation consideration during the Fall NEC Meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana.

It is recommended that the following three (3) Squadrons be cancelled:

Department	Sqdn #	Name	Location
CALIFORNIA	888	Chilelli Memorial	Covina
MARYLAND	20	Hamilton (merge with Rosedale Sqdn 180)	Baltimore
PENNSYLVANIA	939	Versailles Boro (merge with General Smedley D. Butler Sqdn 701)	Versailles Boro

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: Next will be confirmation of dates of future meetings.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HEDRICK: May I again address the national adjutant?

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: Yes.

RESOLUTION SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HEDRICK: Mr. Adjutant, do we have any new dates to approve?

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: No, sir.

Confirmation of Dates for Future Meetings

2014 Washington Conference	March 23-26
2014 Spring Meetings	
Commissions and Committees	May 5-6
National Executive Committee	May 7-8
2014 Fall Meetings	
Commissions and Committees	October 13-14
Commanders and Adjutants Conference	October 13-14
National Executive Committee	October 15-16
2015 Washington Conference	February 22-25
2015 Spring Meetings	
Commissions and Committees	May 4-5
National Executive Committee	May 6-7
2015 Fall Meetings	
Commissions and Committees	October 12-13
Commanders and Adjutants Conference	October 12-13
National Executive Committee	October 14-15
2016 Washington Conference	February 21-24
2016 Spring Meetings	
Commissions and Committees	May 2-3
National Executive Committee	May 4-5
2016 Fall Meetings	
Commissions and Committees	October 10-11
Commanders and Adjutants Conference	October 10-11
National Executive Committee	October 12-13
2017 Washington Conference	February 26-March 1
2017 Spring Meetings	
Commissions and Committees	May 8-9

National Executive Committee	May 10-11
2017 Fall Meetings	
Commissions and Committees	October 9-10
Commanders and Adjutants Conference	October 9-10
National Executive Committee	October 11-12
2018 Washington Conference	February 25-28
2018 Spring Meetings	
Commissions and Committees	May 7-8
National Executive Committee	May 9-10
2018 Fall Meetings	
Commissions and Committees	October 15-16
Commanders and Adjutants Conference	October 15-16
National Executive Committee	October 17-18
2019 Washington Conference	February 24-27
2019 Spring Meetings	
Commissions and Committees	May 6-7
National Executive Committee	May 8-9
2019 Fall Meetings	
Commissions and Committees	October 14-15
Commanders and Adjutants Conference	October 14-15
National Executive Committee	October 16-17

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: Significant gifts to the library.

RESOLUTION SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HEDRICK: Again, may I address the national adjutant?

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: Yes.

RESOLUTION SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HEDRICK: Mr. Adjutant, do you certify the list of significant gifts to the library as a true and correct list of donations?

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: I so certify.

RESOLUTION SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HEDRICK: Mr. Commander, I move the list be approved without being read. ... *Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: We have a motion and second on the floor. Any discussion? All those in favor of the motion, signify by saying aye. Opposed. The motion carries.

Significant Gifts to the National Headquarters Library

Donated by Gordon L. Ewell, author: "*Gordy-isms"* and *A Lifetime at War*

Donated by Duane E. Hodgin, author: *WWII: Duty, Honor, Country – The Memories of Those Who Were There*

Donated by Barbara Cahoon, author: *History of Orleans Post #308 1932 – 2012* (Orleans, Massachusetts)

Donated by Mr. Robert A. Ireland, First Vice Commander Post 174, Willits, California: December 19, 1924 issue of *The American Legion Weekly*

Donated by Mr. Joseph A. Regina, Second Vice Commander, Post 1634, West Babylon, New York: Book on *Veteran's Day* compiled by the 10 grade class at West Babylon High School

Donated by Thomas P. Jones: *89th Division Summary of Operations in the World War*, 1944 and *The Story of the Second A.E.F.*, 1927

The following books were donated by The National Association of Department Historians of The American Legion (NADHAL): *Big Week: Six Days that Changed the*

Course of World War II by Bill Yenne; *Blackhorse Riders* by Phillip A. Keith; *Churchill and Sea Power* by Christopher Bell; *Cold Days in Hell* by William C. Latham; *For Crew and Country* by John F. Wukovits; *The Hopkins Touch* by David L. Roll

Donated by Paul Norton: *The American Legion Weekly* – October 20, 1922

Donated by Henry J. Frank: 1956 and 1959 Manual of Ceremonies; Post Handbook, twenty-fifth edition

Donated by Robert L. Morrill (NY): *Lafayette In America During and After the Revolutionary War; New York State: The Battleground of the Revolutionary War and FDR: The Other Side of the Coin*, all written by Past National Commander Hamilton Fish.

Significant Gifts to the National Headquarters Museum

Donated by Mr. Frank Drezek: Letter written by Theodore Roosevelt, Jr. dated August 5, 1920 to Mr. J. C. Neil

Donated by Rebecca J. Rogers: Five American Radio Relay League postcards dated 1927

Donated by Joseph R. Eastburn: Signal flag kit, ammunition belt, olive shirt and uniform jacket and trousers all from WWI

Donated by Peter Halferty: First Day of Issue cancelled envelopes with stamps, dated 1969-1970 – American Legion stamps; POW/MIA stamp; Disabled American Veterans stamp

Donated by Betty J. Otto-Kretzer: Materials related to the activities of Page T. Otto in The American Legion and Antietam Post No. 236 in Sharpsburg, Maryland. Donation cover several years and include pins, medals, paper documents, programs, etc.

Donated by Henry Legare, Jr.: Photograph of Annie Maxwell Curtin in her American Legion uniform, circa 1930

Donated by Brenda H. Smith: 1930's American Legion Uniform

Donated by Shannon Wells: American Legion School Award Medal

Donated by James Rorabaugh: Membership card and receipt – Louise Elizabeth LeClair who served in WWI with the American Expeditionary Force

Donated by Thomas P. Jones: The American Legion National Convention scrapbook with post cards, 1927

Donated by Allison Rogers Haft: Five American Legion membership pins; two Masonic pins; one National Service Military Training Camps Association pin; and three unidentified pins

Donated by Margaret A. Sells: Sons of The American Legion medal; photograph of Donald Reed; and 1939 Department of Ohio Convention medal

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: Next I call on Richard W. Anderson, Connecticut, chairman, for the report of the Subcommittee on Committees.

Report: Subcommittee on Committees
Richard W. Anderson, Connecticut, Chairman

Good morning, everyone. National Commander Dellinger, national officers, my colleagues, and guests that are present with us this morning. Before I make this report I would once again like to address the importance of filling out your department forms in their entirety and submitting them prior to the deadline issue.

Yesterday we had a meeting in this room for some briefings on the future appointment lists that are going to be made, some guidelines and some recommendations

were given at that time. Those guidelines and recommendations will be mailed out to you next year when the appointment forms come to your departments.

You have followed these instructions in recent years, and this year we had only one department that did not meet this deadline. The future, of course, of The American Legion lies in your hands, for you have the responsibility of recommending the most qualified members from your department to serve on our commissions, committees, and councils. We stress this especially on the qualifications of a particular member who will serve in the capacity you recommended. It is also imperative that those individuals you appoint understand and are committed to the aims and purposes of The American Legion. Also, it is important that when your members from your respective departments who are listed to serve are deceased, that you notify the national adjutant's office immediately so the changes can properly be addressed and appropriate people notified.

You will notice in the form before you today that there are some minor mistakes that will be corrected in the very near future before your permanent books are mailed out to you, so you'll have to excuse myself and our committee and those responsible for that minor oversight.

This committee reviewed over 1,500 recommendations over the past two days, so you can understand the importance of submitting them by the deadline issued to give the national commander's executive assistant proper time to prepare your folders for this committee's review. I thank you for your support in this matter.

Commander Dellinger, thank you for the privilege of serving as chairman of this subcommittee and for the qualified people that you have assigned to serve with me. I am pleased to present to you the following members from the Subcommittee on Committees who have assisted me this week, and would they please stand and be recognized as I introduce them. Your vice chairman, Paul Evenson, from the Department of South Dakota; Randolph Coffman, Department of Kentucky; Charlie Aucoin, Department of Louisiana; Jerry Landkamer, Department of Nebraska; and Daniel McCole, Department of New Jersey. Thank you, gentlemen. *(Applause)* If I give a quiz after this report, I don't believe anybody's going to pass. We're all reading that report. *(Laughter)*

Commander, your committee met at National Headquarters on Sunday, October 13, and were in session all day Monday and Tuesday. We held interviews with 55 departments and received their recommendations. On behalf of all the members of the subcommittee, I want to commend the National Executive Committeemen, department commanders and department adjutants for the courteous presentation of the recommendations. Upon completion of the interviews, the report was prepared in rough draft and submitted to the national commander's office for final approval. This report in its final form is now on your desk with the exception of some minor corrections.

We commend the staff on its excellent work in the preparation of this report, and especially National Commander's Assistant Debbie Andrews for her patience and dedication throughout our deliberations. As you all realize, we have reconstructed the outline of authorization over the past 18 months. The purpose of that, of course, is to rebuild The American Legion and face the future that is ahead of us with some new challenges. I also commend the members of my subcommittee for their hard work and thank you, Mr. Commander, for all those who helped in the selection of these appointments.

With the list on your desk, you have the opportunity to look it over. I recommend that we do not take time to read it aloud. Therefore, I move that this report be approved with the exception of what minor corrections may be required, and that the national commander be given authority to make any interim appointments as deemed necessary. Mr. Commander, that completes my report.

RESOLUTION SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Second to the motion.

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: We have a motion and a second on the floor to approve the report. Any discussion? All those in favor of the motion, signify by saying aye. Opposed. The motion carries. Thank you very much for your hard work.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: May I take a point of personal privilege at this time? I'd appreciate it.

The letter that was written to my department and to the national organization: To the Department of Connecticut, with a copy to National Commander Dellinger.

"Please accept this letter of resignation to the office of National Executive Committeeman for the Department of Connecticut effective October 17, 2013 at 9:22.

"The journey of 27 years in this office has been truly rewarded with the experiences and friendships made. Thank you to the members, officers, and staff of my department for your support and faith in me to be your voice at the desk of the National Executive Committee.

"National Commander Dellinger and all other officers and staff and those responsible, thank you for your assistance and guidance throughout the years. I have served our country's veterans and their families with dignity and respect that this organization represents to the best of my ability.

"My desk at the National Executive Committee room will soon be occupied by D. Joseph Jackson, your alternate NEC and close confidant to me. I could not have served with a more dedicated and loyal person.

"Joe, thank you and Joanne for your many years of friendship and fond memories. I wish you well in your continued service to The American Legion.

"To all, thank you again for all you do, all you represent, and the memories I will always cherish."

In closing, I want to especially thank my wife, Bonnie, and my wonderful family, for supporting and allowing me to make this journey possible. Joe, will you come forward. Ladies and gentlemen, I want to introduce to you the new National Executive Committeeman representing the Department of Connecticut, my colleague, your colleague. Sir, congratulations, and I wish you well. *(Standing ovation)*

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN JACKSON (CT): A tough set of shoes to fill, I will tell you that.

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: Thank you for all your hard work. The Chair recognizes Past National Commander Jake Comer.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Comrade Commander, as stated, our colleague Dick Anderson served 27 years and a few short months as the Dean of the National Executive Committee. From the New England Caucus, those are us in the New England states were always proud of Dick. He represented us so well on the procedures committee, and committee on committees, what he had to go through each and every year having the NECmen come through him to establish the appointments in the book.

I personally for the record want to express my gratitude and great appreciation for an outstanding National Executive Committeeman. Even though he is leaving the NEC, I believe if you look at the book you'll see he's going to start a new journey as our National Americanism Chairman. Dick, thank you very much for all your service. *(Applause)*

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: I now call on Jerry L. Hedrick, North Carolina, Chairman, final report of Resolutions Subcommittee.

Final Report of the Subcommittee on Resolutions
Jerry L. Hedrick, North Carolina, Chairman

Thank you, Mr. Commander. I have three resolutions that we need to be brought before you that we have acted on originating from the Subcommittee on Resolutions. Before I do that, I would like to just take a moment to say what my comrade, Jake Comer, just said.

Rich, it's been a great friendship with you, and I know that you're stepping down as the NECman, but, as Jake said, you're not going away, you're just assuming another journey. I didn't realize that when I came to this body 20-some years ago and Bill Christoffersen sat up here and I said, "Well, I'll never see the senior NEC job because Bill's going to be here for a lifetime." Well, he retired. Rich assumed the job, was in it only about six months or less, and now, who believes in 20 years that I would become the senior NECman. Rich, I appreciate your friendship and I look for future things with you. God bless you and your family.

Resolution No. 1: Liaison Committees
Origin: Subcommittee on Resolutions
Submitted by: Subcommittee on Resolutions

WHEREAS, Pursuant to the resolution adopted by the National Executive Committee at its meeting held November 18-20, 1948, Liaison Committees appointed from the personnel of the National Executive Committee were created to serve with the various standing commissions in order to establish the closest relationship between such commissions and the National Executive Committee; and

WHEREAS, Although said procedure has proved its value, it is believed that such liaison can be effectively continued by the appointment, without duplication, of such members from the National Executive Committee to serve as a liaison with each of said commissions; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 16-17, 2013, That the National Commander each year appoint, without duplication, members from the National Executive Committee to serve as a liaison with the following standing commissions: Americanism Commission, Convention Commission, Finance Commission, Internal Affairs Commission, Legislative Commission, Media & Communications Commission, National Security Commission, Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission, Veterans Employment & Education Commission; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That such appointments shall be made annually at the fall meeting of the National Executive Committee, and the appointees shall serve until adjournment of the fall meeting held during the following year, provided that in the event of the termination of membership on the National Executive Committee of any member so appointed, such appointment shall automatically terminate, and the vacancy shall be filled by the National Commander then in office, from membership of the National Executive Committee; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That all prior resolutions in conflict herewith be and they are hereby revoked.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HEDRICK: This has approval of your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I so move for its approval. ... *Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: We have a motion and second on the floor. Is there any discussion? All those in favor of the motion, signify by saying aye. Opposed. Motion carries.

Resolution No. 29: Uniform Code of Procedure for the Organization of National Conventions of The American Legion
Origin: Subcommittee on Resolutions
Submitted by: Subcommittee on Resolutions
(As amended)

WHEREAS, The National Executive Committee is empowered under Article V, Section 6 of the National Constitution to "provide a Uniform Code of Procedure for the orderly organization and operation of National Conventions"; and

WHEREAS, Recent changes to the standing commissions and committees call for similar changes to the *Uniform Code of Procedure for the Organization of National Conventions of The American Legion*; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 16-17, 2013, That the Uniform Code of Procedure for the Organization of National Conventions of The American Legion be amended in accordance with the attached Exhibit A; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the amended Uniform Code take effect with the 96th National Convention to be held August 26, 27, 28, 2014.

EXHIBIT A

Uniform Code of Procedure for The Organization of National Conventions
Of The American Legion
Authorized by Article V. Section 6, National Constitution
Approved by 38th National Convention, Los Angeles, California – Sept. 3-6, 1956
Approved by National Executive Committee, October 18, 1956
Revised October 16-17, 2013

Uniform Code of Procedure
Approved by Nat'l Conv., Sept. 3-6, 1956
Approved by N.E.C., Oct. 18, 1956
Amended as follows:
N.E.C. – Apr. 30-May 1, 1958
Natl. Conv. – Sept. 1-4, 1958
N.E.C. - Apr. – 29-30, May 1, 1959
N.E.C. – Oct. 30-Nov. 1, 1962
N.E.C. – May 1-2, 1963
N.E.C. – Apr. 30-May 1, 1964
N.E.C. – May 5-6, 1965
N.E.C. – Oct. 12-13, 1966
N.E.C. – Oct. 8-9, 1969
N.E.C. – Oct. 21-22, 1970
N.E.C. – May 2-3, 1973
N.E.C. – May 1-2, 1974
Nat'l. Conv. – Aug. 22-24, 1978
N.E.C. – Oct. 12-13, 1988
N.E.C. – Oct.8-9, 2003
N.E.C. – May 7-8, 2008
N.E.C. – Oct. 16-17, 2013

CONTENTS
CALL OF NATIONAL CONVENTION
CONVENTION PROGRAM
OFFICIALS OF THE CONVENTION
PRELIMINARY ORGANIZATION OF THE NATIONAL CONVENTION
CONVENTION COMMITTEES
DEPARTMENT DELEGATIONS, ORGANIZATION OF
DUTIES OF STANDING CONVENTION COMMITTEES
Americanism
Constitutional Amendments
Credentials & Rules
Finance
Internal Affairs
Legislation
National Security
Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation
Veterans Employment and Education
CONVENTION COMMITTEE PROCEDURES
ORGANIZATION OF THE NATIONAL CONVENTION
STANDING RULES OF THE CONVENTION
RESOLUTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE CONVENTION
AMENDMENTS TO THE UNIFORM CODE OF PROCEDURE
CONFLICTING RULES RESCINDED

THE AMERICAN LEGION UNIFORM CODE OF PROCEDURE FOR THE ORGANIZATION OF NATIONAL CONVENTIONS

CALL FOR NATIONAL CONVENTION

I. Not less than thirty days prior to the date of assembly of the National Convention as fixed by the National Executive Committee (Article V. National Constitution) the National Adjutant shall issue an Official Call for the National Convention. The Official Call for the National Convention shall be served upon all Departments of The American Legion through the Department Adjutants addressed to the official address of such Department Headquarters as of record at National Headquarters.

The National Adjutant shall be authorized to issue copies of the Official Call to all other National Officers, Members of the National Executive Committee and other proper functionaries of the National Organization, Officers, and functionaries of all Departments, and to other proper persons and organizations having an interest or responsibility in connection with the National Convention – addressed to such persons or organizations at an address of record at National Headquarters.

II. The Official Call for the National Convention shall contain within its context or in proper annexes, or supplements affixed to the Call, the following information and instructions:

a. The time and place of the assembly of the National Convention.

b. The purpose of the National Convention including statement of the business to be transacted.

c. Official announcement of the time and place for the election of National Officers.

d. The composition of the National Convention in terms of authorized delegates and other persons entitled to official status as members of the National Convention as provided in the National Constitution and By-laws. Such statement shall also include instructions for issuance of official credentials, the time and place for filing the same and other pertinent and proper procedural detail.

e. The composition of the National Convention in terms of authorized Convention Committees and specifications of their assigned tasks and shall include the official

number of members of such committees, the manner of appointment of the same, the time and place in the convention city of the initial meetings and manner of organization of such committees, and the procedure for official validation of membership on such committees.

f. Such other official and pertinent information and instruction as shall properly apply to the orderly and efficient organization and operation of the National Convention.

CONVENTION PROGRAM

I. Except as may be provided otherwise herein or as directed by the National Executive Committee, the establishment and arrangement of the Program of Proceedings of the National Convention shall be the duty and prerogative of the National Commander.

He is empowered to invite proper guests to the Convention on behalf of The American Legion, extend the privilege of addressing the Convention to appropriate speakers, establish the Order of Business of the Convention and to order and arrange incidental ceremonies consistent with and properly a part of the Convention.

II. In establishing the Order of Business the National Commander shall restrict the schedule of Guest Speakers for the final session of the Convention and shall not schedule any such speakers later than 11:30 a.m. (standard time of the Convention City), of that session.

The election of National Officers and the ceremony of Installation shall be arranged and scheduled as a special order of business for Twelve o'clock (noon) of the final session or at the conclusion of all other business of the National Convention, whichever first occurs.

III. The National Commander shall be authorized and empowered to assign specific tasks to National Officers or to appoint such members of The American Legion to perform tasks as may to him appear necessary in the conduct of the National Convention.

IV. The National Commander shall publish in the Official Convention Program the Order of Business and events established by him including a time schedule for the same and shall cause such Order of Business to prevail except as properly altered by him for cause or set aside by the will of the Convention upon proper motion in accordance with the standing of special rules of the Convention as hereinafter provided.

OFFICIALS OF THE CONVENTION

I. The Presiding Officer of the National Convention shall be the National Commander of The American Legion. He shall have power and authority to yield the Chair from time to time to a National Vice Commander of The American Legion for the conduct of official business of the Convention.

He may yield the Chair to a Past National Commander of The American Legion or to any other delegate of the National Convention for ceremonial purposes. In either instance due note thereof shall be included in the Minutes of Proceedings.

In the event that the National Commander is not available to preside over the National Convention, the National Executive Committee shall be convened immediately by open call in the place of assembly of the Convention by the National Adjutant as contemplated in Article II, Section 3, of the National By-laws.

II. The National Adjutant shall be the Secretary of the National Convention. He may yield this office from time to time to any assistant during the Convention by and with the consent of the National Commander or other Presiding Officer then in the chair.

III. The National Judge Advocate shall be Parliamentarian of the National Convention. The National Commander may appoint one or more Assistant Parliamentarians. Such Parliamentarians shall be members of The American Legion.

IV. The National Commander shall appoint a Sergeant-at-Arms and such Assistant Sergeants-at-Arms of the National Convention as to him may be necessary in conducting the proceedings and maintaining order in the National Convention. Sergeant-at-Arms shall be solely responsible to the National Commander or the Presiding Officer in the Chair.

V. The National Commander shall be empowered and authorized to designate the Official Color Guard of the Convention, the Official Musical Organization, and such other

functionaries as may be necessary to the proper conduct of proceedings and ceremonials as may be scheduled or directed by him.

PRELIMINARY ORGANIZATION OF THE NATIONAL CONVENTION

I. Delegates to a National Convention shall be accredited in writing to the National Adjutant in the number and manner prescribed by Article V, National Constitution. The rights of Departments to make and accredit substitutions for absentee delegates or alternate delegates shall be recognized by the National Adjutant, provided that such substitution shall be officially certified by the Department Commander and Department Adjutant at the time of the certification required by the National Constitution or at any time prior to adjournment of the first session of the National Convention.

II. The National Adjutant, within the limits of the National Constitution, is authorized to design and circulate such proper forms as may be required to record and certify the accreditation of delegates and alternate delegates. He is further authorized to establish such reasonable and proper administrative rules as may be necessary in assembling the official list of delegates and alternates accredited and entitled to be seated in the National Convention. All such forms or other administrative requirements shall be certified officially by the Department Commander and Department Adjutant at the times specified by the National Constitution, or the National Adjutant. Disputes concerning the accreditation of delegates and alternate delegates shall be referred to the Credentials & Rules Committee.

CONVENTION COMMITTEES

I. The following Convention Committees shall be established:

1. Americanism .....1 delegate per Dept.
    - Children & Youth .....1 delegate per Dept.
2. Constitutional Amendments .....1 delegate per Dept.
3. Credentials & Rules.....1 delegate per Dept.
4. Finance .....1 delegate per Dept.
5. Internal Affairs
    - Membership .....1 delegate per Dept.
    - Other Internal Matters .....1 delegate per Dept.
6. Legislation.....1 delegate per Dept.
7. National Security
    - Aerospace .....1 delegate per Dept.
    - Conventional Armed Forces .....1 delegate per Dept.
    - Foreign Relations.....1 delegate per Dept.
    - Law and Order & Homeland Security.....1 delegate per Dept.
    - Military Benefits & Quality of Life .....1 delegate per Dept.
    - National Guard & Reserve Forces .....1 delegate per Dept.
    - Unconventional Forces & Intelligence.....1 delegate per Dept.
8. Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation
    - Health Administration .....1 delegate per Dept.
    - National Cemetery .....1 delegate per Dept.
    - Veterans Benefits.....1 delegate per Dept.
9. Veterans Employment & Education
    - Employment & Veterans Preference.....1 delegate per Dept.
    - Veterans Education, Other Benefits & Homelessness1 delegate per Dept.

II. The National Commander or the National Executive Committee may from time to time establish Special Convention Committees for specific purposes. Such Special Committees shall serve only during the Convention for which they are appointed.

III. The National Convention may cause the creation and appointment of Special Committees upon proper motions adopted.

IV. Convention Committees shall be called for organization by the National Convention in the Convention City at a time and place to be designated.

V. Each Department shall designate delegates or alternates for service on each Convention Committee and shall file with the National Adjutant a list of such designees at least two weeks prior to the opening session of the Convention. Each Department shall notify their designees of their appointment to Committees by mail stating the time and place in the Convention City of the initial meetings of these Committees.

VI. For each Convention Committee one Liaison Representative from National Organization personnel shall be assigned as Temporary Chairman by the National Commander. Such Temporary Chairman shall at the appointed time and place, call the Committee to order, call the roll of authorized members, and proceed to the election from among members of the Committee of a Convention Committee Chairman and Secretary.

VII. Representation from a majority of the Departments shall constitute a quorum. Failing to establish an initial quorum the Committee shall adjourn to a later time for permanent organization.

VIII. Departments shall have the right of substitution of Committee members provided proper credentials are filed with the Temporary Chairman or, later, with the Convention Committee Secretary.

IX. The Temporary Chairman shall file, promptly, a report with the National Adjutant stating the name and Department of the Convention Committee Chairman and Secretary with their Convention City addresses, and a list of the Committee members responding to the initial roll call.

X. Committee shall proceed to business promptly under such internal organization as the Committee shall decide and under such rules of order as it shall establish.

Committees, upon their own motion, may seat as ex-officio members with voice but no vote, members of related Standing National Commissions who are not otherwise designated by their Departments.

XI. Committees should endeavor to complete their tasks and compose their final report at least twenty-four hours in advance of their scheduled report to the National Convention, provided all final policy forming Committee reports to be presented to the Convention shall be approved by such Committees in meetings held after the National Convention is formally convened or, at the option of the Committee, may authorize the Chairman and Secretary of the Committee by majority vote to sign and deliver the report on the Committee's behalf. Such final reports shall be filed with the office of the National Adjutant as promptly as possible after Committee adoption. Responsibility for assuring that reports of their Committee are made available to their Departments shall rest with Committee members.

XII. A Committee report shall be prepared in that form best presenting the Committee's recommendations. Particular attention shall be given to reporting the disposition of resolutions referred to the Committee. The work of Committees, however, shall not be confined solely to resolutions referred to them, but may extend to action upon any proper subject within their scope and the Committees may make comment and observation in their report upon subjects of policy and operations.

XIII. Reports of Committees establishing pronouncement of American Legion policy or calling for legislative or other action, shall be supported by specific resolution.

XIV. Committee reports in narrative form are acceptable if supported by resolutions on specific points of policy and are completely documented as to the source of material used in preparation with particular references to resolutions assigned to the Committees and showing their disposition.

XV. A delegate desiring to appear and be heard on a subject before a Convention Committee shall apply to the Committee Chairman or Secretary.

DUTIES OF CONVENTION COMMITTEES

1. Americanism

To formulate and recommend matters of American Legion policy to the Convention, including plans and programs respecting an understanding and appreciation of the Government of the United States, its Constitution and other historic political pronouncements as well as the duties and responsibilities of citizenship thereunder with reference to, but not limited to, matters pertaining to patriotic devotion to the United States, assimilation of aliens as United States citizens, education and educational facilities, providing protection, care and improved conditions for all children and youth, development of patriotic youth activities and other matters such as religious emphasis consistent with the aims and purposes of The American Legion in the cultivation of loyalty to the United States as expressed in the Preamble to The American Legion Constitution.

2. Constitutional Amendments

To study and make recommendations to the National Convention concerning all matters pertaining to proposed changes in the Constitution and By-laws of The American Legion. Any proposed amendment to the Constitution and Bylaws of The American Legion shall first receive an affirmative vote of the Convention Committee on Constitutional Amendments of at least two-thirds of the votes cast by that Committee, in order for that Committee to adopt any such proposed Constitutional Amendment.

3. Credentials & Rules

To receive from the National Adjutant a statement of the number of delegates to which the several Departments are entitled under the Constitution, to verify and recommend approval of the same, including adjustment of disputes thereon and to report to the National Convention at its first session.

To consider and devise special rules of order for the National Convention not provided for in the Standing Rules of Order as may be required or directed by the Convention for the purpose of processing issues or the special business of the Convention. Such special rules shall apply only to the Convention for which they were adopted.

4. Finance

To formulate and recommend matters of policy of the Convention concerning the financial affairs of The American Legion, including reception of the reports of the National Treasurer and the National Finance Commission, and the fixing of annual dues of the National Organization.

5. Internal Affairs

To formulate and recommend matters of policy to the Convention, including plans respecting promotion of American Legion membership and all other phases of Internal Affairs of The American Legion.

6. Legislation

To formulate and recommend matters of American Legion policy to the Convention including plans and programs respecting Federal legislation including resolutions thereon not otherwise assigned to other Standing Committees of the Convention.

7. National Security

To formulate and recommend matters of American Legion policy to the Convention, including plans and programs respecting the National Security of the United States in the fields of Aerospace, Convention Armed Forces, Foreign Relations, Law and Order and Homeland Security, Military Benefits and Quality of Life, National Guard and Reserve Forces and Unconventional Forces and Intelligence and in training of the youth of the nation, to the end that the military, paramilitary and industrial potential of the United States shall be maintained.

8. Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

To formulate and recommend to the Convention policies in all phases of veterans affairs as they concern all veterans, including but not limited to plans and programs for their physical and mental rehabilitation, their entitlement to compensation and pension benefits, and the welfare and support of their dependents and survivors.

9. Veterans Employment & Education

To formulate and recommend matters of American Legion policy to the Convention, including plans and programs, respecting all phases of economic reestablishment of United States veterans as civilians with reference to, but not limited to, education and training, social and economic readjustment, employment in public and private service, veterans preference, veterans housing, homelessness, and other economic matters.

CONVENTION COMMITTEE PROCEDURES

All the Convention delegates assigned by their respective Departments to the committees will meet together on the first day they assembly and elect an overall Committee Chairman and Secretary. Thereafter, each Subcommittee will meet separately and organize by electing a Chairman and Secretary. Thereafter, each Subcommittee will consider and act upon all the resolutions referred to it. When the Chairmen of such separate Subcommittees have prepared their respective reports, they will submit them to the overall Chairman, who, with their cooperation, will consolidate the same, adding thereto his report on any other matters. The overall Chairman will then submit the consolidated report to the Convention for action.

ORGANIZATION OF DEPARTMENT CONVENTION DELEGATIONS

1. Department Delegations in the National Convention shall be organized according to the following:

a. Each Department Delegation shall select from among its delegates a Delegation Chairman and shall designate a Delegation Secretary. Notice of such selection and designation shall be submitted in writing to the National Adjutant not later than the opening session of the convention.

b. Should any Department Delegation fail to make such selection or designation the Department Commander and Department Adjutant shall be deemed to be the Delegation Chairman and Secretary respectively.

c. The Delegation Chairman shall preside over the Department Delegation caucuses, when convened in the National Convention. He shall be recognized by the Presiding Officer as the floor leader of the delegation and shall be responsible under the Convention Rules for polling and announcing the vote of the Delegation. He shall be the principal authority in identifying the official delegates and alternates of the Delegation on questions of the right of the floor and shall otherwise be responsible for the proper representation of the Department Delegation in the Convention.

d. The Delegation Secretary shall receive all formal notices or other official communications in the name of the Department Delegation. He shall perform such other duty in consonance with his office as may be required of him under the Rules of the Convention or as prescribed by the Delegation Caucus.

STANDING RULES OF CONVENTION

1. Robert's Rules of Order, Newly revised, shall be the authority on parliamentary procedure, with the following modifications:

2. A delegate desiring to make a motion or address the Convention, shall rise, address the Chair as "Mr. Commander" and state his name and the name of the Department before proceeding.

3. Debate shall be limited to five minutes for each speaker.

4. Debate on any one subject presented to the Convention shall be limited to two hours except under such special rule as the Convention shall adopt prior to debate.

5. But two delegates from any one Delegation shall be permitted the floor on any one question. Where disagreement exists within a Delegation, one delegate shall be permitted to speak on each side of the question. Upon a division of the question, however, this rule shall be applied separately for each division.

6. The floor shall be permitted but once to any individual delegate on any one question, except by a two-thirds vote of the Convention. Chairmen of Convention Committees may speak as frequently as may be necessary in connection with the reports of their committees.

The Presiding Officer shall not entertain any motion which will curtail further debate without affording the Committee Chairman an opportunity for rebuttal.

7. Decisions on Rules of Debate or parliamentary order by the Presiding Officer may be subject to appeal by any two delegates under a Point of Order. Such appeal shall take precedence over any pending questions and shall be decided forthwith. An appeal from the decision of the Chair shall be put to the Convention on the question: "Shall the Chair be sustained?"

8. When the poll of any Department Delegation is demanded by a delegate of such department, the Convention Secretary shall poll the vote without discussion of the question being voted upon.

9. On the Roll Calls, the Delegation Chairman shall poll his Delegation on the floor and announce its vote.

10. In the event a Delegation Secretary is not an accredited delegate or alternate, he shall be seated with his delegation.

11. Past National Commanders' votes shall be cast with their Delegations.

12. Only accredited delegates or their alternates, shall participate, directly or indirectly, in a viva voce vote on any subject before the Convention.

13. Department Delegations may arrive at a vote in such manner as they choose, but shall announce it in terms of full units and not in terms of a fractional part of a vote. The vote of any delegate absent and not represented by an alternate shall be cast by the majority of the delegates present from his Department.

14. There shall be no unit rule of voting.

15. Voting shall be by acclamation, except when a Roll Call is demanded by the Chairman of at least three Departments. Election of National Officers shall be by roll call.

16. In the event a Department has not provided the method by which alternates shall be designated to serve in the place of absent delegates, the Chairman of the Delegation shall make such designation.

17. Prior to the election of National Officers, the National Commander shall appoint subject to approval of the Convention a Judge of Election and such number of tellers as he deems necessary, provided that the total tellers so appointed shall be an odd number. In a contested election each candidate going to the ballot shall be entitled to one teller of his choice.

18. Nominations for National Officers shall be from the floor on Roll Call of the Departments alphabetically arranged. Each Department may present as many candidates as it chooses.

19. Nominating speeches for National Officers shall be limited to five minutes each. Not more than two seconding speeches shall be made for any candidate, and said speeches shall be limited to three minutes.

20. When more than two candidates are nominated for any office, balloting shall continue until one candidate receives a majority of the votes of the Convention, except in the election of National Vice Commanders.

21. In a contested election for National Vice Commanders, balloting shall continue until (a) majorities and (b) pluralities are established for one or more candidates under the following provisions:

If, on any ballot taken, less than five candidates receive the necessary majority to elect, the candidate or candidates receiving a majority vote shall be declared elected and a new ballot shall be taken for the remaining number of places to be filled. The candidate receiving the

lowest number of votes on the preceding ballot shall be disqualified; except should two candidates remain to fill one place, a new ballot shall be taken.

22. The Convention will nominate and elect a National Commander, and five National Vice Commanders, in this sequence.

23. At the conclusion of balloting on National Vice Commanders, each Department Delegation Chairman shall deliver a written ballot to the tellers. Such ballots shall be in the hands of the tellers before communication is made to the National Commander for announcement of the results.

24. Those recognized by the National Commander shall be entitled to a respectful hearing, and the Chair shall have the authority to clear the gallery or the floor or have the Sergeant-at-Arms escort from the Convention anyone creating a disturbance or interfering with orderly procedure.

25. None of the above rules shall be construed as preventing an alternate delegate from serving on a Convention committee.

26. The consent of two-thirds of the voting strength of the Convention is necessary for suspension of the standing rules of the Convention.

27. Any amendment to any resolution or report originating on the floor shall be presented in writing and transmitted to the Presiding Officer at the time of the introduction of such amendment.

28. Special rules applying to specific issues or order of business, shall be written and presented to the Convention by the Credentials & Rules Committee for adoption by majority vote at least one hour before such issue, or order, is to be considered unless such rule is agreed to by unanimous consent of the final session.

Special rules shall prevail only in the Convention adopting them.

Any delegate may apply for a special rule to the Credentials & Rules Committee or may appeal to the Convention for such special rule provided the rule be presented in writing, be read once from the platform, and shall lay upon the table at least one hour before the vote thereon is taken.

RESOLUTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE CONVENTION

1. Resolutions shall be submitted upon a proper form and shall be numbered for identification as provided by the National Adjutant.

2. Resolutions shall be approved by a Department, the National Executive Committee, an Outlying Post not affiliated with a Department, or any standing or Special Committee of the Convention. Resolutions submitted in advance of the Convention by Departments, Outlying Posts, and the National Executive Committee shall be filed with the National Adjutant who shall refer them to the National Convention Resolutions Assignment Committee.

3. Resolutions emanating from a Department shall be forwarded to the National Adjutant in conformity with the provisions of Resolution No. 50 (NEC, May, 1965) - to be in his hands fourteen (14) days prior to the opening session of the National Convention. The only exception to this rule is in the case of a Department Convention held on a date that renders it physically impossible to comply with the restricted time limit.

4. Resolutions originating with and approved by a Convention Committee shall be received, assigned, and processed through the National Adjutant for record and assigned number.

5. The National Adjutant shall maintain a Convention Register of all Resolutions received, assigned, and processed which shall identify each Resolution by number, indicate the Committee to which the Resolution was referred, and the originating source.

6. In the disposition of resolutions considered, Convention Committees shall present them in the following manner: Approved, Approved as Amended, Consolidated, Referred, Received and Recorded, and Rejected. The term “Received and Recorded” shall be applied to resolutions which reiterate or reaffirm a present policy position of The American Legion. (Res. No. 6, NEC-Oct. 1966)

7. All Resolutions assigned to, or originating with Convention Committees, shall be identified in the Committee Reports to the Convention with a statement of Committee disposition.

AMENDEMENTS TO THE UNIFORM CODE OF PROCEDURE

This Uniform Code of Procedure may be amended:

1. By majority vote of the total authorized representation at a National Convention on a resolution properly before it, or

2. By action of the National Executive Committee.

CONFLICTING RULES RESCINDED

RESOLVED: By the National Executive Committee in regular session assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, October 17, 18, 19, 1956, that the Uniform Code of Procedure for the Organization of National Conventions of The American Legion authorized under the provisions of Article V, Section 6, of the National Constitution approved by the 38th National Convention and which is attached hereto and made part hereof is hereby adopted, and be it further

RESOLVED: That all rules and resolutions heretofore adopted by this National Executive Committee which may be in conflict with the provisions of this Code of Procedure are hereby rescinded.

Approved by the National Executive Committee, October 19, 1956. (Resolution No. 59)

Resolution amending Article V, Section 6, National Constitution, as approved by the 38th National Convention (1956, Resolution No. 95).

"RESOLVED: That the National Executive Committee shall provide a Uniform Code of Procedure for the orderly organization and operation of National Conventions, with continuing power of revision, and said Code shall be applicable at all National Conventions unless it is amended, suspended or repealed by a majority vote of the total authorized representation at a National Convention."

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HEDRICK: This has approval of your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I so move for its approval. ... *Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: We have a motion and a second on the floor. Any discussion? Past National Commander Morin.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER MORIN: Good morning, commander. I move to amend Resolution 29, page 5 of 10, Convention Committees. Item I, Item 1, Americanism. Thereafter adding dot, Committee on Children and Youth, one delegate per department.

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: We have an amendment to the motion. ... *Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: We have a second to the amendment. Any discussion on the amendment? All those in favor of the amendment, signify by saying aye. Opposed. Amendment carries. Any further discussion on the motion? Hearing none, all those in favor of the motion, signify by saying aye. Opposed. Motion carries.

Resolution No. 30: Rescinding of Non-Legislative Resolutions Related to Commissions and Committees

Origin: Subcommittee on Resolutions

Submitted by: Subcommittee on Resolutions

WHEREAS, The Centennial Task Force for the Future made recommendations regarding the reorganization of the commissions and committees of the national organization at the spring 2013 meeting of the National Executive Committee; and

WHEREAS, The new commissions and committees go into effect following the fall 2013 meeting of the National Executive Committee; and

WHEREAS, The Subcommittee on Resolutions has conducted an extensive review of resolutions related to commissions and committees; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 16-17, 2013, That the following resolutions be rescinded for being superseded by later resolutions.

No.	Year	Meeting	Title (Brief)	Reason
1	1919	Convention	Members Of Joint National Executive Committee Of Thirty-Four and Members Of National Executive Committee Of One Hundred Arising Out Of Paris Caucus and National Executive Committee Of One Hundred Arising Out Of St. Louis Caucus Be Seated With Delegations Of The States In Which They Reside But Shall Have No Vote Unless A Duly Chosen Member Of That State Delegation	Superceded
353	1920	Convention	Support To Division Of Rehabilitation	Superceded
223	1921	Convention	All Committees Of The Legion Heretofore Concerned With Different Phases Of The Problem Of The Disabled Soldier Be Abolished, And One Committee Be Charged With Responsibility In The Entire Field To Be Known As The Committee On Rehabilitation Of Veterans	Superceded
226	1923	Convention	English Speaking People - The British Empire Service League	Superceded
462	1923	Convention	National Rehabilitation Committee	Superceded
12	1923	Spring	Continue The Oriental Committee (Japanese Question)	Superceded
14	1923	Spring	Members Of The National Committees	Superceded
9	1923	Winter	Appointment Of Committee To Investigate Feasibility Of Stationing Buglers In Military Cemeteries Overseas	Superceded
193	1924	Convention	National Rehabilitation Committee	Superceded
3	1924	Spring	Committees For Memorials	Superceded
7	1924	Winter	Past National Commanders Of The American Legion Be Formed Into A Permanent Committee	Superceded
12	1924	Winter	Committee Appointed To Define The Meaning Of Gold Star Mothers	Superceded
506	1925	Convention	National Publicity Advisory Committee	Superceded
4	1925	Spring	Committee Of Five Be Appointed To Consider The Advisability Of Approving A Plan To Exhibit The Picture Of The Battle Of Gettysburg	Superceded
347	1926	Convention	Instructions To National Rehabilitation And Legislative Committee	Superceded
4	1927	Winter	Special Committee To Make A Careful Study Of Promoting Scholarships Under The Auspices Of The American Legion In American Colleges To Other Countries Associated With The United States In The World War	Superceded
10	1927	Winter	Create A Committee On National Defense	Superceded
500	1928	Convention	Organization And Duties Of The National Rehabilitation Committee Initiated In The Convention Rehabilitation Committee	Superceded
19	1928	Winter	American Legion Accident And Health Insurance Committee	Superceded
20	1929	Spring	Internal Organization, Committee Appointments, Survey And Report	Superceded

511	**1930**	**Convention**	**No Curtailment Of Service On National Rehabilitation Committee**	**Superceded**
521	**1930**	**Convention**	**Resolutions Assignment Committee**	**Superceded**
688	**1931**	**Convention**	**A Permanent Legion Committee On Veteran's Preference**	**Superceded**
1	**1931**	**Pre-Conv**	**Permanent 'Source Records' Commission**	**Superceded**
234	**1932**	**Convention**	**National Legion Commission For Aeronautics To Be Established**	**Superceded**
4	**1933**	**Pre-Conv**	**Gold Star Mothers Committee**	**Superceded**
89	**1935**	**Convention**	**Continue Committee To Study Disabilities Of Combat Troops**	**Superceded**
1	**1935**	**Fall**	**Creating "Legion Publishing Commission"**	**Superceded**
3	**1935**	**Fall**	**Creating An Advisory Board**	**Superceded**
6	**1935**	**Fall**	**Appreciation To New Mexico Commission**	**Superceded**
602	**1936**	**Convention**	**Legion Publishing And Publicity Commission**	**Superceded**
8	**1936**	**Fall**	**National Aeronautic Commission**	**Superceded**
9	**1936**	**Fall**	**Technical And Advisory Staff Of Child Welfare Committee**	**Superceded**
11	**1936**	**Fall**	**Committee On Investments Policy**	**Superceded**
3	**1936**	**Pre-Conv**	**Legion Publishing And Publicity Commission**	**Superceded**
181	**1937**	**Convention**	**Advisory Members Of National Committee Of Education Of War Orphans**	**Superceded**
4	**1937**	**Fall**	**National Convention Liaison Committee**	**Superceded**
5	**1937**	**Fall**	**National Committee On Transportation**	**Superceded**
6	**1937**	**Fall**	**Committee On Constitution And By-Laws**	**Superceded**
22	**1937**	**Spring**	**Committee On Investment Policy**	**Superceded**
7	**1938**	**Fall**	**National Committee On Organization Revision**	**Superceded**
8	**1938**	**Fall**	**National Committee On Transportation**	**Superceded**
18	**1938**	**Fall**	**Authorization Of A Uniform Code Of Procedure Committee**	**Superceded**
26	**1938**	**Fall**	**Executive Committee Of Veterans' Preference Committee**	**Superceded**
248	**1939**	**Convention**	**Fuller Use Of Medical Council Of Legion**	**Superceded**
636	**1939**	**Convention**	**Committee On Publications**	**Superceded**
1	**1939**	**Fall**	**Permanent Child Welfare Liaison Committee**	**Superceded**
2	**1939**	**Fall**	**Foreign Relations Committee**	**Superceded**
12	**1939**	**Fall**	**Appointment Of Special National Committee To Study Organization, Administration, Etc Of The Sons Of The American Legion**	**Superceded**
20	**1939**	**Fall**	**National Coordinating Committee**	**Superceded**
21	**1939**	**Fall**	**Additional Personnel Of Rehabilitation Committee**	**Superceded**
24	**1939**	**Fall**	**Creation Of A Standing Committee On Constitution And By-Laws**	**Superceded**
78	**1940**	**Convention**	**Continuance Of National Rehabilitation Committee At Present High Level**	**Superceded**
27	**1940**	**Fall**	**Committee Terms**	**Superceded**
32	**1940**	**Fall**	**National Legislative Committee**	**Superceded**
33	**1940**	**Fall**	**Foreign Relations Committee**	**Superceded**
24	**1941**	**Fall**	**National Highway Safety Committee**	**Superceded**
25	**1941**	**Fall**	**Dissolution Of Uniform Code Of Procedure Committee**	**Superceded**
26	**1941**	**Fall**	**Constitution And By-Laws Committee**	**Superceded**
27	**1941**	**Fall**	**Reorganization Of National Child Welfare Committee**	**Superceded**
35	**1941**	**Fall**	**Reorganization Of National Defense Committee**	**Superceded**
17	**1942**	**Fall**	**Appointment Of Certain Standing National Committees**	**Superceded**

270	**1943**	**Convention**	**Legion Committee To Survey National Cemeteries**	**Superceded**
339	**1943**	**Convention**	**National Labor Relations Committee**	**Superceded**
436	**1943**	**Convention**	**Increase Field Service Of National Rehabilitation Committee**	**Superceded**
583	**1943**	**Convention**	**Legion Committee To Study Discharge Methods**	**Superceded**
24	**1943**	**Fall**	**National Rehabilitation Executive Committee**	**Superceded**
25	**1943**	**Fall**	**Survey Of National Cemeteries**	**Superceded**
10	**1943**	**Spring**	**Creation Of National War History Commission**	**Superceded**
700	**1944**	**Convention**	**Commending Special Committee Of Service Officers To Study Resolutions And That Such Committee Should Be Appointed Annually**	**Superceded**
4	**1944**	**Fall**	**Committee To Amend Official Rules Of Order**	**Superceded**
11	**1944**	**Fall**	**Chairmanship Of Legion Publications Commission**	**Superceded**
12	**1944**	**Fall**	**Enlarge National Legislative Committee**	**Superceded**
39	**1944**	**Fall**	**Annual National Conference Of National Rehabilitation Committee**	**Superceded**
46	**1944**	**Fall**	**Creation Of National Retirement Committee**	**Superceded**
48	**1944**	**Fall**	**Advisory Committee On Legion Participation In Inter-American Good Will Promotion**	**Superceded**
62	**1944**	**Fall**	**Finance And Management Committee (Be Rescinded)**	**Superceded**
10	**1944**	**Pre-Conv**	**National Defense Division And National Defense Committee Be Charged With Special Duty Of Continued Vigilance Against All Movements A Negotiated Peace**	**Superceded**
42	**1944**	**Spring**	**Management Committee**	**Superceded**
47	**1944**	**Spring**	**Rehabilitation Resolutions At National Conventions**	**Superceded**
26	**1945**	**Fall**	**Increase Legislative Committee To 12 Members**	**Superceded**
32	**1945**	**Fall**	**National Committee On Agriculture**	**Superceded**
41	**1945**	**Spring**	**Gift To The Yanks Who Gave Program**	**Superceded**
106	**1945**	**Spring**	**Rehabilitation Coordinated Council**	**Superceded**
2	**1946**	**Pre-Conv**	**Status Of Aeronautics Commission**	**Superceded**
48	**1946**	**Spring**	**Change In Name Of Committee**	**Superceded**
96	**1946**	**Spring**	**Change Of Name Of The Highway Safety Committee**	**Superceded**
124	**1946**	**Spring**	**Change Of Name Of National Graves Registration Committee**	**Superceded**
846	**1947**	**Convention**	**Disaster Relief And Allied Functions Be Transferred From Americanism Commission To Civil Defense Committee**	**Superceded**
850	**1947**	**Convention**	**National Rehabilitation Committee Meet At Least Once A Year At National Expense**	**Superceded**
858	**1947**	**Convention**	**Resolutions Dealing With Legion Programs And Activities Shall Be Assigned To Internal Organization Committee**	**Superceded**
29	**1947**	**Fall**	**Creation Of Liaison Committees**	**Superceded**
88	**1947**	**Fall**	**Convention Committee Resolutions**	**Superceded**
6	**1948**	**Fall**	**Agricultural And Conservation Committee**	**Superceded**
35	**1948**	**Fall**	**Abolition Of Postwar America Committee**	**Superceded**
36	**1948**	**Fall**	**Liaison Committees**	**Superceded**
21	**1948**	**Spring**	**Name Of National Internal Organization Commission Changed To National Internal Affairs Commission**	**Superceded**
94	**1948**	**Spring**	**National Legion Publications Committee Given Status Of A Commission**	**Superceded**
95	**1948**	**Spring**	**Analysis Of Program Of All Commissions**	**Superceded**

26	**1949**	**Fall**	**Liaison Committees**	**Superceded**
27	**1949**	**Fall**	**Designation Of Executive Sections For All Commissions And Committees**	**Superceded**
44	**1950**	**Convention**	**Law And Order Committee Be Transferred To Security Commission**	**Superceded**
691	**1950**	**Convention**	**Revise Structure Of The National Security Commission**	**Superceded**
716	**1950**	**Convention**	**Consideration Of Standing And Convention Committees**	**Superceded**
1	**1950**	**Fall**	**Creation Of An Un-American Activities Committee**	**Superceded**
27	**1950**	**Fall**	**Reorganization Of Membership And Post Activities Committee**	**Superceded**
45	**1950**	**Fall**	**Law And Order Committee**	**Superceded**
84	**1951**	**Spring**	**Retirement Committee Increased**	**Superceded**
579	**1952**	**Convention**	**Joint Committee On Factual Information About Veterans Hospital And Medical Care**	**Superceded**
1	**1952**	**Pre-Conv**	**Appointments To Committee On Religious Emphasis**	**Superceded**
16	**1952**	**Spring**	**Permanent National Committee On Religious Emphasis**	**Superceded**
52	**1952**	**Spring**	**National Un-American Activities Committee**	**Superceded**
37	**1953**	**Spring**	**Representatives Of Legislative Commission Sit In With Convention Resolutions Assignment Committee**	**Superceded**
46	**1954**	**Fall**	**Annual Meeting Of The National Rehabilitation Commission And Its Insurance And Medical Advisory Boards**	**Superceded**
32	**1954**	**Spring**	**Counter-Subversive Activities Committee**	**Superceded**
52	**1954**	**Spring**	**Representative Of The American Legion On Civilian Industry Advisory Committee**	**Superceded**
10	**1956**	**Spring**	**Convention Committees Meet In Advance Of National Convention**	**Superceded**
45	**1957**	**Spring**	**All Matters Relating To The Social Security Program Shall Be Vested In The National Rehabilitation Commission**	**Superceded**
7	**1958**	**Fall**	**Change Title Of Aeronautics Committee Of The American Legion To Aeronautics And Space Committee**	**Superceded**
5	**1961**	**Fall**	**Appointment Of Vice-Chairmen Of National Commissions And Committees Of The American Legion**	**Superceded**
24	**1961**	**Fall**	**Change Name Of "Department And Post Membership Activities" Committee And Section To "Membership And Post Activities" Committee And Section**	**Superceded**
60	**1961**	**Spring**	**Rescinding The Authority To Have A Labor Relations Committee And Transfer Of Remaining Functions To National Economic Commission**	**Superceded**
61	**1961**	**Spring**	**Rescinding The Authority To Have An Agricultural And Conservation Committee And Transfer Of Remaining Function To National Economic Commission**	**Superceded**
62	**1961**	**Spring**	**Rescinding The Authority To Have A Transportation Committee And Transfer Of Remaining Functions To National Convention Commission**	**Superceded**
63	**1961**	**Spring**	**Transfer Sons Of The American Legion Program To Internal Affairs Commission**	**Superceded**

64	**1961**	**Spring**	**Assign Duties Of Accident Prevention Committee To National Americanism Commission**	**Superceded**
65	**1961**	**Spring**	**Assign Duties Of Boys State Committee To National Americanism Commission**	**Superceded**
66	**1961**	**Spring**	**Assign Duties Of Religious Emphasis Committee To National Americanism Commission**	**Superceded**
67	**1961**	**Spring**	**Assign Duties Of Marksmanship Committee To National Americanism Commission**	**Superceded**
68	**1961**	**Spring**	**Rescinding The Authority To Have The Insurance Advisory Board, Medical Advisory Board, And Vocational Training Board**	**Superceded**
69	**1961**	**Spring**	**Rescinding The Authority To Have The American Legion National Americanism Endowment Fund Trustees**	**Superceded**
70	**1961**	**Spring**	**Transfer Education And Scholarships Program To National Americanism Commission**	**Superceded**
2	**1962**	**Pre-Conv**	**National Commission And Committee Term Appointments**	**Superceded**
3	**1962**	**Pre-Conv**	**Creation Of The National Americanism Council Of The American Legion**	**Superceded**
4	**1962**	**Pre-Conv**	**Creation Of The National Security Council Of The American Legion**	**Superceded**
7	**1962**	**Spring**	**Authorize The National Rehabilitation Commission To Study The Effect Of Discontinuing One-Man V. A. Contact Offices On Service To V. A. Beneficiaries**	**Superceded**
60	**1962**	**Spring**	**Organizational Structure Of Commissions And Committees Of The American Legion**	**Superceded**
61	**1962**	**Spring**	**Membership Of Commissions And Committees Of The American Legion**	**Superceded**
62	**1962**	**Spring**	**Creation Of National Security Council And National Americanism Council Of The American Legion**	**Superceded**
5	**1963**	**Spring**	**Operation Of Internal Affairs Commission**	**Superceded**
6	**1963**	**Spring**	**Amendment Of Existing Practices To Assist Membership And Post Activities Committee In Achieving Purposes For Which It Was Created**	**Superceded**
47	**1963**	**Spring**	**National Convention Rehabilitation Resolutions Screening Committee**	**Superceded**
1	**1965**	**Fall**	**Rescind Authority For Inter-American Committee And Enlarge Membership Of The Foreign Relations Commission**	**Superceded**
49	**1967**	**Spring**	**Authorization To Dissolve The National Pilgrimage Committee Of The American Legion**	**Superceded**
10	**1968**	**Spring**	**Eliminate Investments Policy Committee And Transfer Duties To National Finance Commission**	**Superceded**
11	**1968**	**Spring**	**Eliminate Special Subcommittee On Uniform Code Of Military Justice And Court Of Military Appeals And Transfer Duties To National Security Commission**	**Superceded**
12	**1968**	**Spring**	**Eliminate Amateur Radio Network Committee And Transfer Duties To National Civil Defense Committee**	**Superceded**
13	**1968**	**Spring**	**Eliminate Housing Committee And Transfer Duties To National Economic Commission**	**Superceded**
1	**1969**	**Pre-Conv**	**Mississippi Hurricane Disaster**	**Superceded**
1	**1969**	**Special**	**Special Committee To Study Insurance Program**	**Superceded**

61	**1969**	**Spring**	**Appointment Of Boys State-Boys Nation Sub-Committee Within National Americanism Commission**	**Superceded**
52	**1970**	**Fall**	**Amend Statements Of Purpose Of Certain National Commissions And Committees**	**Superceded**
1	**1971**	**Fall**	**Revised Statement Of Purpose, Trophies, Awards And Ceremonials Committee**	**Superceded**
461	**1972**	**Convention**	**Authorize A Veterans Medical Care Advisory Committee**	**Superceded**
25	**1974**	**Fall**	**Dissolving Two Committees**	**Superceded**
275	**1975**	**Convention**	**Boy Scout Committee Be Changed To Scouting Committee**	**Superceded**
45	**1975**	**Spring**	**National Legislative Council**	**Superceded**
29	**1976**	**Fall**	**National 'Spirit Of '76' Committee Be Dissolved On December 31, 1976**	**Superceded**
519	**1977**	**Convention**	**Select Committee On Special Problems Of The Veterans Affairs And Rehabilitation Program**	**Superceded**
18	**1977**	**Spring**	**Amending Of Resolution No.45, National Executive Committee, April 30 - May 1,1975- National Legislative Council**	**Superceded**
25	**1978**	**Fall**	**Advisory Board To The National Public Relations Commission**	**Superceded**
5	**1979**	**Fall**	**National Convention Veterans Affairs, And Rehabilitation Screening Committee**	**Superceded**
38	**1979**	**Spring**	**Membership And Organization Of The National Veterans Affairs And Rehabilitation Commission**	**Superceded**
466	**1981**	**Convention**	**POW/MIA Committee Of The American Legion**	**Superceded**
29	**1982**	**Fall**	**Discharge The Select Committee On Special Problems Of The Veterans Affairs And Rehabilitation**	**Superceded**
601	**1984**	**Convention**	**Appointment Of A Committee To Study The Dates For Admission To Membership In The American Legion**	**Superceded**
36	**1984**	**Fall**	**Eliminate The Contests Supervisory Committee And Create A Special Contest Advisory Committee To Be Under The Jurisdiction Of The National Convention Commission**	**Superceded**
37	**1984**	**Fall**	**Study Committee On Program Resources**	**Superceded**
32	**1986**	**Spring**	**Establishment Of Committee For Preparation Of History Of The American Legion**	**Superceded**
38	**1988**	**Fall**	**Elimination Of Contest Advisory Committee**	**Superceded**
2	**1989**	**Fall**	**Dissolution Of Advisory Board To The Law And Order Committee**	**Superceded**
18	**1989**	**Fall**	**Establish A Subcommittee On Conservation Of Natural Resources**	**Superceded**
13	**1992**	**Fall**	**Change Name Of Life Insurance And Trust Committee**	**Superceded**
32	**1992**	**Fall**	**National Legislative Council**	**Superceded**
28	**1994**	**Fall**	**National Legislative Council**	**Superceded**
34	**1994**	**Fall**	**Discharge Of Special Committee To Formulate Plans For Observance Of 75th Anniversary Of The American Legion**	**Superceded**
1	**1995**	**Fall**	**Discharge Of The World War II Anniversary Committee**	**Superceded**
6	**1998**	**Spring**	**Change Of Name Of The American Legion Life Insurance And Trust Committee**	**Superceded**

2	**2003**	**Fall**	**Realign Responsibilities And Rename Certain Committees Assigned To The National Americanism Commission And Natural Security Commission Of The American Legion**	**Superceded**
2	**2005**	**Pre-Conv**	**Membership And Organization Of Commission On Children & Youth**	**Superceded**
19	**2005**	**Spring**	**Membership And Organization Of Veterans Affairs And Rehabilitation Commission**	**Superceded**
13	**2010**	**Fall**	**Creation Of Ad Hoc Committee On Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)**	**Superceded**
43	**2011**	**Spring**	**Centennial Task Force For The Future**	**Superceded**
25	**2012**	**Spring**	**TBI And PTSD Ad Hoc Committee**	**Superceded**
32	**2012**	**Spring**	**American Legion Insurance Committee**	**Superceded**

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HEDRICK: Mr. Commander, I move that the rescinding resolution be approved without being read. ... *Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: We have a motion and a second on the floor. Any discussion? All those in favor of the motion, signify by saying aye. Opposed. Motion carries.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HEDRICK: Mr. Commander, your Subcommittee on Resolutions has been in session since October 13. We've considered all resolutions that have come before the committee. We have considered and acted upon 31 resolutions.

I would like to stress the importance of members of the National Executive Committee in keeping their departments informed of the actions taken by the National Executive Committee. The resolutions passed the last two days will be available within a few days on the Digital Archive at Legion.org.

I would like to take this time to thank the members of the committee who have done an outstanding job and have attended every session and participated in the discussion of these resolutions, and if they will please stand as I call their names. A special thanks go to my vice chairman, Dave Warnken from Kansas, Bill Kile of West Virginia, Charles Schmidt of Oregon, Raymond DeZurik of Minnesota, Merv Gunderson of Montana, and Dennis Boland of Florida. *(Applause)*

Thank you very much. I would like to say last time I was very critical of some of the chairmen of the commissions and committees for submitting the resolutions to the subcommittee, and we having such a hard time. We were having to send them back. This is the first time that I've been here that we didn't have to send a resolution back to be corrected or changed. So I appreciate your understanding and cooperation in that.

Appreciation also extended to Howard Trace and his staff for serving our committee. Without Howard Trace and his staff, I don't think we would get through our deliberations. I also wanted to thank the document center, directors, and the chairmen of the commissions and committees on this week's work in order to bring the reports and resolutions to you. During our deliberations we have met with a number of chairmen and staff who have been very helpful in explaining questions we had about resolutions.

Mr. Commander, it's a pleasure to serve as chairman of your Subcommittee on Resolutions. I would like to thank the National Executive Committee in responding to the various resolutions. You've been most cooperative. Mr. Commander, I move the report be received and filed. ... *Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: Motion on the floor and a second. Any discussion? All those in favor of the motion, signify by saying aye. Opposed. Motion

carries. I'd like to commend the chairman and his committee on doing such a great job with the resolutions. Thank you. Next, Miscellaneous Business and Technical Motions.

Technical Motion

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HEDRICK: Mr. Commander, I would like to make a technical motion that the national adjutant be instructed to review the minutes of the National Executive Committee meeting and make any necessary corrections, without changing the intent of the NEC meeting, and proceed to edit and distribute these minutes. ... *Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: We have a motion and a second on the floor. Any discussion? All those in favor of the motion, signify by saying aye. Opposed. Motion carries. At this time I do have remarks.

...National Vice Commander Satrom assumed the Chair.

Closing Remarks
Daniel M. Dellinger, Virginia, National Commander

Good morning, everyone. First the good news. As most of you are probably aware, Congress and the president reached an agreement yesterday. Give them a hand. *(Applause)* The federal government is again open for business. Veterans can visit their memorials, benefits will be paid, and workers can return to their jobs. It is no exaggeration to believe that veterans and The American Legion made the ultimate difference in this resolution. No examples of shutdown travesties resonated with the public like the images of World War II veterans being denied access to the memorial and military families being denied benefits after their loved ones made the supreme sacrifice in Afghanistan.

Now the bad news. The funding resolution to operate the government only lasts until mid-January, and an agreement to raise the debt ceiling is only good through mid-February. That means we could be right back to this point again in a few short months. Now I say to Congress and the president what every parent tells their kids: Don't wait until the night before an exam before you start studying. The time to negotiate a lasting budget agreement is now.

Also, I'm going to ask something of everyone in this room. Let's keep the energy going that we've been using to get the government to reopen the last few weeks and rechannel it. Let's transfer those efforts to persuading our leaders to end sequestration and properly fund defense. Let's also put that energy into recruiting new members into our organization and renewing existing members. What better rationale can you give someone for joining our organization than by telling them that only a strong and unified voice for veterans can keep America's politicians from ignoring the needs of those who have actually sacrificed to keep us free. Tell potential members about the great work of our service officers, our TBI/PTS ad hoc committee, and our wonderful youth programs. And let's continue to keep Washington's feet to the fire.

We've had a great couple days here, and I know we can continue a great record of success as we move forward. Commission names and assignments have changed, but our principles will never waiver. Keep America strong, God bless you all, God bless our troops everywhere. Have a safe trip back home, and see you soon. *(Standing ovation)*

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: Thank you. The next order of business I will do from down here. We'll have the drawing for the George Foreman poster. There were 800 tickets sold on this, and the proceeds will go to the National Commander's

Project, the National Emergency Fund, and the George Foreman Youth Community Center. They will be split evenly.

The winner of the George Foreman poster is Gene Pytka, Rhode Island. Is he present? I do want to thank you all for purchasing tickets. That would have looked good in somebody's man cave other than Gene's, but that's how it goes. *(Laughter)*

... National Commander Dellinger resumed the Chair.

RESOLUTION SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN WARNKEN: Mr. Commander, I move to receive and file the report of National Commander Daniel M. Dellinger. ... *Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: Thank you. We have a motion and a second on the floor to receive. Any discussion? All in favor of the motion, signify by saying aye. Opposed. Motion carries. At this time we'll have the benediction by National Chaplain Dr. Daniel A. McClure. Please uncover.

Benediction
Dr. Daniel A. McClure, Iowa, National Chaplain

Before we pray, I want to say something. I have absolutely no aspirations of ever being in what would be referred to as a leadership position. I like being a chaplain. Okay? So all of you, whether you like it or not, this year you're going to get prayed for. Every day I'm going to pray for one person and the commander. Every day. That's a promise.

Number 2 on the list: Call me "Dan." For those of you back East, Ph.D. means "piled higher and deeper." For those of us from the Midwest, that's a post hole digger. *(Laughter)* I don't take myself too serious, but I do take my faith serious.

We do a real good job at taking care of country, but I sometimes wonder about putting God back into a life. So if you hear me mention God from time to time, that's because I'm dead serious about it. My folks raised me to believe in God, they just didn't tell me his name. You all want to know what his name is? Ask me. And oh, by the way, it is not spoken in Arabic. Let us pray, shall we?

Father, I thank You for this day. Thank You for each one who is here, the representation that they have, the country, the state, the community. Thank You for the tremendous years of experience. Father, it's time now for us to leave and go our separate ways. We ask that You might give guidance to each one. That they may continue to serve, but You bring us back to our appointed place at the appointed time. Father, You give us traveling mercies in the meantime. Again, thank You for a tremendous time this past week. We ask that we might see many more. Continue to bless our great country for it's in Your name we pray. Amen.

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: The Colors of our country being in place, hand salute. Two.

... The National Executive Committee rendered a salute to the Colors.

NATIONAL COMMANDER DELLINGER: The meeting is adjourned.

... At 9:45 a.m., Thursday, October 17, 2013, the Fall Meeting of the National Executive Committee of The American Legion was adjourned. Sine Die.

Abbreviations

AAP ..... AdoptaPlatoon
AC&Y ..... Americanism and Children & Youth
AEF ..... American Expeditionary Force
ALR ..... American Legion Riders
ALWS ..... American Legion World Series
ANEC ..... Alternate National Executive Committee
ARRL ..... American Radio Relay League
ASD ..... Autism Spectrum Disorders

B2B ..... Boots to Business
BVA ..... Board of Veteran Appeals

CEO ..... chief executive officer
CFA ..... Citizens Flag Alliance
CLC ..... Community Living Centers
CRC ..... Colorectal Cancer
CWF ..... Child Welfare Foundation

DA ..... Department of the Army
DEC ..... Department Executive Committee
DIC ..... Dependency and Indemnity Compensation
DMS ..... Direct Membership Solicitation
DoD ..... Department of Defense
DOL ..... Department of Labor
DVOP ..... Disabled Veterans Outreach Program

ESGR ..... Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve

FDR ..... Franklin D. Roosevelt
FSN ..... Family Support Network
FY ..... fiscal year

GI ..... gastroenterology
GPS ..... Goals, Plans and Success

H.J. Res. ..... House Joint Resolution
H.R. ..... House Resolution
HEROES ..... Her Entrepreneurship Resources, Opportunities, Experience & Support
HUD ..... Department of Housing and Urban Development

ICU ..... intensive care unit
IDES ..... Illinois Department of Employment Security
IED ..... improvised explosive device
IRA ..... Individual Retirement Account
IRS ..... Internal Revenue Service
IVMF ..... Institute for Veterans and Military Families

JPAC ..... Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command
JVSG ..... Jobs for Veterans State Grants

LEAD ..... Leadership, Education, and Development
LVER ..... Local Veterans Employment Representative

MIA ..... missing in action
MOS ..... Military Occupation Specialties

NADHAL ..... National Association of department Historians of The American Legion
NALC ..... National American Legion College
NALPA ..... National American Legion Press Association
NASA ..... National Aeronautics and Space Administration
NEC ..... National Executive Committee
NEF ..... National Emergency Fund
NIH ..... National Institutes of Health
NVLSP ..... National Veterans Legal Services Program

OCW ..... Operation Comfort Warriors
OIG ..... Office of the Inspector General

P.L. ..... Public Law
PDCC ..... Past Department Commanders Club
PIV ..... Personal Identification Verification
PNC ..... past national commander
POW ..... prisoner of war
PSA ..... public service announcement
PTSD ..... post traumatic stress disorder
PUFL ..... paid-up-for-life
PYS ..... Protect Youth Sports, Inc.

RIF ..... reduction in force
RS ..... regular scheduled

SAL ..... Sons of The American Legion
SBA ..... Small Business Administration
SDVOSB ..... Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business
SEP ..... Stakeholders Enterprise Portal
SGLI ..... Servicemembers Group Life Insurance

TALARC ..... The American Legion Amateur Radio Club
TAP ..... Transition Assistance Program
TBI ..... traumatic brain injury
TFA ..... Temporary Financial Assistance

UCX ..... Unemployment Compensation for Ex-Servicemembers
USAA ..... United Automobile Services Association
USAREC ..... United States Army Recruiting Command
USC ..... United States Code
USCC ..... United States Chamber of Commerce
USOC ..... United States Olympic Committee
VA ..... Department of Veteran Affairs
VA&R ..... Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation

VAMC ..... VA Medical Center
VAVS ..... Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service
VBA ..... Veterans Benefits Administration
VBMS ..... Veterans Benefits Management System
VETS ..... Veterans Employment and Training Services
VISN ..... Veterans Integrated Service Network
VOSB ..... Veteran-Owned Small Business
VOW ..... Veterans Opportunity to Work
VSO ..... Veteran Service Organization

WWI ..... World War I
WWII ..... World War II

Index

2014 Enhancements to the National Headquarters Computing Environment 47
100th Anniversary Observance Honorary Committee 129
50th Anniversary of Vietnam Commemorative Committee 128

A

Administration of Oath of Office to the National Chaplain 5
Affinity Charge Card Program 40
Affordable Care Act 136
Afghanistan 48, 59, 83, 84, 87, 101, 127, 128
Agreement with the National Veterans Legal Services Program (NVLSP) 2013-2014 46
American Legion Amateur Radio Club, The 112, 113
American Legion Baseball 115, 116, 118, 122
American Legion College 69
American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year Award Scholarship 43
American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program 42, 45, 114, 117, 120
American Legion Magazine Commission report, *The* 125
American Legion World Series 27, 29, 115, 116, 118, 122
Americanism Commission report 115
Anderson, Richard W. 161
Announcements 7, 129
Appointment of Joseph E. Caouette (NH) as Chairman Emeritus of the National Americanism Commission 123
Appointments
American Legion's 100th Anniversary Observance Honorary Committee, The 129
Appeals Committee 128
U.S. Government 50th Anniversary of Vietnam Commemorative Committee 128
Award Congressional Gold Medal Posthumously to Harry Colmery 76

B

background screening 119
Benediction 181
Boy Scouts of America 43, 44
Boys State 117, 119
Brown-Park, Nancy 6
burial allowances 4, 101

C

Caouette, Joseph E. 121, 123
Child Welfare Foundation 69, 91
Closing Remarks, National Commander 180
Colmery, Harry W. 76
Commission on Children & Youth report 89
Confirmation of Cancellation of Post and/or Squadron Charters 155
Confirmation of Committee Appointments 128
Confirmation of Dates for Future Meetings 157

Bold typeface indicates the title of a resolution

Confirmation of Interim Appointment 155
Congress to Provide Back Pay to Veterans and Their Dependents for any Government Lapse in Appropriations 106
congressional testimony 38, 134, 135, 136

D

defense budget 83, 85, 86
Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2013 137
Dependency and Indemnity Compensation for Surviving Spouses 105
Dillard, Paul E., National Vice Commander report 153
Direct Membership Solicitation 28, 68, 80, 81
disabled veterans 137, 138
Disabled Veterans Outreach Program 62
Dunham, Charemon, National Historian report 147

E

Eagle Incentive Award 5
Economic Commission report 53
Eligibility of National Officers 154
Emergency Assistance to Veterans, Active Duty Personnel and Their Families 39
Expanding Post 9/11 GI Bill for Entrepreneurship 65

F

federal government shutdown 4, 54, 61, 62, 63, 95, 100, 106, 134, 136, 137, 180
female servicemembers 86
Finance Commission report 27
flag amendment 122, 136
For Her Entrepreneurship - Resources, Opportunities, Experience & Support (For **HER**OES) 58
Foreign Relations report 127
Fully Developed Claims Initiative 102

G

George Foreman Youth Community Center 181
Global War on Terrorism 4
Greetings: Mrs. Nancy Brown-Park, National President, American Legion Auxiliary 6

H

Hiring Our Heroes 60
Holbrook, Edwin 115
homeless veterans 54, 58, 59, 137, 138
Honoring Our Promise to America's Veterans Act 138

I

illegal immigration 4, 122
Illinois Department of Employment Security 61
Improvements to Department of Veterans Affairs' Women Veteran Programs 109

Bold typeface indicates the title of a resolution

Indiana Office of Workforce Development 62
Internal Affairs Commission report 67
Internal Revenue Service 37
Invocation 1, 131
Iraq 59, 127, 128

J

Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command 127
Junior Air Rifle National Championships 44
Junior Law Cadet Program 120
Junior Shooting Sports Program 122

L

Legacy Scholarship Fund 69
Legion Riders 10, 21, 22, 67, 68
Legislative Commission report 134
Liaison Committees 162, 163
licensing and credentialing 53, 55
Local Veterans Employment Representative 62

M

McDugle, Kevin, Soldier's Wish 48
Membership and Post Activities Committee report 80
membership program 81, 82, 112, 113
Memorial Resolutions 8
military benefits 105, 106, 137
military helmets 88
Minutes of Previous Meetings 6
Modify Battlefield Helmet 88
Morrill, Robert L. 113
Mount Soledad War Memorial 9

N

National American Legion Press Association 114
National Americanism Conference 118
National Commander's Public Relations Award 41
National Committee on Education 118
National Convention Commission report 50
National Convention Corporation of Texas 49
National Emergency Fund 67, 69, 79, 80, 181
National Forensic League (NFL) Sponsorship 45
National Historian report 147
National History Contest 148
National Judge Advocate report 9
National Officers, Introduction 6
National Paid-Up-For-Life Membership Plan 34
National Security Commission report 83
National Veterans Legal Services Program 46

Newman, Robert, National Vice Commander report 150

O

Open Our National Parks and Museums Act 137
Opening Remarks, National Commander 3
Operation Comfort Warriors 80, 120, 124, 133
Oratorical Contest National Finals 41

P

Paid-Up-for-Life program 34, 36
Pay Our Guard and Reserve Act 137
Pay Our Military Act 137
Pershing Hall Artifacts and Memorabilia 78
Pledge of Allegiance 9, 11
Post 9/11 GI Bill 55, 60, 65
post traumatic stress disorder 59, 95, 97
Public Relations Commission report 111

R

Rakestraw, William A., National Vice Commander report 151
RallyPoint 64
Reports:
- *American Legion Magazine* Commission, *The* 125
- Americanism Commission 115
- Commission on Children & Youth 89
- Economic Commission 53
- Finance Commission 27
- Foreign Relations Commission 127
- Internal Affairs Commission 67
- Legislative Commission 134
- Membership and Post Activities Committee 80
- National Convention Commission 50
- National Convention Corporation of Texas 49
- National Historian 147
- National Judge Advocate 9
- National Security Commission 83
- National Vice Commanders 149
- Public Relations Commission 111
- Revenue Enhancement Committee 31
- Subcommittee on Committees 159
- Subcommittee on Resolutions 7, 162
- Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission 94

Rescinding Obsolete Resolutions Dealing with National Security 88
Rescinding of Non-Legislative Resolutions Related to Commission and Committees 172
Rescinding Resolutions from the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission 107
Research to Develop a Blood Test to Detect Colorectal Cancer 110
Resolutions:

No. 1: Liaison Committees 162
No. 2: National Paid-Up-For-Life Membership Plan 34
No. 3: Scheduling of the National Commander's Annual Congressional Testimony 38
No. 4: Emergency Assistance to Veterans, Active Duty Personnel and Their Families 39
No. 5: Restatement of The American Legion Retirement Plan for Employees of the National Headquarters and Subordinate Groups Thereof 40
No. 6: Affinity Charge Card Program 40
No. 7: The American Legion National Commander's Public Relations Award 41
No. 8: Oratorical Contest National Finals 41
No. 9: American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year Award Scholarship 43
No. 10: Junior Air Rifle National Championships 44
No. 11: National Forensic League Sponsorship 45
No. 12: Agreement with the National Veterans Legal Services Program (NVLSP) 2013-2014 46
No. 13: 2014 Enhancements to the National Headquarters Computing Environment 47
No. 14: Modify Battlefield Helmet 88
No. 15: Rescinding Obsolete Resolutions Dealing with National Security 88
No. 16: Dependency and Indemnity Compensation for Surviving Spouses 105
No. 17: Congress to Provide Back Pay to Veterans and Their Dependents for any Government Lapse in Appropriations 106
No. 18: State Veterans Home Funding for Construction Grants 107
No. 19: Rescinding Resolutions from the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission 107
No. 20: Service Officers Participation in the Transition Goals, Plans and Success (GPS) Program 108
No. 21: Improvements to Department of Veterans Affairs' Women Veteran Programs 109
No. 22: Research to Develop a Blood Test to Detect Colorectal Cancer 110
No. 23: Award Congressional Gold Medal Posthumously to Harry Colmery 76
No. 24: Pershing Hall Artifacts and Memorabilia 78
No. 25: Support RallyPoint to Accelerate Recruitment of New Legion Members and Assist Veterans with Professional Networking and Career Opportunities 64
No. 26: Expanding Post 9/11 GI Bill for Entrepreneurship 65
No. 27: Veterans GI Bill Education Improvement 65
No. 28: Support Eligible Veterans to Receive a First Time Homebuyer Tax Credit or Tax Credit for Adaptive Housing Improvements 66
No. 29: Uniform Code of Procedure for the Organization of National Conventions of The American Legion 163
No. 30: Rescinding of Non-Legislative Resolutions Related to Commissions and Committees 172
No. 31: Appointment of Joseph E. Caouette (NH) as Chairman Emeritus of the National Americanism Commission 123
Restatement of The American Legion Retirement Plan for Employees of the National Headquarters and Subordinate Groups Thereof 40
Revenue Enhancement Committee report 31

Bold typeface indicates the title of a resolution

S

Samsung American Legion Scholars 117, 118
Satrom, Wayne D., National Vice Commander report 152
Scheduling of the National Commander's Annual Congressional Testimony 38
Service Officers Participation in the Transition Goals, Plans and Success (GPS) Program 108
Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944 77
Significant Gifts to the National Headquarters Library and Museum 158
Small Business Administration 53, 57, 58, 62
Soldier's Wish 48
Sons of The American Legion 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75
State Veterans Home Funding for Construction Grants 107
Subcommittee on Committees report 159
Subcommittee on Resolutions report 7, 162
Support Eligible Veterans to Receive a First Time Homebuyer Tax Credit or Tax Credit for Adaptive Housing Improvements 66
Support RallyPoint to Accelerate Recruitment of New Legion Members and Assist Veterans with Professional Networking and Career Opportunities 64
System Worth Saving Task Force 104
System Worth Saving Task Force Report on Women Veterans 95, 102, 104

T

tax credit 66
Temporary Financial Assistance 89, 90
The American Legion National Commander's Public Relations Award 41
Transition Assistance Program Goals, Plans and Success 108
traumatic brain injury 59, 95, 97, 98, 99

U

Uniform Code of Procedure for the Organization of National Conventions of The American Legion 163

V

veteran claims 96, 100, 101
veteran education 54, 60, 65
veteran employment 54, 59, 64
veteran healthcare 95, 101, 107, 109, 110
veteran-owned businesses 53, 54, 56, 58, 65
Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission report 94
Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service 73, 97, 105
Veterans Benefits, Healthcare, and Information Technology Act of 2006 57
Veterans Employment and Training Services 57, 59
Veterans GI Bill Education Improvement 65
VOW to Hire Heroes Act and the Veterans Skills to Jobs Act of 2012 56

W

women veterans 54, 58, 95, 102, 104, 109

Bold typeface indicates the title of a resolution

Women Veterans Health Care Report.....*See* System Worth Saving Task Force Report on Women Veterans
Wooddell, Douglas, National Vice Commander report 149

Y

Youth Champions 117

Bold typeface indicates the title of a resolution