ONE HUNDRED AND SECOND NATIONAL CONVENTION
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
Phoenix, Arizona
August 31, September 1, 2, 2021

Resolution No. 36: Prevent Gold Star Spouses Loss of Benefits
Origin: Illinois
Submitted by: Convention Committee on Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation
(As Amended)

WHEREAS, U.S. military service is well-known to be a life of sacrifice, long days away from home, and countless stressors to be borne by the military family, especially by military spouses, who are recognized as an integral part of the U.S. military support system, and as part of The American Legion Family; and

WHEREAS, Gold Star spouses, those who have lost their partners in the line of duty in the US Military, currently receive several benefits such as Death Gratuity, Family Survivor's Group Life Insurance, the Survivor Benefit Plan, and other benefits ranging from emotional support to free education; and

WHEREAS, Under current law, Gold Star spouses lose their benefits if they remarry before turning 55, and they also lose their Dependency and Indemnity Compensation benefits if they remarry before turning 57; and

WHEREAS, This situation puts grieving spouses who have lost their partners in a predicament where earned benefits are lost when individuals hope to remarry and begin new families after losing a loved one in the service; and,

WHEREAS, This creates an unnecessary burden and these benefits should be protected by The American Legion, since this affects the following pillars: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, as this can affect Gold Star spouses also serving in the military leading to a loss of benefits, it affects Americanism, as this relates to our American values of caring for the veteran, spouses, and orphans, and it affects Children and Youth, as individuals who decline to remarry in order to preserve earned benefits, may cause custody and child care issues; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Phoenix, Arizona, August 31, September 1, 2, 2021, That The American Legion takes the official stance that Gold Star spouses should not lose benefits when remarrying.