NINETY-SEVENTH NATIONAL CONVENTION
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
Baltimore, Maryland
September 1, 2, 3, 2015

Resolution No. 69: Medal of Honor for Patrick O. Ford
Origin: Missouri
Submitted by: Convention Committee on National Security

WHEREAS, Legionnaire Patricia Ford Ivey having appeared before Bennett & Dennis Herrick Memorial American Legion Post 626 and offered testimony and evidence not previously seen to enlist our help in getting her Uncle Patrick O. Ford's Navy Cross upgraded to The Medal of Honor; and

WHEREAS, Petty Officer Ford was serving as an aft machine gunner on River Patrol Boat (PBR) 750 which was ambushed from shore during a two boat combat patrol by a Viet Cong force using rockets and heavy machine guns on 21 June 1968, disabling his craft and sending it drifting directly toward the enemy position; and

WHEREAS, Although seriously wounded P.O. Ford returned a continuous volume of fire into the Viet Cong position until he realized the condition of his craft and crew at which time, in the face of point-blank enemy fire, and with his clothing on fire he assisted three of his more seriously wounded shipmates into the water to be picked up by the second boat; and

WHEREAS, P.O. Ford did not leave PBR-750 until he ensured there were no more survivors and when he did he took his M-60 machine gun with him and went away from rescue and towards the enemy, providing covering fire even while seriously wounded while the second boat retrieved the survivors from the water until he ran out of ammunition and was captured by the enemy, tortured and killed; and

WHEREAS, A review of The Congressional Medal of Honor Society's records show that out of 16 Medal of Honors awarded to Navy personnel in Vietnam between 1965 and 1972 half of these were officers, of the enlisted men two were awarded the Medal of Honor for saving the lives of officers, four were Corpsmen assigned to the Marine Corp, one was a construction engineer assigned to an SF Group (Army), and one, a Petty Officer First Class was serving as a Boat Commander and Patrol Leader; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Baltimore, Maryland, September 1, 2, 3, 2015, That The American Legion supports the upgrade of the Navy Cross to the Medal of Honor for Patrick O. Ford, Gunners Mate Second Class, United States Navy.