PROCEEDINGS

of the

National Executive Committee

of

THE AMERICAN LEGION

National Headquarters
Indianapolis, Indiana
and
Virtual

May 5-6, 2021

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PROCEEDINGS

of the

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Wednesday, May 5, 2021

...At 11:00 a.m., Wednesday, May 5, 2021, the National Executive Committee was called to order by National Commander Oxford.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: I call this meeting of the NEC meeting to order. Please stand, join me in a salute to the colors of our nation by the numbers: One, two. Please uncover. I call on National Chaplain Edward L. Harris of Indiana for the invocation and POW/MIA ceremony.

Invocation
Edward L. Harris, Indiana, National Chaplain

Dear God, thank You for this day and thank You for allowing us to be a part of this day. We are here once again because You have allowed us to be. Bless those of our comrades who have transferred on to Post Everlasting since we last met. Those comrades who are presenting to us during this session, go with them, stand by, stand by, stand by them and fill them with the information that is necessary for us to receive. Bless our sick, our infirmed, and our bereaved. All of this we ask in Your name. Amen.

POW/MIA Remembrance Ceremony
Edward L. Harris, Indiana, National Chaplain

Resolution 288, adopted at the 67th Annual National Convention, requires the designation of a POW/MIA chair at all official meetings of The American Legion. This is a symbol of the thousands of American POWs and 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 efforts in securing 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.

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Next is National Sergeant-at-Arms David A. Shore from North Carolina to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the Preamble. *...The National Executive Committee recited the Pledge of Allegiance followed by the Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion*.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Please be seated. I now call on the national adjutant, Daniel S. Wheeler of Virginia, for the roll call.

Roll Call
National Officers

National Commander
James W. Oxford, North Carolina

National Adjutant
Daniel S. Wheeler, Virginia

National Vice Commanders

Bruce C. Feuerbach, Iowa
David L. King, Kentucky
Francis J. MacDonald, Jr., Massachusetts
Richard A. Heigert, Missouri
Robert D. Liebenow, Oregon

Past National Commanders

John P. "Jake" Comer, Massachusetts
Miles S. Epling, West Virginia
Robert S. Turner, Georgia (Excused)
Dominic D. DeFrancesco, Pennsylvania (Excused)
Bruce Thiesen, California (Excused)
Daniel A. Ludwig, Minnesota
Joseph J. Frank, Missouri (Excused)
Anthony G. Jordan, Maine
Butch L. Miller, Virginia
Hon. Alan G. Lance, Sr., Idaho
Richard J. Santos, Maryland
Ronald F. Conley, Pennsylvania (Excused)
Hon. John A. Brieden, III, Texas
Thomas L. Bock, Colorado
Paul A. Morin, Massachusetts
Martin F. Conatser, Illinois (Excused)
Robert W. Spanogle, Michigan
David K. Rehbein, Iowa
Clarence E. Hill, Florida
Jimmie L. Foster, Alaska
Fang A. Wong, New York
James E. Koutz, Indiana
Daniel M. Dellinger, Virginia
Michael D. Helm, Nebraska
Harold D. Barnett, Georgia
Charles E. Schmidt, Oregon
Denise H. Rohan, Wisconsin
Brett P. Reistad, Virginia

National Executive Committee Members

Department	Committee Member	Alternate
Alabama	Willis Frazier (Excused)	Hardwick (Rico) Hall, Sr.
Alaska	James E. Pisa	
Arizona	Judith S. Beischel	
Arkansas	Mary V. Erdman	
California	Mary A. Foxworthy	
Colorado	Thomas J. Florez	
Connecticut	D. Joseph Jackson	
Delaware	Robert L. Michael	
D.C.	George E. Roundtree	
Florida	Dennis R. Boland	
France	James M. Settle	
Georgia	Charles F. Wessinger	
Hawaii	David R. Carlson	
Idaho	Robert L. Skinner	
Illinois	Tom Marciciak	
Indiana	Jerry L. Jordon	
Iowa	Jerry D. Sebben	
Kansas	Dan K. Wiley	
Kentucky	William O. Moore, Jr.	
Louisiana	Charles D. Aucoin	
Maine	Lloyd H. Woods	
Maryland	Patricia A. McCoy	
Massachusetts	James E. Brehio	
Mexico	Michael D. Wood	
Michigan	John W. Knox	
Minnesota	William C. Barbknecht	
Mississippi	Steve Sweet	
Missouri	Kenneth J. Goth	

Montana	David A. Driver	
Nebraska	William D. Crosier, Jr.	
Nevada		Yvette L. Weigold
New Hampshire	Kenneth B. Maynard, Jr.	
New Jersey	Charles K. Robbins	
New Mexico	Paul L. Espinoza	
New York	William R. Kearsing, Jr.	
North Carolina	Jeff W. Joyner	
North Dakota	Robert L. Krause	
Ohio	Robert M. Klostermeier	
Oklahoma	Timothy W. Smith	
Oregon	Robert A. Millar	
Pennsylvania	E. Michael Stelacio	
Philippines	Lawrence E. Wade	
Puerto Rico	Angel O. Narvaez (Excused)	Isaac Rodriguez
Rhode Island	David A. Williams	
South Carolina	Michael D. Strauss	
South Dakota	James Huls	
Tennessee	David G. Alexander	
Texas	C. W. Sparks, Jr.	
Utah	Terry D. Schow	
Vermont	Frederick E. Latour	
Virginia	Michael F. Mitrione	
Washington	Dale F. Davis	
West Virginia	William W. Kile	
Wisconsin	Robert L. Shappell	
Wyoming	Douglas Uhrig	

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: Mr. Commander, that completes roll call. There is a quorum.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: There is a quorum. The next order of business is the acceptance of the meeting's agenda.

Acceptance of Meeting Agenda

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Commander, I move the agenda for this meeting be accepted. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second to approve today's agenda. Any discussion? Any objections? Hearing none, seeing none, motion carried by unanimous consent. We'll now have the reading of the minutes from our previous meetings to include the 2020 Fall meetings and the November 17, 2020 meeting.

Reading of Minutes of Previous Meetings

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second to approve the minutes without being read since they have been printed in digest form. Any discussion? Any objections? Hearing none, seeing none, motion carries, unanimous consent.

Disposal of Letters or Communications

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Next item on the agenda is the disposal of letters or communications. Mr. Adjutant, do we have any letters or communications?

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: No, Mr. Commander, there are no letters or communications.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Next item of business will be reports from national officers. Before I begin my report, I would like to announce that I just met this morning about an hour ago with the United States National Security Council to discuss the visa program for Afghan interpreters. The meeting went very well and we look forward to working with the White House on this important issue.

Opening Remarks
James W. "Bill" Oxford, North Carolina, National Commander

Well, good morning, national officers, past national commanders, members of the NEC, and all our guests. Ladies and gentlemen, start your engines. This phrase, so familiar to race fans, now has some added significance to The American Legion. It can also be a metaphor for all the great service that The American Legion will continue to provide in communities throughout the nation. But first, let's talk about our race team.

The American Legion car is being driven by two of the best, a past Indy 500 winner and one of the all-time NASCAR greats. That is what the Ganassi team brings to the table: experience and respect.

It reminds me of a certain veterans organization. Whether it's the greatest spectacle in racing, the Indy 500, or another NTT IndyCar race, the Number 48 car will not only be racing for The American Legion, but for all the veterans, families, and young people who benefit from our programs and services.

There will be racing for all of the posts that stood up while society shut down during the COVID-19 pandemic. And I truly believe that we are at the 400-mile point of this national health emergency that has already taken more than 500,000 Americans. Overcoming that final 100 miles will still be a challenge, one that becomes less daunting every time an American receives a coronavirus vaccine. I've taken mine and I hope all of you have as well. I believe we will be in for a true celebration when we gather at our national youth programs this summer and meet in Phoenix for our national convention. But we need to be safe and smart about it.

Even those who haven't been affected with COVID-19 have also been impacted healthwise. A recent survey revealed that 61 percent of American adults reported a weight gain as a result of the pandemic. Fortunately, The American Legion has about a hundred solutions for this weight gain. If you haven't registered for our Hundred Miles for Hope Challenge, please do so. There are 55 departments represented at this meeting, but think of all the cumulative weight that could be lost, cardiovascular disease that could be prevented, and general health benefits that would occur if we can convince the majority of our American Legion Family members and friends to join us in this effort.

Nobody's being asked to run a marathon. If you visit our website, you will see there are probably a thousand different activities that you can choose from, even riding a motorcycle can count. Besides getting in shape, we should remember its true purpose, which is to support our Veterans & Children's Foundation. That's two of our Four Pillars just in the title of one program.

In October, this body passed what I believe is a historic resolution. You called for Americans to take a new direction in the global war on terrorism. We believe in a Forever GI Bill but not a forever war. The United States Constitution grants Congress the authority to declare war. We fully believe that America had to strike back hard against terrorism after the 9/11 attacks, but also that the authorization for use of military force should not be an open-ended document lasting forever. An imminent threat is not the same as a permanent

threat. The American Legion will always support our country's right to defend itself, but we also believe it's time to start bringing our troops home from these endless wars.

We must not forget our allies, especially the interpreters who risk their lives assisting U.S. troops with their mission. The state department must up its game in the processing of special immigrant visas for these heroes, or many of them will surely die. And as our troops come home, it's even more important for Congress and the White House to ensure that all of their health issues are addressed.

The American Legion was instrumental in the awarding of Agent Orange-related benefits to our Vietnam War veterans, but the toxic exposure doesn't end there. Water at Camp Lejeune, open air burn kits, contaminants at foreign base called K2, and environmental hazards have taken their toll on the health of military members, veterans, and families. People are dying from these exposures. It's time for Congress to pass the Toxic Exposure in the American Military Act. The American Legion fought tirelessly for decades for our Vietnam veterans to receive the benefits that many have died waiting to receive. We must fight just as hard for our current generation of heroes.

We've all heard young veterans ask us, "What's in it for me, American Legion?" They don't have to listen to us. Watch us instead. Watch us fight hard for their benefits. Watch us organize virtual job fairs. Watch us support and provide temporary financial assistance to families during times of need. Watch our National Emergency Fund provide a lifeline to victims of natural disasters. Watch us check on veterans and their buddies, not to sign them up as members, but to simply say, "We're here. Tell us how we can help."

Action matters, and I've seen plenty of posts providing extremely vital service to communities that are truly hurting because of this pandemic.

My department visits have picked up somewhat over the last few months. I totally understand why some departments have cancelled. Safety is of the utmost importance, and there are lots of logistics involved with hosting a national commander's visit. The departments that I've been able to visit have been magnificent hosts. The truth is that the COVID situation varies greatly from state to state.

The response the American Legion departments and posts around the world have had toward the pandemic has been nothing short of inspirational: blood drives, virtual job fairs, buddy checks, vaccination sites, relief centers. I simply can't do it justice. If you want a documented history of The American Legion's response to the pandemic, I highly recommend the COVID Operations bookazine now available through Emblem Sales. There are simply too many stories for me to mention here. But since all 55 departments are represented here today, I want to thank each and every one of you for your response and service to your own communities.

Some may be curious as to the rationale behind this meeting being virtual. Large indoor gatherings are still discouraged in Indiana, and the travel requirements for many of you to get here would put you at some unnecessary risk. We're not back to normal yet, but we do know that young people are some of the least vulnerable to COVID-19, and that outdoor activities can be conducted with reasonable safety.

They say absence makes the heart grow fonder, and I am truly looking forward to the return of many of our national youth programs. We may not yet be in the final lap of the race to end this horrible pandemic, we may still have a few more pit stops on the way, but our engines are strong. The history of America's response to COVID-19 is still being written. Even so, I'm convinced that in the end, The American Legion, and perhaps even car Number 48, will be speeding under a checkered flag and gather with other heroes in the winner's circle. Thank you and let's have a great meeting.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Commander, motion to receive and file the report of the national commander. ...*Second*.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: It's been moved and seconded to receive and file the report of the national commander. Any discussion? Any objections? Hearing none, seeing none, motion carries. The chair would like to recognize National Historian James A. Mariner of New Mexico for his report.

Oral Report: National Historian
James A. Mariner, New Mexico

National Commander Oxford, national officers, National Executive Committee members, alternate National Executive Committee members, past national commanders, American Legion Family members and distinguished guests.

As our communities, states and nation are beginning to open again lifting restrictions due to COVID-19 it reminds us of the words of Woody Guthrie 'This Land Is Your Land, This Land Is My Land' and Bob Dylan 'The Times They Are A-Changin' as we move into the more electronic age.

Posts worldwide are helping with the COVID-19 pandemic efforts in their communities and having meetings electronically and in person with COVID-19 protocols. Our youth programs are beginning to open again for in person events, where we were still meeting virtually during the keeping safe restrictions.

Our National Association of Department Historians of The American Legion referred to as NADHAL had our first ever virtual pre-event test meeting on Saturday, April 10, 2021 at 10 AM EDT and actual NADHAL meeting on Saturday, April 17, 2021 at 10 AM EDT.

NADHAL membership is open to department historians, past department historians, national historian and past national historians. For our pre-event test meeting we had, four NADHAL officers or committee members, four past national historians and Past National Commander Denise Rohan. For our actual NADHAL meeting we had five NADHAL officers or committee members to include one written report, five department historians, seven past national historians and Past National Commander Brett Reistad.

Names are important as our future members looking at our history books might recognize a relative in a photo but cannot verify if the names are not listed. With the virtual meetings our IT department has the names of the attendees and the recorded meetings.

Our NADHAL President Robin Shingleton of West Virginia presided over our first virtual NADHAL meeting where we are looking forward to meeting in person as NADHAL. Initially we had postponed our NADHAL meeting from our traditional fall NEC meeting in 2020 to the spring NEC meeting of 2021 where we held our virtual NADHAL meeting and our 2019–2020 National History Book Contest with 17 certification forms being turned in where certificates of appreciation for posts and departments that were able to hold Department History Book Contests will be mailed to the departments to be presented.

We are looking forward to our in-person NADHAL meeting, 2020–2021 National History Book Contest to include education and training of new department historians at our fall NEC meeting in October 2021 where we will also hold NADHAL election of officers.

For years in NADHAL it has been brought up to add an history book electronic national contest. Our national library does not have the resources to judge electronic national history book entries and the electronic format guidelines and electronic judging guidelines have not been developed at this time. Our NADHAL has two committees working on electronic history books and electronic judging in this new time of change. Currently we will still use the traditional hard copy that we have used for many years. Where we will continue preserving, recording with research and verification in the printed traditional form in our officer's guide for any future national disasters or worldwide pandemics until we can test and work out any problems with electronic history books and judging.

Our American Legion members continue to work with our communities, states, and nation worldwide before, during and after any national emergencies or worldwide pandemics.

As we are looking forward to our 102nd National Convention in Phoenix, Arizona August 27, 2021 through September 2, 2021 meeting in person, we are also working on our National Historians Luncheon and NADHAL meeting on Saturday, August 28, 2021.

We want to thank David Yoder and our IT staff and especially Howard Trace, Ruth Rankin, our national library staff and Emil A. Blackmore Museum staff for the all the work they do. And Holly Soria for making this report possible.

"History Is Important" for our past, present and for our future. Just as we did after WWI, we continue to carry on our four pillars of national security, veterans, children and youth and Americanism while we continue to build "A FOUNDATION FOR THE FUTURE."

All 2019-2020 National History Contest entries were awarded certificates of appreciation for their work after the contest was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

One-Year Department Narrative History Contest:

Department of Colorado
Department of North Carolina

One-Year Department Yearbook History Contest:

Department of North Carolina
Department of Missouri

One-Year Post Narrative History Contest:

CSM Gary W. Crisp Post No. 289, Clarksville, TN
Clayton E. Moneymaker Post No. 237, Huntsville, AL
Helen K. Osmundson Post No. 206, Aurora, CO
Field-Allen Post No. 148, Windham, ME
Pony Express Post No. 359, Saint Joseph, MO
Francis Scott Key Post No. 11, Frederick, MD

One-Year Post Yearbook History Contest:

Bates-O'Brien-Howe-Wiegel-Roelli Post No. 214, Darlington, WI
Charles S. Hatch Post No. 79, Berwick, ME
Julius L. Shryer Post No. 430, Durant, IA
Carl Douglas Post No. 74, Estacada, OR
Harold B. Jarrett American Legion Post 342, Salisbury, NC
Francis Scott Key Post No. 11, Frederick, MD
Hanner and Sharp American Legion Post No. 129, Stillwater, OK

National Commander Oxford, this concludes my report and thank you.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Commander, motion received to file the report of the national historian, James Mariner. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second to receive and file the report of the national historian, James Mariner. Is there any discussion? Any objections? Hearing none, seeing none, motion carries, unanimous consent.

Next, it is my high honor to introduce the head of the largest veterans auxiliary organization comprising women and men. She is a true advocate for veterans and their families, her passion is unwavering. From the Great State of Iowa, please welcome American Legion Auxiliary National President Nicole Clapp.

Greetings: Nicole Clapp, Iowa
National President, American Legion Auxiliary

Hello, National Commander Bill, national officers, past national commanders, members of the NEC, staff, and guests.

I, along with National Commanders Bill and Clint, would not be serving as your only two-year national leadership team of a great organization if our collective resolve were not in play. Our duty is to serve no matter what that new normal entails, and that's what we've been trying to do ever since the pandemic began.

To be honest, serving as your national president during a pandemic sometimes feels a little bit like the Groundhog Day movie starring Bill Murray and Andie MacDowell, where the same things keep happening day after day after day, and you don't understand why or see an end in sight. Those of you that know me would most likely say I'm a cup-half-full kind of farm girl with a smile and get-'er-done attitude. And so this opportunity has taught me a few things.

I write everything down in pencil. Every department visit is a possibility not a probability. I cross my fingers each day that the internet connection out here on the farm will be strong enough for the next Zoom meeting. I remind myself that flexibility is the name of the game, and adapt and overcome is the best strategy. And I don't get my hopes up too high for the next great adventure until the plane lands and all those COVID restrictions have been met.

While the mission of The American Legion Auxiliary has remained steadfast since our founding in 1919 to honor the sacrifice of those who served, by enhancing the lives of veterans, military, and their families. Over a hundred years ago we entrusted our lives into their hands, and what's more important than now entrusting their health and well-being in ours. Fulfilling the mission of "service, not self" has not been easy during the pandemic, which has claimed so many lives, sickened others, led to unemployment and homelessness for some. We, The American Legion Family, have made positive impacts on the lives by forging on and taking on the challenges head on in a safe manner. Thank you, everyone, for your ongoing dedication and commitment, especially during these unrelenting times.

For us, I am so proud of The American Legion Family efforts, be it membership, making face masks, buddy checks, or walking, running, or swimming those Hundred Mile for Hope campaigns. The online interactions with members are not the same, but they are still so rewarding. I have to admit, before the pandemic Zoom to me meant vroom vroom like of a motorcycle, but now I have a whole new appreciation for technology.

We continued the ALA's performance with the Creative Arts Festival, a co-presentation, so that so many more people could participate in the event, being an at-home virtual opportunity. Our staff also learned to produce events in-house virtually for our members to stay engaged. Please check out our newly redesigned website. Our web address remains the same, alaforveterans.org.

There was tremendous interest by our members of over 300 who applied for two special national committees I established with NEC approval, Inclusion and Diversity, and the Code of Ethical Review.

The American Legion Family is made up of common-looking people with a dedication of service. President Lincoln said, "Common-looking people are the best in the world. That is the reason the Lord made so many of them."

I fast-forward that statement to today to mean The American Legion Family, approximately three million strong. ALA, we now have 967 male spouse members in the organization. We did not get a chance to celebrate our anniversary milestone, and so we're continuing to celebrate all the way to Phoenix. But in the meantime, I'm looking forward to more department visits, junior shooting sports, World Series of Baseball, and the Legacy Run, as we continue celebrating a Century of Service all the way to Phoenix.

In closing, it is an honor and a privilege to continue to serve as your centennial national president. Now is the time for us to join together and work even harder to protect the health and well-being of everyone. My heart goes out to anyone who has lost a loved one due to this menacing virus or was somehow impacted by it.

We are the American Legion Family-strong because of our love of country and each other. Please take care of yourselves, be safe, and get vaccinated. I hope to see all of you at our long-awaited national convention, if not before during my travels. Have a great NEC meeting, Commander Bill. Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Thank you, Madam President. At this time the chair recognizes National Vice Commander Bruce C. Feuerbach of Iowa for his report.

Oral Report: National Vice Commander
Bruce C. Feuerbach, Iowa

Hello everyone. Thank you, Commander Oxford, past national commanders, members of the National Executive Committee, honored guests, and fellow Legionnaires.

It has been a truly unprecedented 20 months. The first six months were what I expected, with many invites and duties to do. Then COVID hit right after the Washington Conference in 2020. Everything that was scheduled was cancelled, leaving many disappointments. If I may, I would like to quote Commander Oxford, "The American Legion always adapts and conquers."

The Midwest Region started out communicating with a few conference calls. Since then, we have went to Zoom calls. This was something new to all of us, but it was very productive. We shared goals and ideas between the departments in my region. I believe all commanders received very useful information. If I have learned one thing, Zoom calls and virtual meetings have kept The American Legion and the Midwest Region working tirelessly with trying to reach goals and promoting our American Legion programs.

During the COVID pandemic, I thought the Zoom calls to each of the regions set up by national, where we all participated, was very beneficial and worth our time and effort. I feel Operation Come Back was also a great success. It encouraged the Midwest departments to set up a line of communications to get new and resigned expired members. Each department in the Midwest Region did an outstanding job, of which I am very proud of them. None of these successes could have happened without the expertise and willingness to help from the national staff. They do an outstanding job. A special thank you to Nick Arnett, my national staff liaison person.

During the past 20 months, there has been some highlights, not a lot. The two that come to mind are attending National President Nicole Clapp's homecoming, and the honor of laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier back in 2019.

In closing, the Midwest Region is committed to finishing strong and make the best of what we have left before we turn over our jobs to the next department leaders and the next Midwest Region national vice commander. Commander Oxford, thank you for the opportunity to address the National Executive Committee. Respectfully submitted, Bruce Feuerbach, national vice commander.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Commander, motion to receive and file the report of the National Vice Commander Feuerbach. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second to receive and file the report of National Vice Commander Feuerbach. Any discussion? Any objections? Hearing none, seeing none, motion carries, unanimous consent. At this time, the chair recognizes National Vice Commander David L. King of Kentucky for his report.

Oral Report: National Vice Commander
David L. King, Kentucky

Good morning, Mr. Commander, national officers, and members of our American Legion Family. I want to thank all of you for allowing me the privilege to serve as a national vice commander.

I would like to thank the states that I have been able to visit, your courtesy, your hospitality and friendship will never leave me. For those states that I have not visited, I challenge you to request a visit now. The American Legion never stops serving, and I personally pledge to continue serving.

Like most of you, we have spent more time at home with our immediate family. I believe that family time has improved our lives. We have learned more modern ways to

communicate. Many American Legion levels have gone to emails, Zoom meetings, Facebook, and other computer-type ways to communicate and keep programs current. Phone calls have also kept us in touch. Buddy checks are a great way to show how much we care.

If anything has been learned, it is the fact that change is inevitable. For an organization to survive, we must be willing to think outside the box and change for the good of our programs. Our pillars, our foundation is solid, but maintenance, repair, and upkeep due to time requires us to be vigilant every day to ensure our structures stay solid.

Our national staff has been devoting a large amount of work to training. Why not take advantage of it? I also recommend the reading of a book titled "Who Moved my Cheese?" by Spencer Johnson. This short book will help you deal with change.

We are a volunteer organization. We are no longer NCOs or officers giving orders. Legion leaders must set the example and inspire and motivate others. Leaders must have tact and consideration. Leaders cannot do everything, and that is why the most successful organizations have solid committees on every program and activity. Appoint committees and especially chairpersons not because they want that position, but because they have the ability and willingness to accomplish the mission.

And although we are not a military unit, the commander and adjutant at any level, like a great CO and a top sergeant, must be together in thought, word, and deed. The American Legion is a family. Legionnaires, Auxiliary, Sons, and Riders must work together. They must communicate and cooperate for The American Legion's mission to be successful. The best Legion entities are the ones who work together. I wish you all the best and look forward to being with each of you in person as a family.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Commander, motion to receive and file the report of National Vice Commander King. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second to receive and file the report of National Vice Commander King. Any discussion? Any objections? Hearing none, seeing none, motion carried, unanimous consent. Chair recognizes National Vice Commander Francis J. MacDonald Jr. of Massachusetts for his report.

Oral Report: National Vice Commander
Francis J. MacDonald, Jr., Massachusetts

Good morning, Commander Oxford, members of the NEC, national staff, past national commanders, and guests. It has been an honor to serve as the national vice commander representing the Northeast Region for the past two years.

This has been a very strange period of time. We started off as any other, making visits to our various departments. Then in March 2020, COVID hit and it all came to a halt. Over time, we've been able to communicate via email, snail mail, phone calls, et cetera. Then we found Zoom and began conducting meetings and visits via teleconferences, not unlike this meeting today. All has gone well, but not as good as being there in person.

The Northeast Region has worked diligently during this time. Those that could, opened their post homes so that the community could provide food distribution sites, COVID testing sites, and now they are hosting vaccination clinics.

When Commander Oxford called upon us with Operation Come Back, the entire Northeast Region got right on board. They had their posts expand the buddy checks to include the members who have let their membership lapse over the past couple of years. While we are not sure exactly how many of our expired members rejoined, we do know a number of them did, as we did see a jump in our membership numbers over this period. While the time frame for Operation Come Back has ended, the departments within the Northeast Region continue to contact expired members and are having some success in getting them to renew.

The Northeast Region participated in the first 100 Miles for Hope, and the numbers involved in the second are increasing daily.

Things are beginning to look up. Some of the departments have scheduled conventions. Most have programs starting to open up, and we will soon see our Legion in action again. As our posts are allowed to reopen, we'll see how our organization weathered this storm. While I've heard many concerns, it is my hope is that our posts will open bigger and better than before.

Throughout this time frame I have tried to lead by example, hosting numerous Zoom membership calls; participating in the 100 Miles for Hope; and working expired numbers list for Operation Come Back; and recruiting 121 new members into our organization, reaching my 14th goal brigade.

Again, it has indeed been an honor to have the opportunity to serve you and I look forward to the next few months as we finish up our tour.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Commander, motion to receive and file the report of National Vice Commander MacDonald. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second to receive and file the report of National Vice Commander MacDonald. Any discussion? Any objections? Hearing none, seeing none, motion carries, unanimous consent. The chair recognizes National Vice Commander Richard A. Heigert of Missouri for his report.

Oral Report: National Vice Commander
Richard A. Heigert, Missouri

Greetings, Commander Oxford, past national commanders, national officers, National Executive Committee, and guests. Even though my term of office has been extended to two years, I feel like that it is more like a very short one-year term.

Since last March, I have only made two authorized visits within my Central Region. I still have two departments that I have yet to visit due to cancellations because of COVID since being elected in August 2019.

In February of this year, I was privileged to represent Commander Oxford for the Illinois Lincoln Day Pilgrimage in Springfield. Even though the usual activities were greatly modified, I was proud to help maintain the traditional pilgrimage for the 87th consecutive year.

My thanks to Department Commander Roy Weber, PNC Marty Conatser, and all of the Illinois Legion Family for their warm reception. We were even allowed to make a short presentation of wreaths inside the tomb of Abraham Lincoln, which had been closed to the public. This visit was made possible because a previously approved visit to Michigan for their midwinter conference for those dates was cancelled due to COVID.

Exactly one month later, I was able to participate in a four-day caravan through my home state of Missouri. NEC Ken Goth, Commander Hallie Williams, and four other department officers, along with zone and district commanders in Zone 3, accompanied me while visiting 14 posts throughout southwest Missouri. Many restrictions had been lifted in Missouri by this time and the turnout at all of the posts was fabulous. I think many of the members and guests just wanted to have an excuse to get out and greet their fellow Legionnaires after being cooped up all winter.

Currently I have four more visits scheduled for this year and am looking forward to adding a few more before my term of office ends. Of course, I have not been idle all of the time, as I have attended district meetings in Missouri, along with the department executive committee meetings and the Missouri oratorical contest. I even managed to slip in a short visit to nearby Illinois for a division awards presentation.

Conversations with my departments by conference calls or Zoom sessions helped keep me in touch with my departments, but that only means I get to talk to a select few. The real questions always come from the general membership, and you can only get that interaction by personal contact.

Topics of discussion include National Commander Oxford's designated programs for the 2021 membership year, those being Veterans & Children's Foundation, Buddy Checks,

the Mission Blue Post Assistance Program, and of course Operation Come Back. Emphasis on membership was given to retention and focused on keeping post members involved, giving them a sense of belonging to their posts and providing a sense of security for those in need. Other recruiting and retention methods discussed included conducting revitalizations at post and district levels, and individual training members through the Basic Training course and the monthly training night.

One idea that I also espoused was provided by Ohio Adjutant Suzette Heller, that uses the consolidated post reports of individual posts and consolidated by districts and departments, to demonstrate to our current and prospective members just how much each post, district, or department actually does to support the Four Pillars of The American Legion. Viewing the consolidated CPRs of the district or department can also assist individual posts in analyzing their contributions by noting items they may have overlooked in the preparation of their own CPR.

I feel that the quarantine and lack of face-to-face contact within our individual posts, districts, and departments greatly affected our achieving the membership goals set for each department. An active leadership by senior department officials is a must. Teleconferences and Zoom sessions must be held on a regular basis so that district and our post commanders and membership chairpersons are kept abreast of any changes to their membership standings, and encouraged to exchange ideas that work and can be used for their own districts and posts. Time is getting short for this membership year, and communication and leadership at all levels is a must if we are going to meet our goals. Thank you.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Commander, motion to receive and file the report of National Vice Commander Heigert. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second to receive and file the report of National Vice Commander Heigert. Any discussion? Any objections? Hearing none, seeing none, motion carries, unanimous consent. At this time the chair recognizes National Vice Commander Robert D. Liebenow for his report.

Oral Report: National Vice Commander
Robert D. Liebenow, Oregon

Good morning, Commander Oxford, my fellow national vice commanders, past national commanders and members of the NEC. As you know, the last 15 months have been crazy. Through it all, the Western Region has not forgotten its commitment to our veterans, our children and youth, and our communities.

Many posts have opened their doors to help feed veterans and their families, donated blood and sponsored blood drives, donated food and volunteered at their local food banks. They have continued to work our children and youth programs, Boys State, Oratorical, Legion Baseball, youth law enforcement career camps, and Junior Shooting Sports. They continue to sponsor Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts. They have truly done an outstanding job of representing The American Legion and their communities.

The Western Region has been number one in membership each of the last two years and number one in consolidated post reports last year, and we plan to be number one in membership and consolidated post reports again this year.

It has been a great honor to serve as the national vice commander representing the Western Region these past two years. God bless The American Legion and its members, our troops, and God bless this great nation.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Commander, a motion to receive and file the report of National Vice Commander Liebenow. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second to receive and file the report of National Vice Commander Liebenow. Any discussion? Any objections? Hearing none, seeing none, motion carries unanimous consent.

Just a moment of personal privilege. I'd like to thank those five national vice commanders for the work, the time, and the effort that they have put into this year-and-a-half term. We've still got a few months to go, but gentlemen, thank you for your contribution to The American Legion.

We'll now move forward to reports from national commissions, national committees, boards, and subcommittees of the NEC. The chair recognizes the chairman of the Resolutions Subcommittee William W. Kile of West Virginia for a report on resolutions.

Oral Report: Subcommittee on Resolutions
William Kile, West Virginia, Chairman

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Mr. Commander, the Subcommittee on Resolutions has been meeting regularly to review resolutions. We have 30 resolutions that will be presented coming from the commissions and the committees who make reports. Any resolution seeking National Executive Committee approval will follow the report of the commission. All resolutions which have been disposed of by other action or held for further study will be reported on an addendum.

Our thanks to the commissions for their efficient and accurate handling of the resolutions for this meeting. This has had a positive impact on the work of the subcommittee. Mr. Commander, I ask that you prepare the NEC for memorializing resolutions.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Please rise and uncover.

Memorial Resolutions
Clarence M. Bacon, Maryland

WHEREAS, It has pleased almighty God, the Great Commander, to summon to His immortal legions our beloved comrade, Clarence M. Bacon, Department Vice Commander - 1972 to 1974; Department Commander - 1974 to 1975; National Executive Committee Alternate Member - 1976 to 1978; National Executive Committee Member - 1978 to 1980; National Commander - 1984 to 1985; 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 5th Day of May in the year of our Lord 2021, does mourn the passing of our distinguished Legionnaire, Clarence M. Bacon, that we commend to all men his works and to God his spirit; and, be it finally

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

Randall A. Fisher, Kentucky

WHEREAS, It has pleased almighty God, the Great Commander, to summon to His immortal legions our beloved comrade, Randall A. Fisher, Department Vice Commander - 1998 to 2000; Department Commander - 2000 to 2001; National Executive Committee Alternate Member - 2003 to 2007; 2008 to 2013; 2015 to 2017; National Vice Commander - 2007 to 2008; National Executive Committee Member - 2017; National Legislative Commission National Commander's Representative - 2019 to 2021; 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 5th Day of May in the year of our Lord 2021,

does mourn the passing of our distinguished Legionnaire, Randall A. Fisher, that we commend to all men his works and to God his spirit; and, be it finally

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

Similar memorial resolutions will be presented to families of: Lloyd L. Little, Alaska; James E. Brimer, Arkansas; Alan P. Hall, Florida; Charles T. Tucker, Georgia; Marvin R. Siegfried, Hawaii; Henry S.P. Wong, Hawaii; Alvin O. Werner, Indiana; Ernest H. Cooper, Kansas; Lawrence M. Norton, Massachusetts; Darwin Kriger, Michigan; Roger K. Olson, Minnesota; Robert A. Gosa; Mississippi; Neil J. Neary, Montana; George Cyboron, Nebraska; Carmon Wheatcraft, Nebraska; Ronald. L. Michalski, Nevada; Donald I. Holmquist, New Hampshire; Stanley H. Clark, New York; Richard A. Johnston, Sr., New York; Michael T. Miller; New York; Bobby J. Logenbaugh, Oklahoma; James R. Chapman, Pennsylvania; Michael A. Quiles, Puerto Rico; C. Darrel Haskell, South Dakota; Ronald P. Aldrich, Vermont; Leslie V. Howe; Vermont; Robert L. Bowen, Virginia; Harold E. Plants, West Virginia; Marvin E. Brozynski, Wisconsin; and Arthur D. Herbison, Wisconsin.

Beyond the Horizon
When souls go down to the sea by ship
And the dark ship's name is Death
Why mourn and wail at the vanishing sail?
Though outward bound, God's world is round,
And only a ship is Death.

When I go down to the sea by ship
And Death unfurls her sail,
Weep not for me, for there will be
A living host on another coast
To beckon and give "All Hail!"
--Robert Freeman

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Please recover and be seated. We will take the opportunity to eulogize some of our departed comrades at the pre-convention NEC meeting in Phoenix. At this time I now call on our Finance Commission chairman, Gaither M. Keener of North Carolina, for purposes of a report.

Oral Report: Finance Commission
Gaither M. Keener, Jr., North Carolina, Chairman

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Finance Commission met virtually via Zoom on Monday and Tuesday, May 3 and 4. All commission members were in attendance. Also present were the national adjutant, the national treasurer, the national judge advocate, the executive directors, and the human resource director. Members of the NEC liaison committee were also present. Several guests joined us throughout the course of the meeting.

Reports were received from the national adjutant, the national treasurer, the national judge advocate, the national headquarters executive directors, finance director, Internal Affairs Commission, Membership & Post Activities Committee, Marketing Commission, Americanism Commission, Crowe LLP, NFP Property & Casualty, Media & Communications Commission by written report, and The American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation.

The 2020 surplus was $9,682,467. This is much higher than usual since the majority of programs had to be cancelled due to the COVID pandemic.

2021 first quarter results: Last fall you approved the 2021 budget based on revenues of $89,536,899 and expenditures of $85,807,097, for a net operating surplus of $3,729,802. The budget was based on a total 2021 membership of 1,750,000. The actual membership as of March 31, 2021, was 1,605,900. The year-to-date surplus as of March 31, 2021, is $2,945,606. The budget called for year-to-date surplus of only $527,397.

At a virtual meeting in March, the Finance Commission approved the following: $1,041,000 for financial software to convert disconnected accounting systems to integrate better with The American Legion computer environment; $26,000 for a heat exchanger in the Indianapolis office; the 2022 membership budget in the amount of $8,328,000.

The Finance Commission approved the 2020 audit as presented by Crowe. The commission received a complete report from IT on Personify progress and methodology.

Per NEC Resolution Number 1 from 2016, the following statistics are shared: From May 2020 to April 2021, $21,825.57 were spent in wages and expenses associated with administration and promotion of The American Legion Legacy Scholarship. This includes 577 cumulative work hours.

The new HVAC system was approved for the Washington Office at the cost of $98,521. In addition, $102,227 approved towards furniture and lobby replacements in the Washington office, to be installed between now and March of 2022.

To date, 409 posts have received Mission Blue Post Assistance grants to assist with current or past-due rent, utilities, mortgage, and/or insurance program due to COVID-19 regulations. The Internal Affairs Commission recommended we continue to utilize all American Legion communications outlets to advise posts of the availability of the Mission Blue Post Assistance grant funds and get the funds to those posts who need it.

Internal Affairs felt the $1,000 grant amount should be maintained due to the low participation rate and availability of other government or local funds to assist. They also recommended that the program expiration date be extended six months, until July 1, 2022. Your Finance Commission concurs with these recommendations, but will revisit this issue again at its 2021 National Convention meeting in the event changes need to be made.

The Marketing Commission gave a complete report on all progress in the marketing area. They noted the companies that we have created associations with during the past year, gave a list of prospects we are working with right now, and showed a couple videos explaining how we're marketing The American Legion and creating relationships in the racing arena. You will be seeing those videos during the Marketing Commission report.

Additionally, Chip Ganassi Racing, because they're so invested with the relationship with The American Legion, has offered to us at absolutely no charge, and we have accepted, that the Number 10 car in the Indy Grand Prix race on May 15 will have The American Legion livery on it, in addition to our sponsorship of Car Number 48. This is a tremendous added value in our relationship.

The commission received an update from NFP Property & Casualty on all our current insurance coverage, claims, and costs.

The Finance Commission approved of the disposal of several items that are now outdated, duplicated, or no longer significant to the archives. It approved $25,914 in emergency purchases and $1,179.09 in write-offs of obsolete Emblem inventory.

There are currently 257 authorized positions at national headquarters.

A list of resolutions recommended for approval is attached.

I want to make a special mention of Resolution Number 29, which extends the time from 18 to 36 months for The American Legion to expeditiously pursue and negotiate strategic business alliances and/or sponsorship opportunities. This is so The American Legion can gain financial support for enhancing, sustaining, developing various American Legion programs, events, and projects to benefit veterans, their families, and the communities. Please note that all such potential alliances and opportunities must be reviewed and approved by the Marketing and Finance Commission chairmen, the national judge advocate, national adjutant, and the national commander, to ensure they are consistent with the mission and the best interests of The American Legion. These

agreements will then be reported to the appropriate committees, commissions, and the NEC at their next regular scheduled meeting. Thank you.

Report: Finance Commission
Gaither M. Keener, Jr., North Carolina, Chairman

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Finance Commission met virtually via Zoom on Monday and Tuesday, May 3-4. All commission members were present. Also present were National Adjutant Dan Wheeler, National Treasurer Shawn Long, National Judge Advocate Kevin Bartlett, Executive Directors James Baca, Dean Kessel and Chanin Nuntavong, and Human Resources Director Rodney Rolland. Members of the NEC Liaison Committee present were Michael Mitrione (VA, Chairman), Robert Krause (ND), Robert Skinner (ID), Thomas Florez (CO) and Dan Wiley (KS). Several guests joined us throughout the course of the meeting.

Reports were received from

- National adjutant
- National treasurer
- National judge advocate
- National headquarters' executive directors
- Finance director
- Internal Affairs Commission
- Membership & Post Activities Committee
- Marketing Commission
- Americanism Commission
- Crowe LLP
- NFP Property & Casualty
- Media & Communications Commission (written report)
- American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation

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Resolutions

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

- Resolution #22: 2024 National Convention Contract: Approval is given to execute a contract with the American Legion First District Convention Corporation for a national convention in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 23-29, 2024.
- Resolution #23: The American Legion Spirit of Service Award: Consolidates all previous Spirit of Service resolutions and confirms reimbursement for recipients. Since the Spirit of Service Award recognizes all branches of service, the Space Force will be included in future awards.
- Resolution #24: Service Academy Awards: Consolidates all previous service academy award resolutions into one.
- Resolution #25: Appointment of Successor Trustees of American Legion Paid-Up-For-Life Membership Trust: To exercise greater internal control, current external successor trustee is removed and the national commander, the Finance

Commission chairman, the NEC Finance Commission Liaison Committee chairman, the American Legion Charities, Inc treasurer, the national treasurer, and the national adjutant (only as member with voice and no vote) be appointed trustees of the American Legion Paid-Up-For-Life Membership Trust effective July 15, 2021. All of the provisions set forth in the present American Legion Paid-Up-For-Life Membership Trust as executed, with respect to the trustee shall have the same force and effect and be binding upon the successor trustees.

- Resolution #26: Appointment of Successor Trustees of American Legion Charities Trust: To exercise greater internal control, current external successor trustee is removed and the national commander, the Finance Commission chairman, the NEC Finance Commission Liaison Committee chairman, the American Legion Charities, Inc treasurer, the national treasurer, and the national adjutant (only as member with voice and no vote) be appointed trustees of the American Legion Paid-Up-For-Life Membership Trust effective June 15, 2021. All of the provisions set forth in the present American Legion Paid-Up-For-Life Membership Trust as executed, with respect to the trustee shall have the same force and effect and be binding upon the successor trustees.
- Resolution #27: Appointment of Successor Trustees of American Legion September 11, 2001 Memorial Scholarship Trust Fund: To exercise greater internal control, current external successor trustee is removed and the national commander, the Finance Commission chairman, the NEC Finance Commission Liaison Committee chairman, the American Legion Charities, Inc treasurer, the national treasurer, and the national adjutant (only as member with voice and no vote) be appointed trustees of the American Legion Paid-Up-For-Life Membership Trust effective July 15, 2021. All of the provisions set forth in the present American Legion Paid-Up-For-Life Membership Trust as executed, with respect to the trustee shall have the same force and effect and be binding upon the successor trustees.
- Resolution #28: Appointment of Successor Trustees of American Legion Scholarship Trust Fund: To exercise greater internal control, current external successor trustee is removed and the national commander, the Finance Commission chairman, the NEC Finance Commission Liaison Committee chairman, the American Legion Charities, Inc treasurer, the national treasurer, and the national adjutant (only as member with voice and no vote) be appointed trustees of the American Legion Paid-Up-For-Life Membership Trust effective June 15, 2021. All of the provisions set forth in the present American Legion Paid-Up-For-Life Membership Trust as executed, with respect to the trustee shall have the same force and effect and be binding upon the successor trustees.
- Resolution #29 : Corporate Alliances and Discount Providers: American Legion shall have authority to expeditiously pursue and negotiate strategic business alliances and/or sponsorship opportunities for time periods not to exceed three years to gain financial support for enhancing, sustaining and developing various American Legion programs, events and projects to benefit veterans, their families and their communities. All such potential alliances and/or opportunities must be reviewed and approved by the Marketing and Finance Commission Chairmen, the national judge advocate, national adjutant and the national commander to ensure they are consistent with the mission and best interest of The American Legion. These agreements shall be reported to the appropriate committee, commissions and the NEC at their next regularly scheduled meeting.
- Resolution #30: Authorization for Renewal of Direct Marketing Contract for National Fundraising Activities: The American Legion is authorized to enter into a 5-year contract with Edge Direct LLC for direct marketing services to develop, manage and continue growing national donor programs to raise funds for The American Legion national programs.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Commander, a motion to receive and adopt the report of the Finance Commission with the exception of nine resolutions. There is no addendum. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second to receive and adopt the report of the Finance Commission. Any discussion? Any objections? Hearing none, seeing none, motion carried, unanimous consent.

Resolution No. 22: 2024 National Convention Contract
Origin: Convention Commission
Submitted by: Finance Commission

WHEREAS, The Convention Commission has reviewed the status of the proposed National American Legion Convention in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 23 – August 29, 2024; and

WHEREAS, Subject to receiving a properly executed contract from the American Legion First District Convention Corporation, the Convention Commission believes that all conditions for a contract covering the American Legion National Convention in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 23 – August 29, 2024, have been satisfied; and

WHEREAS, The Convention Commission hereby recommends to the National Executive Committee that it enter into the appropriate contract with the American Legion First District Convention Corporation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled virtually on May 5-6, 2021, That the national commander, after receipt of an executed contract from the American Legion First District Convention Corporation for the purpose of holding The American Legion National Convention in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 23-29, 2024, and the review and approval of same from the national judge advocate, be and is hereby authorized and directed to execute said contract and the national adjutant, be and is hereby authorized and directed to attest to same.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Resolution Number 22 has the approval of the Convention Commission, the Finance Commission, and your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second to adopt Resolution Number 22. Any discussion? Any objections? Hearing none, seeing none, motion carries, unanimous consent, Resolution two-two.

Resolution No. 23: The American Legion Spirit of Service Award
Origin: National Security Commission
Submitted by: Finance Commission

WHEREAS, The American Legion Spirit of Service Award was established by the national commander to recognize outstanding volunteerism by junior enlisted service personnel of all service branches of the United States military; and

WHEREAS, All branches of services include the United States Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Space Force, National Guard Bureau, and Coast Guard; and

WHEREAS, This resolution authorizes the financial cost for this award and the travel costs to the National Convention for annual recognition and acceptance of The American Legion Spirit of Service Award; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Defense and the seven military departments have identified the most outstanding men and women each year to receive this distinguished recognition; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion Spirit of Service Award recipients have received press coverage in Armed Service News dispatches, the Pentagon Channel, their military base newspapers, and their home town publications; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion Spirit of Service Award recipients will forever carry with them rewarding experiences of their association with their American Legion

comrades at National Convention and serve as positive voices among their peers for the organization; and

WHEREAS, All seven servicemembers participate in National Convention activities and showcase the professionalism and dedication of today's armed forces; and

WHEREAS, This resolution did not make it to the Internal Affairs Commission prior to their meeting; however, the chairman of the Internal Affairs Commission concurs with adding the Space Force to The American Legion Spirit of Service Award; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled virtually on May 5-6, 2021, That The American Legion shall provide each of the seven The American Legion Spirit of Service Award recipients of the year with one roundtrip coach airfare or vehicle mileage under its employee mileage reimbursement rates within the continental United States to the National Convention and four nights lodging at a convention hotel; one ticket (two tickets if accompanied by spouse or supervisor) for the national commander's banquet; staff per diem for five days; and an engraved glass and marble award-trophy not exceeding the cost of $350, adjusted as needed for inflation; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the total number of awards each year shall not exceed seven: one from each branch of service, and the National Guard Bureau; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the national commander will provide each of the seven recipients one-year membership in The American Legion; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the *Trophies, Awards and Ceremonials Manual* be updated following this change in eligible candidates; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That National Executive Committee Resolution No. 23, October 2011, titled "The American Legion Spirit of Service Award," and National Executive Committee Resolution No. 6, October 2015, titled "Include National Guard and Reserve Members in the Spirit of Service Awards" are hereby superseded and rescinded.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Resolution Number 23 has the approval of the National Security Commission, the Finance Commission, and your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second to adopt Resolution 23. Any discussion? Any objections? Hearing none, seeing none, motion carries unanimous consent, Resolution two-three.

Resolution No. 24: Service Academy Awards
Origin: Internal Affairs Commission
Submitted by: Finance Commission

WHEREAS, The American Legion has had a long history of sponsoring awards for top graduating cadets and midshipmen of the United States Naval Academy, United States Coast Guard Academy, United States Merchant Marine Academy, United States Military Academy at West Point, and the United States Air Force Academy; and

WHEREAS, The service academy awards are some of our longest running awards and reinforce our commitment as an organization to the future of our country and its future leaders; and

WHEREAS, Latitude is given to the responsible officials of each of the service academies to select, design, purchase and present a semi-permanent individual award while recognizing The American Legion; and

WHEREAS, Since 2011, The American Legion has presented $500 to the United States Naval Academy, United States Coast Guard Academy, and the United States Merchant Marine Academy with the United States Military Academy at West Point remaining at $250 per their regulation; and

WHEREAS, In 2018, the United States Air Force asked The American Legion to increase their annual award to $600; and

WHEREAS, Historically, the following conditions and awards were established by the service academies; now, therefore, be it

Service Academy	Condition	Award
United States Air Force	Highest in all academic subjects	General Muir S. Fairchild Award
United States Coast Guard	Excelled in athletics	Prescribed by academy officials
United States Merchant Marine	Excelled as member of color guard	Prescribed by academy officials
United States Military	Highest standing in chemistry	Pewter pitcher with stand
United States Naval Foreign Affairs	Highest standing in English, History, and Government for a major	Prescribed by academy officials

RESOLVED, That the Internal Affairs Commission will review with the service academies on a periodic basis to ensure the awards meet the desires of the service academies officials; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the national commander and national adjutant are authorized to make an annual or multi-year payment not to exceed $1,000, which will allow for inflation and any increased cost of an award; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That Resolution No. 20 (NEC, May 1956), Awards to Air Force Academy Graduates; Resolution No. 46 (NEC, May 1959), American Legion Awards to Four Armed Services Academies; Resolution No. 19 (NEC, May 1968), American Legion Naval Academy Award; Resolution No. 5 (NEC, May 2007), Military Service Academies Awards for Graduating Cadets/Midshipmen; Resolution No. 34 (NEC, May 2010), Armed Services Academy Awards Update; Resolution No. 6 (NEC, May 2011), Armed Services Academy Awards Update; Resolution No. 9 (NEC, May 2017), Cadet Awards Program of the United States Military; and Resolution No. 25 (NEC, May 2018), Air Force Academy Awards Sponsorship, are hereby, superseded and rescinded.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Resolution Number 24 has the approval of the Internal Affairs Commission, the Finance Commission, and your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second to adopt Resolution 24. Any discussion? Any objections? Hearing none, seeing none, motion carries, unanimous consent, Resolution two-four.

Resolution No. 25: Appointment of Successor Trustees of American Legion Paid-Up-For-Life Membership Trust
Origin: Finance Commission
Submitted by: Finance Commission

WHEREAS, The National Executive Committee authorized the American Legion as settlor to create the American Legion Paid-Up-For-Life Membership Trust on October 9, 1975; and

WHEREAS, Hoosier Trust Company of Indianapolis, Indiana and its successor First Merchants Private Wealth Advisors of Carmel, Indiana were named successor trustee on May 15, 2003; and

WHEREAS, Settlor reserved the right, upon written 60 day notice, to remove such trustee under Article Four page five of the Declaration of Trust; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled virtually on May 5–6, 2021, That First Merchants Private

Wealth Advisors of Carmel, Indiana is hereby removed as trustee for the American Legion Paid-Up-For-Life Membership Trust effective July 15, 2021; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the national commander, the Finance Commission chairperson, the NEC Finance Commission Liaison Committee chairperson, the American Legion Charities, Inc treasurer, the national treasurer, and the national adjutant (only as member with voice and no vote) be appointed trustees of the American Legion Paid-Up-For-Life Membership Trust effective July 15, 2021; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the national adjutant be and is hereby authorized and directed to deliver or mail to First Merchants Private Wealth Advisors of Carmel, Indiana, a certified copy of this resolution with the corporate seal affixed thereto; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That all of the provisions set forth in the present American Legion Paid-Up-For-Life Membership Trust as executed, with respect to the trustee shall have the same force and effect and be binding upon the national commander, the Finance Commission chairperson, the NEC Finance Commission Liaison Committee chairperson, the American Legion Charities, Inc. treasurer, the national treasurer, and the national adjutant (only as member with voice and no vote) as successor trustees.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Resolution Number 25 has the approval of the Finance Commission and your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second to adopt Resolution 25. Any discussion? Any objections? Hearing none, seeing none, motion carries, unanimous consent, Resolution two-five.

Resolution No. 26: Appointment of Successor Trustees of American Legion Charities Trust

Origin: Finance Commission

Submitted by: Finance Commission

WHEREAS, The National Executive Committee authorized the American Legion as settlor to create the American Legion Charities on October 14-15, 2009; and

WHEREAS, Hoosier Trust Company of Indianapolis, Indiana and its successor First Merchants Private Wealth Advisors of Carmel, Indiana were named successor trustee on March 9, 2010; and

WHEREAS, Settlor reserved the right, upon written 30 day notice, to remove such trustee under Article Six page five of the Declaration of Trust; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled virtually on May 5–6, 2021, That First Merchants Private Wealth Advisors of Carmel, Indiana is hereby removed as trustee for the American Legion Charities effective June 15, 2021; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the national commander, the Finance Commission chairperson, the NEC Finance Commission Liaison Committee chairperson, the American Legion Charities, Inc treasurer, the national treasurer, and the national adjutant (only as member with voice and no vote) be appointed trustees of American Legion Charities effective June 15, 2021; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the national adjutant be and is hereby authorized and directed to deliver or mail to First Merchants Private Wealth Advisors of Carmel, Indiana, a certified copy of this resolution with the corporate seal affixed thereto; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That all of the provisions set forth in the present American Legion Charities as executed, with respect to the Trustee shall have the same force and effect and be binding upon the national commander, the Finance Commission chairperson, the Finance Commission Liaison Committee chairperson, the American Legion

Charities, Inc. treasurer, the national treasurer, and the national adjutant (only as member with voice and no vote) as successor trustees.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Resolution 26 has the approval of the Finance Commission and your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second to adopt Resolution 26. Any discussion? Any objections? Hearing none, seeing none, the motion carries, unanimous consent, Resolution two-six.

Resolution No. 27: Appointment of Successor Trustees of American Legion September 11, 2001 Memorial Scholarship Trust Fund
Origin: Finance Commission
Submitted by: Finance Commission

WHEREAS, The National Executive Committee authorized the American Legion as settlor to create the American Legion September 11 Memorial Scholarship Trust Fund on May 8-9, 2002; and

WHEREAS, Hoosier Trust Company of Indianapolis, Indiana and its successor First Merchants Private Wealth Advisors of Carmel, Indiana were named trustee; and

WHEREAS, Settlor reserved the right, upon written 30 day notice, to remove such trustee under Article Six page Five of the Declaration of Trust; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled virtually on May 5–6, 2021, That First Merchants Private Wealth Advisors of Carmel, Indiana is hereby removed as trustee for the American Legion September 11, 2001 Memorial Scholarship Trust Fund effective June 15, 2021; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the national commander, the Finance Commission chairperson, the NEC Finance Commission Liaison Committee chairperson, the American Legion Charities, Inc treasurer, the national treasurer, and the national adjutant (only as member with voice and no vote) be appointed trustees of the American Legion September 11, 2001 Memorial Scholarship Trust Fund effective June 15, 2021; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the national adjutant be and is hereby authorized and directed to deliver or mail to First Merchants Private Wealth Advisors of Carmel, Indiana, a certified copy of this resolution with the corporate seal affixed thereto; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That all of the provisions set forth in the present American Legion September 11, 2001 Memorial Scholarship Trust as executed, with respect to the Trustee shall have the same force and effect and be binding upon the national commander, the Finance Commission chairperson, The NEC Finance Commission Liaison Committee chairperson, the American Legion Charities, Inc. treasurer, the national treasurer and the national adjutant (only as member with voice and no vote) as successor trustees.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Resolution 27 has the approval of the Finance Commission and your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second to adopt Resolution 27. Any discussion? Any objections? Hearing none, seeing none, motion carries, unanimous consent, Resolution two-seven.

Resolution No. 28: Appointment of Successor Trustees of American Legion Scholarship Trust Fund
Origin: Finance Commission
Submitted by: Finance Commission

WHEREAS, The National Executive Committee authorized the American Legion as settlor to create the American Legion Scholarship Trust Fund on September 3, 1995; and

WHEREAS, Hoosier Trust Company of Indianapolis, Indiana and its successor First Merchants Private Wealth Advisors of Carmel, Indiana were named successor trustee on September, 15, 2002; and

WHEREAS, Settlor reserved the right, upon written 30-day notice, to remove such trustee under Article Six page Seven of the Declaration of Trust; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled virtually on May 5–6, 2021, That First Merchants Private Wealth Advisors of Carmel, Indiana is hereby removed as trustee for the American Legion Scholarship Trust Fund effective June 15, 2021; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the national commander, the Finance Commission chairperson, the NEC Finance Commission Liaison Committee chairperson, the American Legion Charities, Inc treasurer, the national treasurer, and the national adjutant (only as member with voice and no vote) be appointed trustees of the American Legion Scholarship Trust Fund effective June 15, 2021; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the national adjutant be and is hereby authorized and directed to deliver or mail to First Merchants Private Wealth Advisors of Carmel, Indiana, a certified copy of this resolution with the corporate seal affixed thereto; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That all of the provisions set forth in the present American Legion Scholarship Trust as executed, with respect to the trustee shall have the same force and effect and be binding upon the national commander, the Finance Commission chairperson, the NEC Finance Commission Liaison Committee chairperson, the American Legion Charities, Inc. treasurer, the national treasurer, and the national adjutant (only as member with voice and no vote) as successor trustees.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Resolution Number 28 has the approval of the Finance Commission and your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second to adopt Resolution 28. Any discussion? Any objections? Hearing none, seeing none, motion carries, unanimous consent, Resolution two-eight.

Resolution No. 29: Corporate Alliances and Discount Providers
Origin: Marketing Commission
Submitted by: Finance Commission

WHEREAS, The American Legion prides itself on the delivery of unparalleled service to veterans, their families and their communities; and

WHEREAS, One way The American Legion can expand these services to meet the demands of a growing veteran population is by forming alliances and sponsorship opportunities with corporate entities and discount providers that share similar values; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion, through such alliances and discounts, can elevate its message and build awareness of its identity throughout the nation, as well as build up funds within The American Legion's Veterans and Children Foundation, and offset costs of programs, services and events that help veterans and their families; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion is competing with thousands of other nonprofit organizations across the nation for support from corporate entities, but due to current market standards cannot effectively pursue these business relationships without the ability to act in an expeditious manner; and

WHEREAS, Those corporations and discount providers expect contract periods to be

in effect for multiple years to give value to our members and corporate efforts alike; and

WHEREAS, The staff and volunteer leadership of The American Legion, in conjunction with our marketing agency, has developed a national corporate alliances platform that provides opportunities to engage multiple audiences through public relations, print, online, social media, national convention, national programs, direct mail and events of all types; and

WHEREAS, The opportunities within this platform will provide The American Legion with financial and in-kind support from corporate allies and discount providers to enhance, sustain and develop programs, events and projects to benefit veterans, families and their communities; and

WHEREAS, This resolution has the approval of the Marketing Commission, the Finance Commission, and the Subcommittee on Resolutions; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled virtually on May 5-6, 2021, That The American Legion shall have the authority to expeditiously pursue and negotiate strategic business alliances and/or sponsorship opportunities for time-periods not to exceed three (3) years to gain financial support for enhancing, sustaining and developing various American Legion programs, events and projects to benefit veterans, their families and their communities; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That all such potential strategic business alliances and/or sponsorship opportunities must be reviewed and approved by the chairman of the Marketing Commission, the chairman of the Finance Commission, the national judge advocate, the national adjutant and the national commander to ensure that they are consistent with the mission and best interest of The American Legion; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That after all such listed approvals are granted, the national adjutant may authorize the necessary documentation to implement the business alliance and/or sponsorship opportunity; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That any such agreements shall be reported to the appropriate commission and/or committee, the Marketing Commission, the Finance Commission and the National Executive Committee at their next regularly scheduled meeting; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That Resolution No. 6, Corporate Relationships, adopted by the National Executive Committee, October 15-16, 2014, and Resolution No. 3, Authority to Enter into Revenue Enhancement and Marketing Relationships on a Test Basis, adopted by the National Executive Committee on October 12-13, 2016 are hereby rescinded.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Resolution Number 29 has the approval of the Marketing Commission, the Finance Commission, and your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second to adopt Resolution Number 29. Any discussion? Any objections? Hearing none, seeing none, the motion carries, unanimous consent, Resolution two-nine.

Resolution No. 30: Authorization for Renewal of Direct Marketing Contract for National Fundraising Activities

Origin: Marketing Commission

Submitted by: Finance Commission

WHEREAS, The American Legion has, since Resolution No. 9 passed by the National Executive Committee May 5-6, 2010, been authorized to contract a reputable vendor to help build and grow a national donor file; and

WHEREAS, Edge Direct, LLC, received the contract to fulfill that need; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion renewed the contract with Edge Direct, LLC by Resolution 6 passed by the National Executive Committee May 5, 2015; and

WHEREAS, the contract was extended by one (1) year as allowed by Section 3. Effective Date; Term - Paragraph (a) of the Contract; and

WHEREAS, the national donor program has grown significantly, to a point where it is producing $4.06 million net return in 2021, and additional annualized net incomes are expected to exceed $3.2 million per year, going forward, using Edge Direct, LLC, as the consultant, producer and distributor of national fundraising marketing initiatives; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion active national donor file has grown to more than 384,000 since the relationship began with Edge Direct, LLC, representing growth of about 364,000 active donors or 34.1 percent annualized growth since inception; and

WHEREAS, The national donor program has produced cumulative net income of more than $18,840,000 since inception of the program; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion Contract with Edge Direct, LLC, is scheduled to expire June 14, 2021; and

WHEREAS, This resolution has the approval of The American Legion Marketing Commission and the Finance Commission; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled virtually on May 5-6, 2021, That The American Legion be authorized to enter into a 5-year contract with Edge Direct, LLC for direct marketing services to develop, manage and continue growing The American Legion national donor program and to raise funds for The American Legion national programs; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That after review and approval of said contract by the national judge advocate the national commander be and is hereby authorized and directed to execute said contract and that the national adjutant be and is hereby authorized and directed to attest the same.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Resolution Number 30 has the approval of the Marketing Commission, the Finance Commission, and your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second to adopt Resolution 30. Any discussion? Any objections? Hearing none, seeing none, motion carries, unanimous consent, Resolution three-zero.

At this time the chair recognizes Paul A. Evenson of South Dakota, chairman of the Marketing Commission, for the purposes of a report.

Oral Report: Marketing Commission
Paul A. Evenson, South Dakota, Chairman

Mr. Commander, members of the NEC and guests, 2021 DMS is on pace to meet the budgeted goal of 123,000 members. All DMS campaigns are now in market and final results will be tabulated at the close of the 2021 membership cycle on June 30.

The 2022 DMS budget was approved by the Finance Commission earlier this year, and plans are already underway to begin this effort beginning July 1. Our approved goal is to acquire 125,000 members during the 2022 membership cycle, to include about 75,000 new, never-before members, and about 50,000 expired rejoins.

The new DMS communication plan to this group is working as expected. Implemented in 2018, it allowed the class of 2018 to have a slight increase in renewal rate over the previous year, and the class of 2019 is on pace to renew 47 percent of these members, which is the highest rate for DMS members in the last five years.

As with DMS, the 2021 direct renewal cycle is winding down, while the 2022 cycle is planned to begin July 1. We are very pleased with our online renewal results which are on pace for an all-time high of more than 320,000 renewals, which is close to 20 percent of all 2021 renewals.

Regarding fundraising, 2020 was a banner year for donor acquisition efforts. We acquired more than 190,000 new donors at an average cost to acquire of $5.73 per donor,

which is nearly one-half the budgeted cost per donor. Fundraising industry experts advised charities and associations to stay the course with fundraising efforts through the difficult times the pandemic created. We followed this advice and, as a result, had a banner fundraising year. Gross revenue finished the year at more than $15.1 million, which is more than $1.2 million ahead of expectations.

2020 net income from direct marketing efforts also finished at a record pace of more than $5.2 million and well ahead of budget. 2021 donor acquisition efforts have started as expected, while donor appeals are already performing better than expected. To date, donor appeals have already outpaced budget by more than $400,000.

Finally, we are pleased to report the new vehicle donation vendor and supporting marketing efforts have created significant growth in that program. We budgeted 2021 to have gross receipts of about $300,000, of which we have already exceeded that goal. We are now anticipating the year to finish at more than $700,000.

Indy Car Number 48. The 17-race 2021 NTT Data Indy Car season launched April 17 from Barber Motorsports Park in Birmingham, Alabama. Jimmie Johnson and the Number 48 Legion Racing team have already garnered a tremendous amount of media coverage during the off season. Now with the season under way, Jimmie Johnson continues to be the number one story in IndyCar in the motorsports, and the general media are chronicling his every move.

The American Legion and Johnson have most recently appeared in the Wall Street Journal, Washington Post, NBC Today Show, ESPN Sports Center, and across multiple AP news outlets, just to name a few. We only see the coverage of his progress throughout the season increasing as he gets more comfortable with the car and the tracks. As we discussed when we elected to sponsor Johnson and the Chip Ganassi Racing Team, he has become the story in motorsports, which allows us to leverage his notoriety and fame to share The American Legion message to millions of veterans and fans that follow the sport.

And speaking of getting our message out, The American Legion is airing dedicated commercial spots during the NBC's coverage of the NTT Data series. Our spots share the message about what The American Legion has done over its history of service to veterans, as well as a call to action for viewers to either donate to and/or join The American Legion.

From a creative perspective, we have produced two separate commercials that will air thought the season. Finally, for all 17 races of the Indy Car season, The American Legion will have in-car camera coverage. In many cases, because of Johnson's popularity, the exposure The American Legion will receive could very well exceed that of many other more established brands in the sport.

It is a long season but we are excited for the incredible start. The American Legion brand is being exposed to new audiences in a very unique and memorable way, and those audiences have the opportunity to learn more about The American Legion and how they can potentially get involved and/or donate to our causes.

Corporation development. We have a newly signed deal with Veterans United Mortgage Company for a $2 million donation toward the VCF. We are in process of renewing our relationship with UnitedHealthcare for an annual contribution of $1.3 million and are seeking a three-year commitment of $3.9 million.

In reference to the Veterans & Children's Fund, we have developed a comprehensive blueprint and a detailed timeline for The American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation. This blueprint was presented to the Finance Commission in March and adopted by the VCF board of directors in August of 2020. The budget was presented to the Finance Commission on October 2, 2020.

The 1919 Society was created in October of 2019 and presented to the Finance Commission in March at the Washington Conference, and to the Veterans & Children Foundation board of directors in August, for review and comments. The VCF board of directors adopted the 1919 Society to recognize significant donors and as a method of raising funds for all American Legion charities and programs. The major components of the 1919 Society are the Giving Wall, which you can find installed in the executive wing of national headquarters; to recognize the donors formally for their contributions. Bronze,

silver, gold, and platinum medals are available in addition to being awarded a 1919 Society pin.

Mr. Commander, the Marketing Commission would now like to share the following videos. The first video is a behind-the-scenes look at the making of the Legion's two new television commercials that will air on NBC during their broadcast of the 2021 Indy Car season. The video also shares information on the new American Legion marketing brand we plan to utilize and incorporate it into marketing initiatives. The second video is a commercial currently running on NBC broadcasts. The commercial is entitled "More Than What You Have Heard." Once these videos are completed, they will conclude my report and I am happy to take any questions.

Report: Marketing Commission
Paul A. Evenson, South Dakota, Chairman

DIRECT MARKETING – MEMBERSHIP

Direct Membership Solicitation (DMS)

The 2021 DMS At the time of this report, the 2021 DMS program has successfully acquired about 106,000 new members. We are expecting to finish the membership cycle near the budgeted goal of 123,000 members. Similar to the 2020 cycle increased emphasis was placed on new never before members as history shows that they are about 20% more likely to renew than that of expired members. To date, the ratio of new to reenlisted members is about 60% new to 40% reenlisted expires. This effort continues to be heavily based in direct mail but also includes a mix of digital ads and email campaigns that continue to show positive growth each year.

The 2022 membership year budget was approved at the Washington Conference earlier this year. This budget is based on acquiring 125,000 members in a cycle that begins July 1, 2021. Plans are already underway to develop and implement the marketing plan in July and August with a combination of both direct mail and digital campaigns. Subsequent direct mail campaigns are also planned to occur in October and January-April and digital campaigns monthly throughout the remainder of the membership cycle. Our budgeted expense was approved at $6,860,000 and we expect our net cost per member to finish at approximately $28.38 per new member.

The new member communications plan to this group is working as expected. Implemented in 2019, it allowed the class of 2018 to have a slight increase in renewal rate over the previous year and the class of 2019 is on pace to **renew 47%** of these members, which is the highest rate for DMS members in the last 5 years.

Direct Renewal

As with DMS, the direct renewal program for 2022 is planned to start July 1. This too is a program that continues to utilize direct mail as its primary channel but has found success in email and other digital messaging techniques. This program is necessary for stimulating timely renewals from the active membership. It utilizes 6 notices mailed to traditional members throughout the year and a 7th notice is sent to recent DMS members encouraging a late cycle renewal to these newer members.

Over the past couple of years, we have aggressively utilized digital channels to continue to grow on-line renewals. **To date, we have renewed about 310,000 members on-line which is an all time high.** We expect online renewals to finish at about 20% of total 2021 renewals.

Paid Up For Life (PUFL)

The 2021 Paid Up For Life program has already converted about 2,600 of our 8,000 member goal. Our 2021 tactics include a combination of digital advertising, email and direct mail campaigns that offer either a $100 discounted price or an American Legion Centennial Silver Dollar coin as a premium for payment in full.

DIRECT MARKETING – FUNDRAISING

National Fundraising (Non-member)
2020 was a banner year for donor acquisition efforts.

We acquired more than 190,000 new donors at an average cost to acquire of $5.73 per donor, which is nearly 50% of the budgeted cost per donor.

The 2021 efforts have also started well and are tracking on budgeted pace. To date, we have already acquired approximately 57,000 donors at a cost to acquire of about $10.80 per donor.

Fundraising industry experts advised charities and associations to stay the course with fundraising efforts through the difficult times the pandemic created. We followed this advice and as a result had a banner fundraising year. Gross revenue finished the year at more than $15.1 million, which is more than 1.2 million ahead of expectations. Since inception of the program in 2010 cumulative gross revenue has nearly reached $88 million dollars.

Because of the strong finish to 2020, we are projecting gross income to finish 2021 at about $15.8 million. To date we have already recorded $4.73 million and are on our projected pace. Donor programs through February outperformed budget by about $410,000 and acquisition campaigns are performing as expected.

Revenue by source remains consistent at about 70% from active donor appeals, 25% from donor acquisition and the remaining 5% from other sources.

As with gross revenue, 2020 net income from direct marketing efforts also finished at a record level of more than $5.2 million, which is about $1.9 million ahead of expectations. 2021 is currently on pace to reach our $4.3 million goal. Currently, donor appeals are outperforming expectations by more than $410,000.

2020 successes were because we successfully grew the donor file to 385,000 active donors a 20% increase over 2019. We are expecting 2021 to return to a much more normal pace with modest growth to about 400,000 active donors by year's end. Member donors represent about 28% of these active donors and they produce about 36% of the gross receipts.

The department revenue share also increased significantly because of the 2020 fundraising successes. Nearly $1,462,000 has been approved for distribution on a pro rata basis to the departments within the next few weeks.

In addition to other national fundraising efforts, we have budgeted and planned for four Veterans and Children specific mailings in support of the $25 million dollar goal. In total these mailings are expected to net approximately $1 million toward the campaign. The first mailing was in market earlier in April and it is much too early to begin reporting results.

Finally, we are pleased to report that the new vehicle donation vendor and supporting marketing efforts have created significant growth in that program. We budgeted 2021 to have gross receipts of about $300,000 of which we have already exceeded that goal. We are now anticipating the year to finish at more than $700,000.

LEGION RACING PLATFORM - INDYCAR #48

The 17-race 2021 NTT Data IndyCar season launched on April 17 from Barber Motorsports Park in Birmingham, AL.

Jimmie Johnson and the #48 Legion Racing team have already garnered a tremendous amount of media coverage during the off-season. Now, with the season underway, Jimmie Johnson continues to be the number one story in IndyCar and the motorsports and general media are chronicling his every move. The American Legion and Johnson have most recently appeared in The Wall Street Journal, Washington Post, NBC Today Show, ESPN SportsCenter and across multiple AP news outlets — just to name of few. We only see the coverage of his progress throughout the season increasing as he gets more comfortable with the car and tracks. As we discussed when we elected to sponsor Johnson and the Chip

Ganassi Racing team, he has become THE story in motorsports which allows us to leverage his notoriety and fame to share the American Legion message to millions of veterans and fans that follow the sport.

And speaking of getting our message out, The American Legion is airing dedicated commercial spots during NBC's coverage of the NTT Data Series. Our spots share the message about what the Legion has done over its history of service to veterans as well as a "call to action" for viewers to either join and/or donate to The American Legion. From a creative perspective, we have produced two (2) separate commercials that will air throughout the season. Finally, for all 17 races of the IndyCar season, The American Legion will have in-car camera coverage. In many cases, because of Johnson's popularity, the exposure The American Legion will receive could very exceed that of many other more established brands in the sport.

It is a long season but we are excited for the incredible start. The American Legion brand is being exposed to new audiences in a very unique and memorable way. And those audiences have the opportunity to learn more about The American Legion and how they can potentially get involved and/or donate to our causes.

CORPORATE DEVELOPMENT

We have a newly signed deal with Veterans United Mortgage Company for a $2M donation toward VCF. We are also in the process of renewing our relationship with United Healthcare for an annual contribution of $1.3M and are seeking a three commitment of $3.9M.

VETERAN CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION (VCF)

We have developed a comprehensive "Blueprint" and a detailed timeline for The American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation. This blueprint was presented to the Finance Commission in March and adopted by the VCF Board of directors in August 2020. The budget was presented to finance commission on October 2, 2020.

The 1919 Society was created in October 2019 and presented to the Finance Commission in March at the Washington Conference and to the Veterans and Children Foundation Board Directors in August for review and comments. The VCF Board of Directors adopted the 1919 Society to recognize significant donors and as a method of raising funds for all American Legion Charities and programs. The major components of the 1919 Society are the Giving Wall (which you can find installed in the executive wing), to recognize donors formally for contributions, bronze, silver, gold and platinum medals are available in addition to being awarded a 1919 Society pin.

Seven-year goal to raise $25MM is well under way:

- The second iteration of 100 Miles of Hope kicked-off on April 1 and has already raised $80,000. The 2021 version runs through August of 2021 with a goal of raising $300,000 – the 2020 100 Miles of Hope campaign raised $140,000
- Giving Wall has been installed at National HQ
- 1919 Society – has raised $122,282 – YTD
- Working to Coordinate all operational tracking activities with Personify 360 platform
- Q4 of 2020 – VCF dedicated direct mail campaign with a 200% return – fundraising net total of $237,735, with an average net gift of $18.75
- $2 Million donation from Veteran's United will be going to VCF and is credited against $25 million goal.

REPORT TO THE NATIONAL MARKETING COMMISSION
NATIONAL EMBLEM COMMITTEE
Sally Nay, Chairman (Massachusetts)

The Emblem Sales division's year-end total revenue for 2020 was $9.39 million vs. $14.31 million in 2019. Net year-end profit for 2020 was $547,625 vs. $1.39 million in 2019.

2021 first quarter actual revenue was $2.46 million vs. $2.79 million in 2020 and $2.86 million budgeted. Actual first quarter net profit for 2021 was $349,465 vs. $260,798 in 2020.

First quarter flag sales were $691,000, which was the largest first quarter for flags in our history, and a 28% increase over last year. Flag sales were driven by the largest March in our history, selling over $444,000 in flags for the month.

Currently, 2,214 posts are registered in the "Flag Rewards" program, and 25,900 schools, businesses, churches and individuals have signed up to sponsor a post. An additional 300 American Legion Posts have registered for Flag Rewards since Spring Meetings in 2019, and 4,200 new sponsors have signed on during that time period.

Emblem Sales continues to market items to members and patriotic Americans electronically and in print. In 2020, we sent out over 101,000 marketing emails with a cost of only $303. These marketing emails resulted in additional revenue of $42,200.

The 2021 Catalog features over 140 newly developed items for sale.

Addendum A

Held for Study

Resolution No. 33 (MS) (2018 Natl. Conv.)**: Proposed Renaming of the Oratorical Contest National Finals**

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Commander, motion to receive and file the report of the Marketing Commission with the exception of one addendum. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: It's been moved and seconded to receive and file the report of the Marketing Commission with the exception of one addendum. Any discussion? Any objections? Hearing none, seeing none, motion carries, unanimous consent.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Mr. Commander, attached to the report is Addendum A. I move the actions of the Marketing Commission become the action of the National Executive Committee. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: It's been moved and seconded that the action of the Marketing Commission, Addendum A, become the action of the National Executive Committee. Any discussion? Any objections? Hearing none, seeing none, motion carries, unanimous consent. At this time, the chair recognizes Ralph P. Bozella of Colorado, chairman of the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission, for the purposes of a report.

Oral Report: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission
Ralph P. Bozella, Colorado, Chairman

Good day, commander, national officers, NEC, and distinguished guests. Commander, my compliments to you and American Legion national leadership and staff for your ability to sustain VA&R as an American Legion Pillar. We will continue to work together to improve the quality of life for veterans and families during this worldwide pandemic. It was my honor and a privilege to join you at your congressional testimony in Washington last month.

Our VA&R volunteers and commission staff have learned much about improving VA&R communications activities and programs while still providing quality results for your nation's veterans, even during this pandemic. I provided a written report on the VA&R Commission activities since the fall 2020 NEC meeting and would like to provide a few highlights.

VA&R division director Mario Marquez and I conducted virtual weekly staff meetings this winter to cover all things VA&R as we prepared for the Washington, D.C. conference and Commander Oxford's congressional testimony.

The 61st Annual Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation conference was held virtually via Zoom webinar, March 2 and 3, 2021. We had 193 people signed in to the meeting. New VA secretary Denis McDonough and three acting undersecretaries for Veterans Health, Veterans Benefit and National Cemetery administrations participated via a prepared video or live call-in during the meeting.

Internationally respected health-care consultant and former VA undersecretary for health and a current consultant to the VA&R Commission, Dr. Ken Kizer also joined us and spoke about VA health-care access issues.

The VA&R Health Policy Committee chaired by Phil Youngblood, Georgia; the Veterans Benefit Committee chaired by Phil Smith, Pennsylvania; and National Cemetery Committee chaired by Dick Neville, North Carolina; and your TBI/PTSD Suicide Prevention Committee chaired by Past National Commander Ron Conley of Pennsylvania, all conducted meetings with guest speakers, and a business agenda to review and recommend disposition of resolutions to the VA&R Commission.

We continue to strive for full funding and increased access for all qualified veterans to the VA health-care system to include the improved mental health and suicide prevention treatments and gender-specific needs. We are also concerned that veterans in rural areas have equal access to care and are receiving medical treatment equal to their counterparts in urban and populated areas. We are working to ensure the MISSION Act community care program is operating as mandated by Congress.

Since the pandemic, our System Worth Saving site visits have been put on hold, but we are working with VA central office to assure quality and timeliness of care remains as we continue to plan for future visits by the fall of 2021.

We are working to ensure that the VA claims process is also a quality system, and that compensation and pension exams are properly administered and reported by the contracted agencies and their medical staff.

Our Regional Office Action Review teams have also been sidelined since the pandemic, but we have built a tentative schedule and hope to resume our ROAR visits later this year. Our two-person ROAR teams consist of one VA&R division staff member and one attorney from Bergmann & Moore, LLC, whose purpose it is to identify and document VA claim adjudication errors which can help a VA regional office correct their claim processing deficiencies.

We are working on a plan to improve training for our department veteran service officers. We are not only working for improved memorial benefits and services at national VA cemeteries, but we are working to improve recognition of military chaplains at Arlington National Cemetery. These and other issues are addressed in the 11 resolutions provided in your written document.

The last area I need to address is our annual VA&R awards. Due to the pandemic, the VA Volunteer Service Awards were not presented for 2021. The awards for VA Physician and Health Care Provider of the Year were accepted by Secretary McDonough for all VA physicians and health-care providers in recognition of their distinguished public service and commitment of care for U.S. veterans during the COVID-19 global pandemic.

Veterans health administrations and its medical centers and clinics are now operating, and I'm accepting applications for these two awards from your departments for 2021. VA&R Director Marquez will send an email to department commanders, adjutants, and you, the NECs, in July with instructions on how to apply for these two awards.

The William F. Lenker National Service Trophy was awarded in 2020, and I'm asking your departments to send applications for that most prestigious award. VA&R director will send emails in May with instructions on how you can apply for the 2021 Lenker National Service Trophy. I'm counting on your leadership to help with these awards.

Please remember, we also have VA&R citations for meritorious service for you to acknowledge the contributions of both service officers and others to your department's VA&R programs. These citations can be presented at your department events.

Commander, VA&R never rests. Our committed volunteers and highly dedicated staff are ever present and available to ensure our nation's veterans are getting all the benefits they have earned through their time in service. Thank you for the opportunity to serve in this capacity, and this ends my report.

Advance Report: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission
Ralph P. Bozella, Colorado, Chairman

I. NATIONAL VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION COMMISSION CONFERENCE

The 61st Annual Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation (VA&R) Commission Conference was held virtually via Zoom webinar March 2-3, 2021.

II. MEETING OF THE NATIONAL VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION COMMISSION

The Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation (VA&R) Commission met virtually via Zoom webinar, on March 2, 2021. Commission Chairman Ralph P. Bozella, CO, presided. Reports received and matters considered during this meeting are as follows:

A. VA Voluntary Services Volunteer of the Year Award

No award presented for the 2020 – 2021 volunteer year due to VA Medical facilities prohibiting volunteers from entering medical centers and clinics because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

B. Remarks from Guest Speakers

Mr. Denis McDonough, Secretary of Veterans Affairs, acknowledged how it was truly a team effort this past year to fight the current pandemic. Mr. McDonough spotlighted how ingenuity and dedication from the 3-D printing team, preventive medicine and vaccine R&D team, vaccine technicians, supply line team, frontline registered nurses (many volunteered to respond to hotspots), and telehealth physicians/counselors providing telemedicine allowed for the increased safety of veterans. Mr. McDonough touted how the VA leads the way for the civilian sector to emulate when it comes to standards of excellence in research innovation, and medicine.

Dr. Richard Stone, VA's Acting Under Secretary for Health, Veterans Health Administration (VHA) , updated the commission on the latest vaccine rollout plan. Dr. Stone informed the commission that VA has the capacity to deliver 300k doses/per week and requested assistance in combating vaccine misinformation and promoting vaccine acceptance. Dr. Stone shared that a key lesson-learned from current pandemic was the need to modernize VA's supply chain.

Mr. Thomas Murphy, VA's Acting Under Secretary for Benefits, Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) , briefed the committee on workarounds the VA has implemented in response to the COVID-19 pandemic (i.e., virtual/tele C&P/ACE exams, requiring St. Louis National Archives to start digitizing all service records (pre-1994) in order to retrieve and process claims remotely from across the country). Additionally, Mr. Murphy informed

the need for a name change of VR&E (i.e., from Vocational Rehabilitation and Evaluation to Veterans Readiness and Employment) to attract a younger veteran population. Furthermore, Mr. Murphy informed that vocational rehabilitation counseling was now conducted virtually, instead of face-to-face, in response to the current pandemic and to better provide services to veterans with mobility issues.

Mr. Ron Walters, VA's Acting Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs, National Cemetery Administration (NCA) , provided the commission updates on its operational postures and increased efforts to open access to cemetery services during the COVID-19 pandemic. Mr. Walters informed that families had the option to proceed with direct interments and to schedule a later memorial service in the near future. Additionally, Mr. Walters highlighted how the recently launched 2016 Veterans Legacy Program now has a web application which allows the general public to post a pre-approved online tribute to a deceased veteran, thus extending the memorialization experience. Lastly, Mr. Murphy shared that NCA's strategic plan includes opening 18 new urban/rural cemeteries, land acquisitions, or grants to tribal nations, so that by end of FY 2022, the NCA will have 93.99% of the U.S. veteran population covered.

C. Resolutions

During the afternoon business session, Commission Chairman Ralph P. Bozella, CO, led a discussion on the following resolutions in order to prepare for the Spring VA&R Executive Committee meeting.

Title: Support Male Veterans Who Have Suffered Military Sexual Trauma (MST)
Origin: VA&R Commission
VA&R Commission Recommendation: Present to the 2021 Spring National Executive Committee for consideration.

Title: Veteran Newborn Care and Infant Loss
Origin: VA&R Commission
VA&R Commission Recommendation: Hold for further study. The Commission recommends additional information be added.

Title: Expanded Use of Virtual Hearings by the Board of Veterans Appeals
Origin: VA&R Commission
VA&R Commission Recommendation: Present to the 2021 Spring National Executive Committee for consideration.

Title: Increased Use of Available Clinical Evidence Examinations as an Alternative to Compensation & Pension Examinations
Origin: VA&R Commission
VA&R Commission Recommendation: Present to the 2021 Spring National Executive Committee for consideration.

Title: Quality Assurance for Department of Veterans Affairs Contracted Compensation & Pension Examinations
Origin: VA&R Commission
VA&R Commission Recommendation: Present to the 2021 Spring National Executive Committee for consideration.

Title: Recognizing Presumptive Conditions for Toxic Exposure at Karshi-Khanabad (K2) Base in Uzbekistan
Origin: VA&R Commission
VA&R Commission Recommendation: Present to the 2021 Spring National Executive Committee for consideration.

Title: Enhance Ability of the National Personnel Records Center to Respond to Records Requests from the Department of Veterans Affairs
Origin: Register No. 2800 – Department of Minnesota Executive Committee 2021 Meeting
VA&R Commission Recommendation: Present to the 2021 Spring National Executive Committee for consideration.

Title: Updates to Chaplains Hill Monuments at Arlington National Cemetery
Origin: Register No. 2795 – Department of Virginia Convention 2020
VA&R Commission Recommendation: Present to the 2021 Spring National Executive Committee for consideration.

Title: Lethal Means and Suicide Prevention
Origin: VA&R Commission
VA&R Commission Recommendation: Present to the 2021 Spring National Executive Committee for consideration.

III. MEETING OF THE TBI/PTSD, SUICIDE PREVENTION COMMITTEE

On March 3, 2021, The American Legion's TBI/PTSD Suicide Prevention Committee met virtually. This year's meeting had a record 87 Legionnaires in attendance. The guest speakers for the meeting included Matt Wetenkamp, Veteran Suicide Prevention Coordinator, and Kelley Tubbs, Acting Transition and Care Management Program Manager at the Washington DC VA Medical Center.

Mr. Wetenkamp served as a Scout/Sniper in the U.S. Marine Corps from 2000-2004 and is a veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom (2003). He has worked in Veteran Services field for non-profits and public health since 2012, most recently with a focus on mental health, suicide prevention, and lethal means safety. He currently serves as Colorado's Veteran Suicide Prevention Coordinator (Office of Suicide Prevention, CO Dept. of Public Health & Environment), driving suicide prevention initiatives that are focused on veterans, and firearms, including managing the Colorado Gun Shop Project, which seeks to recruit the firearm community's assistance in suicide prevention efforts.

During his presentation, Mr. Wetenkamp discussed lethal means and suicide prevention using many powerful statistics including:

- Veterans have a high degree of familiarity with firearms and are more likely than the general population to use firearms in an attempt.

- With a significant increase in sales since the start of the pandemic, 50% of veterans own at least one firearm and 1/3 report keeping at least one loaded and always unlocked.

- Firearms are the most lethal and most common form of suicide with 90% of attempts being fatal compared to the 5% fatality rate of all other methods combined.

- Suicide is an impulsive act in a time of crisis and time between a veteran considering and attempting is 87% < 8 hours, 71% < 1 hour, and 48% < 10 minutes.

- Firearm owners are not more suicidal and do not have higher rates of suicidal thoughts/behaviors or MH problems.

Kelley Tubbs, LCSW, is currently the acting Transition and Care Management Program Manager for the Washington D.C. VAMC. Prior to this role, Kelley served as Polytrauma social worker and VA Liaison for Health Care at Fort Belvoir, VA. Kelley still maintains roles in Polytrauma and the VA Liaison Program in addition to providing support

for Suicide Prevention, providing social work coverage for the Washington DC VAMC Emergency Room, and providing individual therapy to Veterans through the Washington DC VAMC Weekend Individual Therapy Clinic.

During his presentation, Mr. Tubbs described the challenges VA faced in providing care to individuals suffering from PTSD and suicidal ideation (SI) using recent cases from 2020. The patient's identifiers remained confidential and his presentation was helpful in illustrating various mental health issues. He also went over the challenges of implementing new protocols to safeguard patients from COVID-19 including:

- Ensuring that third party providers (delivery services, nurses, caregivers) are wearing protective masks and following proper protocols concerning COVID-19.
- Asking the proper questions to identify those who have had contact with the COVID-19 Virus, regardless of if they are currently presenting with symptoms.

Lastly, The American Legion's TBI/PTSD, Suicide Prevention Coordinator, Joshua Hastings, presented this year's only resolution pertaining to TBI, PTSD, and Suicide Prevention, titled: Lethal Means and Suicide Prevention. The resolution received strong support from the TBI/PTSD Suicide Prevention Committee and was recommended to the VA&R Commission for adoption without any revisions.

IV. MEETING OF THE HEALTH ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

On March 2, 2021, the Health Administration Committee met virtually. Committee Chairman Phil Youngblood, GA, conducted the meeting.

Ms. Andrea Goldstein, Senior Policy Advisor of Women Veterans Task Force, House Committee on Veterans Affairs, addressed striving for women's equity in the VA healthcare system by identifying and acknowledging the different needs of women veterans, especially since the women veteran population is incredibly diverse. Lastly, Ms. Goldstein credited The American Legion as a terrific partner in helping to pass landmark legislation to support women veterans.

V. MEETING OF THE NATIONAL CEMETERY COMMITTEE

On March 2, 2021, the National Cemetery Committee met virtually. Committee Chairman Richard Neville, NC, conducted the meeting.

The guest speaker was Renea Yates, Director, Office of Army Cemeteries. Ms. Yates gave an overview of the vision, mission, and priorities of the Arlington National Cemetery prior to addressing four areas of special topics critical to the members of The American Legion. These topics included:

- Defense Access Road and Southern Expansion of the cemetery's grounds
- Capacity challenges and Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) changes to eligibility
- Chaplain's Hill
- Tomb of the Unknown Soldier 100th Anniversary (TUS 100)

Highlights from the presentation include updates on the Southern Expansion acquisition of 38 acres of new land where the cemetery will add more than 80,000 burial opportunities and extend the ability of the cemetery to remain active "well into the future". As of the date of this meeting, the eligibility criteria remains in accordance with CFR, Title 32, Part 553, Section 12 and 13, which has been in effect since July 1, 2017. Once the proposed eligibility revisions are accepted and implemented, the capacity changes will extend to at least the year 2170 (150 years). Any revisions to eligibility at ANC will not affect veteran eligibility at the currently 153 Veterans Affairs national cemeteries and/or 115 state veterans cemeteries. Ms. Yates also discussed the status of Chaplain's Hill request for modifications and status. Finally, she gave an update on the Tomb of the Unknown

Soldier Centennial Commemoration which kicked off in September 2020, and will culminate in activities scheduled for Veteran's Day, November 11, 2021.

After the guest speaker, the committee addressed one proposed resolution from the Department of Virginia, *Updates to Chaplain's Hill Monuments at Arlington National Cemetery*. Past National Commander of The American Legion Brett Reistad and Rear Admiral, US Navy, (Retired) Harold Robinson, gave the committee background on the proposed resolution. The committee recommended that the VA&R Commission adopt the resolution.

VI. MEETING OF THE VETERANS BENEFITS COMMITTEE

On March 2, 2021, the Veterans Benefits Committee met virtually. Committee Chairman William J. Smith, Department of Pennsylvania, conducted the meeting. There were more than 50 committee members in attendance. Due to the amount of time needed to consider five resolutions, a guest speaker was not invited to the meeting.

The Benefits Committee Chairman Smith led a discussion on the following resolutions: *Enhance Ability of the National Personnel Records Center to respond to records requests from the Department of Veteran Affairs, Increased Use of Acceptable Clinical Evidence (ACE) Examinations as an Alternative to Compensation and Pension (C&P) Examinations; Recognizing Presumptive Conditions for Toxic Exposure at Karshi-Khanabad (K2) Base in Uzbekistan; Expanded Use of Virtual Hearings by the Board of Veterans' Appeals; Quality Assurance for VA-contracted C&P Exams*.

Deputy Director for Claims Services Marty Callaghan explained that there has been a backlog of Board hearings because of the pandemic, and many Veterans Affairs regional offices have been shut down. As a result, all travel board hearings and video teleconference hearings that were scheduled at those offices were cancelled. During 2020, the use of virtual board hearings increased as a way to reduce the backlog and hold the hearings in a safer environment. Veterans go online and are joined by their accredited representative and Veterans Law Judges in a virtual "room" for the hearing. Mr. Callaghan also commented that VBA had not mentioned the hiring of additional judges, however, in the last few years the Board has hired about 70-75 more attorneys.

The committee was given an update on a meeting held by BVA Chairman Cheryl Mason addressed VSO representatives. She reported a backlog of 88,000 Board hearings, and announced the goal of completing 50,000 hearings by the end of 2021. The best way to reduce this backlog is by expanding the use of virtual hearings, and she asked the VSO community for support in that endeavor. This method is faster and reduces the travel expenses that would normally occur with traditional board hearings.

VA&R Division Director Mario Marquez stated that virtual hearings have resulted in a 57 percent success rate, compared to other forms of hearings. Marty Callaghan asked attendees to read one of the "WHEREAS" clauses in the resolution, which states that the Board of Veterans Appeals Annual Report for 2020 showed that veterans who opted for virtual hearings received favorable decisions 57 percent of the time -- substantially higher than the other grant rates of 41 percent for video teleconference hearings and 36 percent for in-person Board hearings. Of course, this is great news for veterans who opted for virtual hearings.

VII. PRESENTATION OF THE NATIONAL VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION VA PHYSICIAN AND HEALTHCARE PROVIDER OF THE YEAR AWARDS

On March 2, 2021, the awards for VA Physician and Healthcare Provider of the Year were accepted by Secretary Denis McDonough during the VA&R Commission meeting. Commission Chairman Ralph P. Bozella announced that both the Healthcare Provider of the Year and Physician of the Year Awards would be presented to all Department of Veterans Affairs Physicians and all Department of Veterans Affairs Healthcare Providers

in recognition of their distinguished public service and commitment to the care of America's veterans during the 2020 COVID-19 Global Pandemic.

VIII. SYSTEM WORTH SAVING (SWS) AND REGIONAL OFFICE ACTION REVIEW (ROAR)

Past National Commander (PNC) Ronald Conley, PA, initiated the SWS Program in 2003. The American Legion resolved to support the SWS program through Resolution 206, which authorized visits to designated Veterans Health Administration Medical Centers.

The American Legion passed Resolution 105, "Reiteration of the SWS Program," during its 2015 National Convention that established SWS as a permanent program managed by the VA&R Commission.

Due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, VA&R has not been able to resume in-person SWS visits and are unsure when travel will be possible. As such, planning has begun should travel and the ability to resume in-person visits begins.

Chairman Ralph Bozella led a discussion with VA&R staff regarding the SWS program planning, site-selection considerations, and execution of the visits. A selection of approximately ten sites will be considered for the 2021 visit schedule. In addition to possible in-person visits this year, The American Legion will send out a questionnaire to all VISN-level leadership regarding the details of allocation of COVID-19 relief funds and will focus on supply chain modernization, staff recruitment and retention, expansion of connected care capacity (telehealth), and deployable temporary care equipment.

The following ten locations are suggested for site visits:

- Beckley, West Virginia
- Chicago, Illinois
- Lake City, Florida
- San Juan, Puerto Rico
- Hot Springs, Arkansas
- Leavenworth, Kansas
- Tuscaloosa, Alabama
- Temple, Texas
- Sacramento, California
- Mountain Home, Tennessee

Regional Office Action Review (ROAR)

The Chairman of The American Legion's VA&R Commission, Mr. Ralph Bozella, recommends 3-4 Regional Office Action Review (ROAR) site visits to VA Regional Offices (VAROs) be planned during the second half of 2021.

Tentatively, the following ten VA Regional Offices (VAROs) are suggested as candidates for site visits:

- Huntington, West Virginia
- Chicago, Illinois
- St. Petersburg, Florida
- San Juan, Puerto Rico
- Little Rock, Arkansas
- Wichita, Kansas
- Montgomery, Alabama
- Waco, Texas
- Oakland, California
- Nashville, Tennessee

These sites were chosen so that ROAR visits could occur in tandem with SWS site visits to the same city and/or state. If the priority of SWS site visit locations is changed, the ROAR schedule will be adjusted accordingly.

Because of the pandemic and ongoing safety concerns, it is proposed that 2-person teams participate in ROAR site visits: one VA&R Division staff member and one attorney from Bergmann & Moore, LLC.

Before each ROAR site visit to VARO, The American Legion sends four documents to the regional office's director: 1) visit request letter, 2) director questionnaire, 3) employee questionnaire, and 4) claim review template.

The claim review template identifies and documents VA errors during the adjudication of a veteran's disability claim for compensation and pension benefits. Common VA mistakes include an improper denial of the claim, wrong effective date to start VA payments, incorrect disability rating, incomplete claim evidence development, and inadequate VA medical examinations.

The American Legion's claim reviewer, usually an attorney with our training and litigation partner Bergmann & Moore, LLC describes how VA errors adversely impacted the veteran, what steps the veteran and The American Legion should take to address the errors, plus the pertinent laws, regulations, and Court decisions relevant to the veteran's claim.

Typically, about 50 claims with an American Legion power of attorney (VA Form 21-22) are reviewed by one or more Bergmann & Moore attorneys before or during a ROAR site visit. Several VBA employees and administrative staff are usually interviewed, and an exit briefing is held with the director. For each ROAR visit, a report is written and submitted to American Legion leadership, as well as to the VARO's director.

ROAR visits go beyond identifying VA claim errors. They are intended to be collaborative with the goal of improving the quality and timeliness of VA claims processing and rating decisions, so that veterans represented by The American Legion receive accurate and complete VBA disability benefits, as well as prompt and high-quality VHA medical care that usually comes with a granted VBA claim. The American Legion also uses results from ROAR visits to formulate and update its policy, improve training, identify potential litigation and prepare for legislative hearings.

IX. DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICERS SCHOOL

Because of continuing concerns over the COVID-19 pandemic, the first session of the 2021 Department Service Officer (DSO) School was a virtual/online course entitled "Winning Claims at Your Regional Office". A letter was emailed to Department Service Officers on Feb. 8, 2021 from the National Adjutant, inviting them and other accredited representatives to register for the school.

Due to the popularity of the course, Bergmann & Moore, LLC arranged to hold two sessions of the school in order to accommodate the large number of registered students. The first session had 217 registered students initially and took place between March 8th - 26th. The second session has approximately 217 registered students and will run April 5th - 23rd.

Bergmann & Moore, LLC sent each student an email with instructions to access the pre-recorded lessons that can be accessed 24/7. The course contains about 24 hours of instructional material in 26 lessons, plus an evaluation and test at the end. The lesson plan is provided below:

Lesson	Lesson Title Part A
1	Introduction: How to Take Lessons
2	Legion Code of Procedures / VA Standards of Conduct
3	Process I: VBMS / VA Privacy / TRIPS
4	Process II: Four VA Claim Scenarios
5	Service Connection I: Fundamentals and Direct Service Connection
6	Service Connection II: Chronic Conditions
7	Service Connection III: Hearing Loss and Tinnitus
8	Service Connection IV: Presumptive Conditions
9	Service Connection V: Secondary and Aggravated
10	Service Connection VI: Vietnam War Conditions
11	Process III: Duty to Assist / Locating Records
12	Disability Ratings I: Fundamentals
13	Disability Ratings II: Individual Unemployability
14	Service Connection VII: IBS, GERD, Digestive Conditions
15	Process IV: Compensation and Pension Examinations
16	Disability Ratings III: Special Monthly Compensation
17	Process V: Handling Board and Court Remands
18	Service Connection VIII: Chronic Fatigue Syndrome
19	Process VI: Advance on Docket / Substitution / Accrued Benefits
20	Service Connection IX: Sleep Apnea
21	Service Connection X: Educational Benefits
22	Service Connection XI: Dental Conditions
23	Process VII: Claim Submission Exercise
24	Process VIII: AMA Overview
25	Recent Court Decisions
26	How Federal Court Decisions Assist Our Veterans
27	School Evaluation
28	School Test

In-person and virtual DSO schools are planned for the future, however, adjustments are expected due to ongoing issues with the pandemic.

Report: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission
Ralph P. Bozella, Colorado, Chairman

VA&R COMMISSION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission Executive Committee met virtually via Zoom webinar on April 16, 2021, with Commission Chairman Ralph P. Bozella, (CO) presiding. Agenda topics included a discussion regarding the Department Service Officer (DSO) Program Modernization, resolutions for NEC consideration, a discussion of the VA&R Advance Report that will be submitted to the NEC, and an update on VA&R award programs.

DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICERS PROGRAM MODERNIZATION

The Executive Director for Government Affairs, Chanin Nuntavong, provided an update regarding ongoing efforts to modernize the Department Service Officer (DSO) Program. Executive Director Nuntavong briefed how the evolution of virtual meetings and events has resulted in cost savings and an increase in opportunity to reach more people through online training, primarily due to forced actions resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. Together with our partnered law firm, Bergmann & Moore(B&M), The American Legion's efforts to modernize DSO training will build upon the existing DSO School framework into a three-tiered DSO Program, based on the premise that there should be more collaboration and inclusiveness amongst service officers during training, without additional financial burden to the Departments. The program's three tiers include:

- Implementation of a 5-day DSO Symposium that includes DSO school and an additional 1.5 days of collaboration, mentorship and team building workshops provided by The American Legion and B&M, beginning in the year 2024.

- Continuance of the current 3-week-long virtual DSO Schools, twice per year.
- Begin a monthly DSO Webinar during 2022 that is focused on discussing the latest issues involving claims, benefits, and other related matters.

VA&R Director Mario Marquez then provided a detailed presentation involving financial cost savings for moving from two, in-person hotel venues to the National Conference Center (NCC) in Leesburg, VA for the all-inclusive package. The NCC package would include the following at no additional cost:

- Use of designated appropriately-sized main conference room and breakout rooms.
- Dedicated Administrative office / Operations center for use by TAL and B&M staff.
- Includes full AV and IT support and dedicated staff.
- Includes WiFi in all meeting rooms, public spaces and in billeting rooms.
- Three-meals a day and the first night and last day breakfast.
- Continental-style drinks and snacks throughout the symposium schedule.
- Billeting rooms.
- Free parking, gym, and other gathering areas.

Director Marquez then briefed that the demand for Service Officer training online has provided Departments the opportunity to send more people, while giving them three-weeks to complete the self-paced training. The three courses offered during 2020 and 2021, graduated over 600 students in addition to the last in-person course offered during 2020. Having said that, offering two virtual and one in-person DSO training opportunity now allows TAL to train almost twice as many service officers per year than before the pandemic at a significant cost savings. TAL desires to keep two virtual courses per year in the schedule from here forward.

The third and final part of the new DSO program would be a monthly Webinar, given by our partner, Bergmann & Moore. These monthly webinars would focus on targeted discussion involving all matters that service officers work and deal with. Additionally, the webinars are an opportunity to introduce new or important matters that the service officer community needs to know in order to use the best approaches when taking on matters on behalf of veterans. The webinar would offer service officers the training required to remain up-to-date on all matters that pertain to their duties.

The Executive Committee moved and properly seconded to support the effort to create a new DSO training program. The motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS

Commission Chairman Ralph P. Bozella, CO, led a discussion on the following resolutions in order to prepare for the May National Executive Committee meeting.

Title: Support Male Veterans Who Have Suffered Military Sexual Trauma (MST)
Origin: VA&R Commission
VA&R Executive Committee Recommendation: The Executive Committee moved and properly seconded to hold the resolution for further study by the staff based on subsequent discussion and developments after the VA&R Commission meeting on March 2, 2021. Motion carried.

Title: Newborn Care Through the Department of Veterans Affairs
Origin: VA&R Commission
VA&R Executive Committee Recommendation: The Executive Committee moved and properly seconded to present this updated resolution to the 2021 Spring National Executive Committee for consideration. Motion carried.

Title: Reproductive Assistance and Pregnancy Counseling
Origin: VA&R Commission
VA&R Executive Committee Recommendation: the Executive Committee moved and properly seconded to present this resolution to the 2021 Spring National Executive Committee for consideration. Motion carried.

Title: Veteran Military Sexual Trauma Claims Training
Origin: VA&R Commission
VA&R Executive Committee Recommendation: The Executive Committee moved and properly seconded to present this resolution to the 2021 Spring National Executive Committee for consideration. Motion carried.

Title: Expanded Use of Virtual Hearings by the Board of Veterans Appeals
Origin: VA&R Commission
VA&R Executive Committee Recommendation: The Executive Committee moved and properly seconded to present this resolution to the 2021 Spring National Executive Committee for consideration. Motion carried.

Title: Increased Use of Acceptable Clinical Evidence Examinations as an Alternative to Compensation & Pension Examinations
Origin: VA&R Commission
VA&R Executive Committee Recommendation: The Executive Committee moved and properly seconded to present this resolution to the 2021 Spring National Executive Committee for consideration. Motion carried.

Title: Quality Assurance for Department of Veterans Affairs Contracted Compensation & Pension Examinations
Origin: VA&R Commission
VA&R Executive Committee Recommendation: The Executive Committee moved and properly seconded to present this resolution to the 2021 Spring National Executive Committee for consideration. Motion carried.

Title: Recognizing Presumptive Conditions for Toxic Exposure at Karshi-Khanabad (K2) Base in Uzbekistan
Origin: VA&R Commission
VA&R Executive Committee Recommendation: The Executive Committee moved and properly seconded to present this resolution to the 2021 Spring National Executive Committee for consideration. Motion carried.

Title: Enhance Ability of the National Personnel Records Center to Respond to Records Requests from the Department of Veterans Affairs
Origin: Register No. 2800 – Department of Minnesota Executive Committee 2021 Meeting
VA&R Executive Committee Recommendation: The Executive Committee moved and properly seconded to present this resolution to the 2021 Spring National Executive Committee for consideration. Motion carried.

Title: Updates to Chaplains Hill Monuments at Arlington National Cemetery
Origin: Register No. 2795 – Department of Virginia Convention 2020
VA&R Executive Committee Recommendation: The Executive Committee moved and properly seconded to present this resolution to the 2021 Spring National Executive Committee for consideration. Motion carried.

Title: Lethal Means and Suicide Prevention
Origin: VA&R Commission
VA&R Executive Committee Recommendation: The Executive Committee moved and properly seconded to present this resolution to the 2021 Spring National Executive Committee for consideration. Motion carried.

VA&R ADVANCE REPORT

Commission Chairman Ralph P. Bozella, CO, led a summary of the report and his upcoming remarks which will be presented to the May National Executive Committee meeting.

The Chairman highlighted:

- Recap of the Commission meeting during the Washington Conference on March 2, 2021, including the briefings the Commission received from the leadership of the Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Discussion of the resolutions discussed and recommended during the March meeting.
- Notes and minutes of the March meetings of the Veterans Benefits, National Cemetery Administration, Health Administration and TBI/PTSD Suicide Prevention Committees.
- Presentation of the VA Health-Care Provider and Physician of the Year Awards to the VA Secretary to honor all VA health-care providers and physicians for their work during the pandemic.
- System Worth Saving/Regional Office Action Review Visits for 2021- Update included proposed schedules for each if VA allows visits to its facilities prior to the end of the year.
- Other Awards – The Lenker National Service Trophy was presented for 2020 and a reminder to department leadership that this award will be presented in 2021 and that package request solicitations will be forthcoming. Chairman Bozella also briefed the Executive Committee that Director Marquez would send out reminders and instructions for submission to all departments for the Lenker national Service Trophy, and VA Healthcare Provider and Physician of the Year nominees for 2021.

The Chairman closed the meeting with a call for any information "For the Good of The American Legion."

Committee member Jim Stanko (CO) read an email highlighting the efforts of two clinics in rural Colorado, which will offer expanded services to veterans. He called upon the Chairman and Director Marquez to ask VA to review such expanded services and consider implementing them nationwide at other rural locations.

ADDENDUM A

Hold for Study

Register Resolution No. 2768 (CA) (2019 Dept. Conv.): Oppose Restriction Or Discontinuation Of Effective And Necessary Medications By The Department Of Veterans Affairs

Refer to Veterans Employment & Education (VE&E) Commission

Register Resolution No. 2774 (CA) (2019 Dept. Conv.): Expanding and Better Utilizing Services for Veterans

Reject

Register Resolution No. 2775 (CA) (2019 Dept. Conv.): Personalized Repetitive Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (TMS)

Withdraw

Resolution No. 12 (2020 Natl. Conv.): Support Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Research of Personalized Repetitive Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (PrTMS)

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Commander, a motion to receive and file the report of the VA&R Commission with the exception of ten resolutions and one addendum.. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second to receive and file the report of the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission with the exception of ten resolutions and one addendum. Any discussion? Any objections? Hearing none, seeing none, motion carries, unanimous consent.

Resolution No. 9: Expanded Use of Virtual Hearings by the Board of Veterans Appeals

Origin: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

Submitted by: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

WHEREAS, The Board of Veterans Appeals (BVA), in Washington, D.C., reports that more than 182,000 claims appeals are currently pending, and more than 88,000 appellants have requested hearings before veterans law judges; and

WHEREAS, The goal for BVA for 2021 is to conduct at least 50,000 hearings by making extensive use of the virtual option; and

WHEREAS, BVA's chairman has asked veterans service organizations for assistance in scheduling more virtual hearings for veterans; and

WHEREAS, A large number of Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) regional offices remain closed because of the COVID-19 pandemic and are currently not available to conduct in-person and video teleconference BVA hearings; and

WHEREAS, Increasing the number of BVA virtual hearings has been beneficial to the veteran community, as they can be scheduled at a much earlier date, travel costs are basically eliminated, and they are a much safer option during the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, BVA's annual report for 2020 shows that veterans who opted for virtual hearings received favorable decisions 57 percent of the time which is substantially higher than the other grant rates: 41 percent for video teleconference hearings and 36 percent for in-person hearings at the Central Office; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled virtually on May 5-6, 2021, That The American Legion supports the expanded use of virtual Board of Veterans Appeals hearings as an effective tool that will help to reduce the number of appeals and hearings pending before the Board of Veterans Appeals in Washington, D.C.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Resolution Number 9 has the approval of the VA&R Commission and your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second to adopt Resolution Number 9. Any discussion? Any objections? Hearing none, seeing none, motion carries, unanimous consent, Resolution Number 9.

Resolution No. 10: Increased Use of Acceptable Clinical Evidence (ACE) Examinations as an Alternative to Compensation and Pension (C&P) Examinations

Origin: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

Submitted by: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

WHEREAS, The COVID-19 pandemic caused the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) to discontinue in-person Compensation and Pension (C&P) Examinations, effective April 2020; and

WHEREAS, Such discontinuance has caused a backlog of pending Examination

Scheduling Requests (ESRs) that was more than 342,000 in February 2021; and

WHEREAS, The total number of pending C&P disability claims in the VBA system was more than 474,000 in February 2021, with about 211,000 in backlog status (pending 125+ days); and

WHEREAS, The Board of Veterans Appeals reported a backlog of more than 182,000 appeals at the end of fiscal year 2020's first quarter (December 31); and

WHEREAS, The current backlog of C&P Examinations, pending original claims and pending appeals has placed undue hardship on veterans, who continue to suffer from physical and mental conditions while waiting for their claims to be adjudicated, and undue financial stress on themselves and their families who could benefit from potential Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits compensation; and

WHEREAS, Acceptable Clinical Evidence (ACE) Examinations are based on a review of medical records and history without an in-person clinical exam or testing, but may also include telephone or video interviews; and

WHEREAS, A large number of pending C&P Exams may be unnecessary because veterans have already been diagnosed and service-connected for the condition(s) at issue, or the current severity of service-connected conditions can be documented by acceptable clinical evidence; and

WHEREAS, In its report issued in November 2020, VA's Office of Inspector General encouraged the VBA to make greater use of ACE Exams in reducing the current exam backlog; and

WHEREAS, When C&P Exams are held up, the entire process of granting benefits to veterans is also held up and any potential benefit payments are delayed; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled virtually on May 5-6, 2021, That The American Legion urges the Veterans Benefits Administration to decrease the number of backlogged Compensation and Pension (C&P) Examinations through greater use of Acceptable Clinical Evidence (ACE) Examinations, in order to establish service connection for veterans' disabilities and to determine the current severity of such disabilities for Department of Veterans Affairs purposes.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Resolution Number 10 has the approval of the VA&R Commission and your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second to adopt Resolution Number 10. Any discussion? Any objections? Hearing none, seeing none, motion carries, unanimous consent, Resolution Number 10.

Resolution No. 11: Lethal Means and Suicide Prevention
Origin: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission
Submitted by: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

WHEREAS, In 2018, firearms were the method of suicide in 69.4% of male veteran suicide deaths and 41.9% of female veteran suicide deaths; and

WHEREAS, Firearms are an extremely lethal method of suicide with nearly 90 percent of attempts resulting in death; and

WHEREAS, The results of a meta-analysis of nearly 100 studies of suicide attempters showed that 90% of attempters who survive, do not go on to die by suicide; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion remains committed to examining recent trends and best practices in suicide prevention; and

WHEREAS, Although nearly half of all veterans possess a firearm, only one in three follow the firearm industry's recommendations for safely storing firearms in the home; and

WHEREAS, Learning, planning, and practicing safe storage practices before challenging times arise, can reduce the risk for suicide or injury for at risk veterans and their families; and

WHEREAS, The National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF), and the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) have compiled tips for safely storing firearms as well as best practices for sharing these guidelines; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion strongly supports the Second Amendment of the United States Constitution and will advocate for all veterans to have the right to keep and bear arms; and

WHEREAS, Declines in firearm suicides do not require decreased gun ownership rates; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled virtually on May 5-6, 2021, That The American Legion raise awareness of lethal means safety as it relates to veteran suicide; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion will support suicide prevention initiatives aimed at lethal means safety so long as such initiatives do not encroach on the constitutional right to bear arms.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Resolution Number 11 has the approval of your VA&R Commission and your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second to adopt Resolution Number 11. Any discussion? Any objections?

Resolution No. 12: Enhance Ability of the National Personnel Records Center to Respond to Records Requests from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)
Origin: Register Resolution No. 2800 (MN) Department Executive Committee
Submitted by: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

WHEREAS, The National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) is one of the National Archives and Records Administration's (NARA) largest operations, employing 1,000 personnel; and

WHEREAS, The NPRC is the central repository of personnel-related records for both the military and civil services of the United States Government; and

WHEREAS, Their mission is to provide world class service to government agencies including the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), military veterans and their family members, former civilian federal employees, the general public; and

WHEREAS, Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the NPRC is closed except for emergencies regarding medical treatments, burials, or homeless veterans seeking admittance to a homeless shelter; and

WHEREAS, The NPRC has not had sufficient on-site staff since March 2020 to respond to many other important requests due to the emergency executive order, including requests from the VA related to veterans compensation or pension benefits; and

WHEREAS, The NPRC plays a critical role in VA's claims development process, providing the agency with military records requests; and

WHEREAS, The VA is approaching a claims inventory of 500,000 with over 200,000 claims backlogged pending over 125 days due to the NPRC's inability to virtually fulfill VA's records request for military records prior to 2000; and

WHEREAS, Military service records from the year 2000 to current are maintained electronically, most requests submitted to the NPRC involve veterans who separated from the military prior to year 2000 that are only available in paper or microfilm formats, which require on-site access; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled virtually on May 5-6, 2021, That the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) be provided the proper personal protective equipment to maintain a sufficient number of onsite staff to fulfill Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) record requests pertaining to VA benefits, while helping to reduce VA's claims inventory and backlog; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the NPRC provide a specific team of staff members to digitize veterans' records for those who served before 2000, so that in the future staff can continue to fulfill VA's record requests virtually for veterans who served in the 20th century.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER SKINNER: Resolution Number 12 has the approval of the VA&R Commission and your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second to adopt Resolution Number 12. Any discussion? Any objections? Hearing none, seeing none, motion carries, Resolution Number 12, unanimous consent.

Resolution No. 13: Newborn Care Through the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)
Origin: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission
Submitted by: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

WHEREAS, Statistics show that the women veteran population will increase by 18,000 per year over the next 10 years; and

WHEREAS, Multiple reports, including from Department of Veteran Affairs (VA), have indicated the number of women veterans seeking pregnancy care is rising; and

WHEREAS, The VA provides prenatal, preconception care, and maternity care services for women veterans; and

WHEREAS, The VA covers care to newborns for the first seven days after birth, for eligible women veterans who are receiving VA maternity care; and

WHEREAS, The VA covers the cost of transferring a newborn to another facility in cases where the newborn requires specialty care; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled virtually on May 5-6, 2021, That The American Legion urges the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), to cover the cost of specialty care for a newborn who is born to a veteran who is receiving maternity care through the VA; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That VA covers the cost of care for the newborn if lifesaving care and treatment is required from a facility other than the facility where the newborn was delivered; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That VA covers the cost of care if a newborn requires lifesaving care past the VA's seven-day limit of care and treatment from a facility other than the facility where the newborn child was delivered.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER SKINNER: Resolution 13 has the approval of the VA&R Commission and your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second to adopt Resolution 13. Any discussion? Any objections? Hearing none, seeing none, motion carries, Resolution one-three, unanimous consent.

Resolution No. 14: Quality Assurance for Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Contracted Compensation and Pension (C&P) Examinations
Origin: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission
Submitted by: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

WHEREAS, Veteran-friendly and high-quality Compensation and Pension (C&P) examinations are a crucial element in the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) disability claims process for veterans; and

WHEREAS, In the past, veterans have not been properly notified by VA contractors to schedule C&P exams; and

WHEREAS, Veterans have been pressured not to reschedule exams and have been told their claims will be denied if they miss an appointment; and

WHEREAS, Many veterans who chose not to attend their C&P exams for good cause during the pandemic have been reported as "no shows," which jeopardizes the granting of their disability benefits; and

WHEREAS, According to a 2018 Government Accountability Office (GAO) report, the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) has not fully resolved issues in collecting information on contractor's quality and timeliness, which continues to hinder its ability to oversee contractor performance; and

WHEREAS, The VBA created the Medical Disability Examination (MDE) program to monitor and track C&P exams performed by contractors; and

WHEREAS, The MDE program continues to suffer from inefficiencies identified by GAO, including an inability to measure the quality of C&P exams provided by VA-contracted vendors; and

WHEREAS, Since VBA has contracted 100 percent of its C&P exams to private vendors, quality assurance is even more important for such areas as training and licensing requirements, performance of exams, scheduling of appointments and penalties for inadequate procedures; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled virtually on May 5-6, 2021, That The American Legion call upon the Veterans Benefits Administration's Medical Disability Examination office to uphold its mission to improve the quality of outsourced Compensation and Pension (C&P) examinations; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion urges Congress to pass legislation that will ensure the quality and timeliness of C&P examinations performed by Department of Veterans Affairs contractors, and ensure that they provide veterans with professional, high-quality service.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER SKINNER: Resolution Number 14 has the approval of the VA&R Commission and your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second to adopt Resolution 14. Any discussion? Any objections? Hearing none, seeing none, motion carries, unanimous consent, Resolution one-four.

Resolution No. 15: Recognizing Presumptive Conditions for Toxic Exposure at Karshi-Khanabad (K2) Base in Uzbekistan
Origin: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission
Submitted by: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

WHEREAS, Soon after the 9/11 attacks the United States leased a military base, Karshi-Khanabad (K2) , from the Uzbekistan government, also known as Camp Stronghold; and

WHEREAS, An estimated 15,777 U.S. servicemembers were deployed there from October 2001 to December 2005; and

WHEREAS, While stationed at Camp Stronghold, the servicemembers were exposed to toxic chemicals, high levels of radiation, depleted uranium, jet fuel, and other hazardous waste that permeated the area where they worked and lived, according to veterans and declassified government documents; and

WHEREAS, Military service in Uzbekistan wasn't recognized in federal law or regulation until December 2020 because of its classified mission; and

WHEREAS, A study of U.S. servicemembers that deployed only to Uzbekistan shows that more than 75 percent of them have developed illnesses related to toxic exposure, including cancer, neurological disease, dermatological disease, and diseases that affect the gastrointestinal, reproductive, endocrine and respiratory systems; and

WHEREAS, According to a 2015 Army study, K2 veterans have a 500 percent higher likelihood of developing cancer and are now dying at an increasing rate, potentially due to such exposure; and

WHEREAS, While cancer is the most prevalent disease, neurological disorders, urological disorders, and endocrine system diseases have also been diagnosed; among women K2 veterans, the miscarriage rate is more than 40 percent ; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Defense (DoD) recently conducted an initial study on cancer outcomes among servicemembers deployed to K-2 and found a higher risk of malignant melanoma and neoplasms of the lymphatic and hematopoietic tissues; and

WHEREAS, A presidential executive order was issued on January 19, 2021, directing the Department of Defense to "conduct a rigorous study investigating toxic exposure" of K2 veterans that "shall be of equivalent rigor to studies used by the Department of Veterans Affairs to make determinations regarding diseases subject to presumptive service connections"; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims ruled in *McCray v. Wilkie*, 31 Vet. App. 243, No. 17-1875 (2019) that "a medical principle need not reach scientific consensus to adequately support a grant of benefits"; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion's amicus brief, submitted in support of the *Procopio* case at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, stated that "the proper approach is to resolve lingering uncertainty in favor of veterans, within the bounds of the benefits authorized by Congress, rather than wait for certainty that might never come while veterans continue to suffer and die"; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) uses acceptable clinical evidence (ACE) to establish service connection for veterans' disabilities, and the VA Office of Inspector General has recently encouraged more extensive use of ACE Examinations; and

WHEREAS, The DoD and VA failed to identify and recognize presumptive conditions for Vietnam War veterans exposed to Agent Orange/herbicide; and

WHEREAS, The DoD and VA, have also failed to do so for Iraq and Afghanistan War veterans exposed to burn pits, and is now failing our K2 veterans in the same manner; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled virtually on May 5-6, 2021, That The American Legion urges the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to recognize presumptive conditions for Karshi-Khanabad (K2) toxic exposure, based on acceptable clinical evidence from K2 veterans, as well as medical research, studies and reports currently available in the medical community at large; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That should VA fail to recognize such presumptive conditions by the end of fiscal year 2021, The American Legion urges Congress to pass legislation that will recognize them; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That any illnesses found related to toxic exposure in Uzbekistan be added to the sections of Federal Regulations that define the Southwest Asia theater of operation and defines presumptive conditions - Title 38 of the Code of Federal Regulations (38 CFR) §§3.317(c)(1) and 3.317(e)(1)-(2); and, be it further

RESOLVED, That K2 veterans become eligible for all VA health-care and disability benefits applicable to such presumptive conditions; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion urge Congress to require the secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs to complete a study with the administrator of the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry on illnesses related to toxic exposure in Uzbekistan.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER WILEY: Resolution Number 15 has the approval of the VA&R Commission and your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second to adopt Resolution 15. Any discussion? Any objections? Hearing none, seeing none, motion carries, unanimous consent, Resolution one-five.

Resolution No. 16: Reproductive Assistance and Pregnancy Counseling
Origin: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission
Submitted by: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission
(As Amended)

WHEREAS, Statistics show that the women veteran population will increase by 18,000 per year over the next 10 years; and

WHEREAS, Multiple reports, including from the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA), have indicated the number of women veterans seeking pregnancy care is rising; and

WHEREAS, Women are filing more combat roles, exposing them to trauma including but not limited to post-traumatic stress disorder, physical injury, and toxic exposure which can lead to issues conceiving and/or loss of pregnancy; and

WHEREAS, Women are waiting to have children until later in life; and

WHEREAS, The VA covers veterans that choose to go through the VA for reproductive assistance provided they are married, heterosexual, and can produce their own genetic material; and

WHEREAS, Maternity care coordinators at the VA can help veterans find providers who are trained to help patients cope with unintended loss of pregnancy; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled virtually on May 5-6, 2021, That The American Legion urges Congress to pass legislation that directs the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to support reproductive assistance services to include in vitro fertilization for all veterans with a 50% or greater disability rating regardless of loss of function or reproductive dysfunction; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion urges Congress to pass legislation that directs the VA to support reproductive assistance services to include in vitro fertilization for all veterans with a service connected loss of creative organ or other reproductive dysfunction; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion urges Congress to pass a "pregnancy loss counseling program," which directs the VA to provide counseling to veterans who experience loss of pregnancy, regardless of causation or provide community care options.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER WILEY: Resolution Number 16 has the approval of the VA&R Commission and your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second to adopt Resolution 16. Any discussion?

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BOZELLA: Commander, Ralph Bozella, chairman of the VA&R Commission.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Chairman Bozella?

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BOZELLA: Yes, sir. We have a correction on this resolution. Where it says 60 percent VA compensation rating and higher, it should be 50 percent.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Mr. Commander, move to amend the resolution as recommended by the chairman of the VA&R Commission. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second to amend the original motion. Any discussion on the amendment? Any objections on the amendment? Hearing none, seeing none, motion carries, unanimous consent on the amendment. Now to the resolution with the amendment.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Motion to accept Resolution 16 as amended. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second to adopt Resolution Number one-six with the amendment. Any discussion? Any objections?

Hearing none, seeing none, motion carries, unanimous consent, adoption of Resolution one-six with the amendment.

Resolution No. 17: Updates to Chaplains Hill Monuments at Arlington National Cemetery

Origin: Register Resolution No. 2795 (VA) 2020 Department Convention

Submitted by: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

WHEREAS, The principles of the Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion are dedicated to "God and Country"; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion annually honors the heroism and selflessness of the "Four Chaplains" who died in a torpedo attack on the troop transport ship U.S.A.T. Dorchester in February 1943, with Four Chaplains Sunday Memorial Services across the nation; and

WHEREAS, In 1981, Arlington National Cemetery designated space in Section 2, now known as "Chaplains Hill," authorizing the placement of two monuments, one honoring WWI chaplains who died in service, and a second monument and plaque honoring WWII Protestant chaplains who died in service; and

WHEREAS, In 1989, Arlington National Cemetery accepted the donation and dedication of a Catholic Chaplains Monument; and

WHEREAS, In 2011, the Sons of The American Legion and other veterans service organizations contributed funds leading to the dedication of a Jewish Chaplains Monument on Chaplains Hill; and

WHEREAS, The existing Protestant Chaplain's Monument has not been updated to honor chaplains who died in service after WWII, and its plaque is affixed to an aging upright concrete monument inconsistent with its sister granite monuments; and

WHEREAS, The National Conference on Ministry to the Armed Forces (NCMAF), the successor to the General Commission on Chaplains and Armed Forces Personnel, the group who originally placed the existing monument, continues to be a mutually supportive and diverse group of American religious organizations, proposed to Arlington National Cemetery officials that they update the existing Protestant Chaplains Monument with an additional plaque that will honor the service of 25 chaplains affiliated with Protestant denominations, and add one name to the Catholic Chaplains Monument, those names of chaplains who died in service during the Korean War, Vietnam War, the Cold War period, and in Post-9/11 conflicts; and

WHEREAS, The NCMAF also proposed to Arlington National Cemetery officials that a new granite monument be provided to replace the concrete one, courtesy of the Dignity Memorial Company, and that the existing chaplains plaque be transferred to that new monument; and

WHEREAS, Our armed forces chaplains represent the diversity of American religious creeds, including faith groups not currently memorialized on Chaplains Hill; and

WHEREAS, Projects at Arlington National Cemetery require approval from the Virginia Historical Association, the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts, the United States Congress and the Department of the Army; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled virtually on May 5-6, 2021, That The American Legion supports the project led by the National Conference on Ministry to the Armed Forces to update the Chaplains Monument at Chaplains Hill with an additional plaque honoring 25 Protestant chaplains who died in military service in Korea, Vietnam, the Cold War and Post-9/11 conflicts, and provide a new granite monument consistent with those placed beside it; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That one additional name be added to the Catholic Chaplains Monument; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That any future names be added, if needed, to the appropriate monument; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That when necessity arises, at no cost to the United States government, there be designed, developed, and placed, a new monument on Chaplains Hill for chaplains of any faith who died while in active service.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER WILEY: Resolution Number 17 has the approval of the VA&R Commission and your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second to adopt Resolution 17. Any discussion? Any objections? Hearing none, seeing none, motion carries, unanimous consent, Resolution one-seven.

Resolution No. 18: Veteran Military Sexual Trauma (MST) Claims Training
Origin: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission
Submitted by: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

WHEREAS, The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) wrongly denies benefits to thousands of veterans, claiming they suffer from military sexual trauma (MST) ; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Office of Inspector General (OIG) reported that representatives who "do not have the experience or expertise" to process claims for sexual trauma are tasked with doing so; and

WHEREAS, Military sexual trauma claims are no longer subject to adequate or appropriate special or additional reviews; and

WHEREAS, According to findings released by the VA OIG, 1,300 claims denied during a five-month period last year were rejected without due diligence by the VA; and

WHEREAS, In 740 of those cases, the VA incorrectly denied claims before requesting a medical examination; and

WHEREAS, Claims for military sexual trauma used to be handled by VA representatives with specialized training; and

WHEREAS, In 2016, the VA ended requiring military sexual trauma claims to be reviewed by trained military sexual trauma representatives; and

WHEREAS, The OIG audit team identified several deficiencies that led to the improper denial of benefits such as lack of specialization, inadequate MST related claim processing training for Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) staff, deficient internal controls, and discontinued special focus reviews; and

WHEREAS, VA's Inspector General found in 2018 that thousands of military sexual trauma survivors may have been incorrectly denied benefits due to paperwork and procedural mistakes; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled virtually on May 5-6, 2021, That The American Legion strongly supports legislation setting forth mandatory military sexual trauma (MST) training for individuals who are reviewing claims submitted by all veterans who have suffered MST.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER WILEY: Resolution Number 18 has the approval of the VA&R Commission and your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second to adopt Resolution 18. Any discussion? Any objections? Hearing none, seeing none, motion carries, unanimous consent, Resolution one-eight.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Commander, attached to the report of the VA&R Commission is Addendum A. I move the actions of the VA&R Commission become the actions of the National Executive Committee. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second for the action of the VA&R Commission to become the action of the National Executive Committee. Any discussion? Any objections? Hearing none, seeing none, motion carries, unanimous consent.

At this time the chair recognizes Past National Commander Ronald F. Conley of Pennsylvania, chairman of the TBI/PTSD Suicide Prevention Committee, for the purposes of a report.

Oral Report: TBI/PTSD Suicide Prevention Committee
Past National Commander Ronald F. Conley, Pennsylvania, Chairman

Good day, commander, national officers, NEC, and distinguished guests. On May 9, 2018, The American Legion established a suicide prevention program charged with examining recent trends in suicide prevention. Through resolution, The American Legion has resolved to conduct a biennial mental health survey to more accurately assess the veteran experience with traditional and nontraditional mental health resources.

This year's mental health survey is designed to gather information on how the global COVID-19 pandemic has affected the physical and mental well-being of veterans. It is designed to help The American Legion advocate for the mental health of veterans and will not be used for any other purpose. A draft of The American Legion's 2021 mental health survey has been completed and approved by the TBI/PTSD Suicide Prevention Committee. This year The American Legion's national headquarters has decided to work with a third party to increase survey credibility and reduce unconscious bias.

On March 3, 2021, The American Legion TBI/PTSD Suicide Prevention Committee met virtually. This year's meeting had a record 87 Legionnaires in attendance. The guest speakers for the meeting included Matt Wetenkamp, veterans suicide prevention coordinator, and Kelley Tubbs, acting transition and care management program manager at the Washington, D.C. VA Medical Center.

Mr. Wetenkamp served as a scout sniper in the U.S. Marine Corps from 2000 to 2004 and is a veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He has worked in the veteran services field for nonprofits in public health since 2012, most recently with a focus on mental health, suicide prevention, and lethal means safety.

During his presentation, Mr. Wetenkamp discussed lethal means and suicide prevention using many powerful statistics including that veterans have a high degree of familiarity with firearms and are more likely than the general population to use firearms in an attempt to end their life. With the significant increase in sales since the start of the pandemic, 50 percent of veterans own at least one firearm, and one-third report keeping at least one loaded and always unlocked firearm. Firearms are the most lethal and most common form of suicide, with 90 percent of attempts being fatal compared to a five percent fatality rate of all other methods combined. Suicide is an impulsive act in a time of crisis, with nearly half, 48 percent, deciding to die by suicide in less than ten minutes.

Our second speaker was Kelley Tubbs, who is currently the acting transition and care management program manager for the Washington, D.C. VAMC. During his presentation, Mr. Tubbs described the challenges VA faced in providing care to individuals suffering from PTSD and suicide ideation using recent cases from 2020.

Lastly, The American Legion TBI/PTSD suicide prevention coordinator, Joshua Hastings, presented a resolution pertaining to TBI/PTSD and suicide prevention titled "Lethal Means and Suicide Prevention," which resolved that The American Legion raise awareness of lethal means safety as it relates to veteran suicide, and resolved The American Legion will support suicide prevention aimed at lethal means safety, so long as such initiatives do not encroach on one's constitutional right to bear arms. The resolution received strong support from the TBI/PTSD Suicide Prevention Committee and was recommended to the VA&R Commission for adoption without any revisions.

I encourage each and every one of you to go to the American Legion national website and look up the results of our survey dealing with TBI/PTSD suicide prevention. Also, I want to make sure that everybody's clear, as we move forward, that we are not, again, we are not promoting to take away the Second Amendment right that everybody has a right to bear arms. Thank you for your attention.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Commander, motion to receive and file the report of TBI/PTSD Suicide Prevention Committee. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second to receive and file the report of the TBI/PTSD Suicide Prevention Committee. Any discussion? Any objections? Hearing none, seeing none, motion carries, unanimous consent. Next order of business, chair recognizes the Reverend Daniel J. Seehafer of Wisconsin, chairman of the Veterans Employment & Education Commission, for his report.

Oral Report: Veterans Employment & Education Commission
Reverend Daniel J. Seehafer, Wisconsin, Chairman

Commander Oxford, distinguished members of the National Executive Committee, and fellow Legionnaires thank you for the opportunity to highlight the work of your national Veterans Employment & Education Commission.

On March 17, I organized a call with VE&E division staff and committee chairs to consider new matters to be brought to the National Executive Committee. From this, we have forwarded two resolutions you will find in your packet.

As America charts its course through a post-COVID economic and health landscape, what has become certain is that we will be more tethered to the virtual world than ever before. The pandemic has accelerated existing trends in remote work, e-commerce, and telehealth beyond expectations, and there's no turning back.

During this transformational shift, we cannot turn our back on veterans in rural areas that lack the utilities to participate in the new landscape. From the Appalachian hills to the Sierra Nevada valleys, thelack of advanced telecommunications has hampered economic development and suffocated small-town investment. Over 5.6 million veterans live in these rural or small-town communities. We recognize that their community prosperity can only truly be achieved by connecting rural America to high-speed internet and urge the FCC and Departments of Agriculture and Commerce to prioritize broadband expansion for rural Americans.

The second resolution in your packet calls on the federal government to renew its promise to improve government-wide recruiting and retention of veteran employees across federal departments and agencies. Almost 12 years ago, Executive Order 13518 created the Veterans Employment Initiative to boost the employment of military veterans in the federal government. And while significant strides were made in the first four years of that initiative, no government-wide veterans recruitment and strategic employment plan have been released since 2014. This resolution calls on the White House to renew its commitment to recruiting veterans and develop a plan to support hiring the next generation of veterans.

As The American Legion advocates for our government to better support veterans, we continue to practice what we preach. At the height of the epidemic, we launched a COVID-19 impact survey that received over 20,000 veterans' responses and reached out to over 600 requests for assistance. We also took our renowned job fairs online, hosting three virtual hiring fairs, attracting over 1,800 participants, and are excited to host our next one on June 10 with the Department of Texas.

In the area of employment awards, this year we received 41 nominations from across The American Legion. We commend those departments advocating employers to hire veterans and encourage all to learn about these winners in your packet.

To help hiring managers to understand veterans' unique skill sets, we've also released our landmark 60-page report "The Future of Credentialing Servicemembers and Veterans: Leveraging Partners, Policies, and Resources" to empower employers to make successful veterans hiring pipelines happen.

In conclusion, we appreciate all of your assistance in helping veterans and their families obtain gainful employment and successfully transition into civilian life. We look forward to your continued support and involvement. Commander, thank you, God bless, and this concludes my report.

Advance Report: Veterans Employment & Education Commission
Reverend Daniel J. Seehafer, Wisconsin, Chairman

Members and guests of the National Veterans Employment & Education Commission and its two standing committees on Employment and Veterans' Preference and Veterans Education, Other Benefits, and Homelessness met virtually via Zoom Video Webinar platform on Monday, March 1, 2021. Those meetings were held in conjunction with the Sixty-first Annual Washington Conference.

A synopsis of the meetings (and events preceding) follows:

I. CAREER FAIR

The National Veterans Employment and Education Commission of The American Legion collaborated with the Department of Texas and the Texas Veterans/Workforce Commission to host a virtual career fair on February 9 through the Premier Virtual platform. There were 260 employers from various industries and 910 preregistered job seekers. Job seekers consisted of Active Duty servicemembers, veterans, spouses, and family members. Job seekers came from across the nation, overseas (Italy, Germany, Japan, Australia, Botswana, Guam, Ghana, Bahrain), and two Active-Duty sailors currently out to sea aboard a U.S. Destroyer.

II. AWARDS SELECTION SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

Before the Washington Conference, the Chairman of the National Veterans Employment & Education Commission appointed an awards selection subcommittee to review all the nominations received during 2020 in the Employer of the Year awards program and the Employment Service awards program. This subcommittee met on Friday, February 26, 2020, virtually through the Zoom Video Webinar platform, to select winners in the small, medium, and large employer, LVER and DVOP categories, as well as Employment Service Local Office of the Year, Employer of Disabled, and Older Workers categories. In 2020, Departments submitted 41 nominations for employers and employment services. 7 were for small companies (1-50 employees), 4 were for medium-size companies (51-200 employees), and 6 were for large companies (201+employees). 5 were for Employer of Older Workers, and 6 were for Enhancing the Lives of the Disabled. Departments also submitted 4 nominations for Local Veterans Employment Representatives (LVERs), 6 for Disabled Veterans Outreach Program (DVOP) Specialists, and 3 for Local Employment Service (ES) Offices, and 3 for Homeless Veteran Outreach. Those appointed to the subcommittee were James Fratolillo (MA), Chairman Seehafer; Joseph Magee (FL); Lloyd H. Woods (ME); Eric W. Measles (CA), Geraldine Hines (TX); Dennis R. Tipsword (IL), and Michael Espinosa (AZ)

The Department of Labor will review winners and runners-up for the Employer of the Year categories for pending safety and health or fair labor practices violations before making the announcement.

SMALL EMPLOYER:	Nardis Gun Club San Antonio, TX
MEDIUM SIZE EMPLOYER:	CyberDefenses, Inc. Round Rock, TX
LARGE EMPLOYER:	TriWest Healthcare Alliance Phoenix, AZ
EMPLOYER OF OLDER WORKERS:	Lynden Air Cargo, LLC Anchorage, AK

LVER OF THE YEAR:	Lee Ware Ft. Worth, TX
DVOP OF THE YEAR:	Trevor Wilson Fort Collins, CO
ES LOCAL OFFICE OF THE YEAR:	Workforce Solutions Borderplex El Paso, TX
MICHAEL GUTY'S HOMELESS VETERANS OUTREACH:	Department of Ohio Ride with Valor
ENHANCE THE LIVES OF DISABLED:	Veteran Outdoors, Inc. Georgetown, TX

III. RESOLUTIONS

Daniel Seehafer (Wisconsin), the Chairman, discussed and presented two resolutions to the commission. These resolutions include the *Expansion of Broadband in Rural Areas* bywhich The American Legion urges the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and Department of Commerce (DOC) to prioritize the expansion of broadband in rural America to include improving broadband mapping data and information that will aid in advancing efforts to close the digital divide; improve loans and grants transparency and reporting; identify where gaps in broadband deployment still exist; and engage in private and public partners to effectively identify and address broadband deployment challenges. The second resolution, *Improve the Veterans Employment Initiative* resolves to seek every federal agency commit full-time staff and resources to develop Veterans Employment Program Offices, to align the talents and mission-critical occupational skills of transitioning servicemembers with federal positions, exploring program collaboration opportunities with the Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense, and increasing the recruitment of veterans and their families.

IV. NATIONAL VETERANS EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION COMMISSION FORUM

On March 1, 2021, the National Veterans Employment & Education Commission assembled via Zoom to address employment, education, and small business concerns regarding veterans and their families. The following curriculum was presented:

- Opening remarks led by Commission Chairman
- Richard Trumka, President, The American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO)
- Tammy Duckworth, U.S Senator for Illinois. [Pre-Recorded Video]
- James Rodriguez, Acting Assistant Secretary DOL - VETS
- Boris Kun, Director, Workforce & Credentialing Programs, USD P&R, ASD(R) /DASD FE&T
- Charmain Bogue, Executive Director, VA Education Service
- Joint Panelist Webinar Discussion with National Security and Veterans Employment and Education Divisions Guest Speakers – Securing the Industrial Base: Economic Security is a Matter of 21st Century National Security

The meeting was moderated by Dr. Joseph Wescott, American Legion National Higher Education Consultant. Introductory Keynotes started with remarks from Senator Tammy Duckworth (IL), an Iraq War Veteran and Purple Heart recipient, who mentioned that the transition from military service to civilian employment "can be a real serious

challenge." Senator Duckworth said, "We need to make sure we're providing the tools necessary to smooth that transition and enable our veterans to capitalize on the skills they gained in the military. That's why I'm focusing this Congress on helping make sure that we can streamline transitioning military licenses and credentials into the civilian sector. There's more we can do to work with our local partners like community colleges and vocational schools to set transitioning servicemembers up for success. Above all, it's important to me that we are taking the best possible care of our veterans." Following Senator Duckworth, American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO) President Richard Trumka noted that "inequality and financial instability are among the most sinister enemies that veterans face when they take off the uniform." Afterward, a briefing from James D. Rodriquez, Acting Assistant Secretary, Veterans Employment and Training Services (ASVETS), Department of Labor, provided the new administration's vision on reducing the veteran unemployment rate and addressed concerns related to the ongoing implementation of changes outlined in the 2019 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). Helping transitioning servicemembers and veterans just find jobs isn't enough, Mr. Rodriguez told The American Legion's Veterans Employment and Education (VE&E) Commission. "We want to help them find meaningful careers, with family-sustaining wages."

Mr. Rodriguez's presentation was followed by a briefing from the Department of Defense (DOD) and Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) about education programs and benefits to the National Veterans Employment & Education Commission.

DOD's office of Force Education and Training is responsible for service and joint training policy, cyber training policy, professional military education, training capability modernization, voluntary education, credentialing, and apprenticeship policy. Boris Kun, the office's Director of Credentialing and SkillBridge Programs, briefed Commission members on a new concept for DOD voluntary training: Career Investment Programs.

Career Investment Programs is currently an unofficial portfolio, which includes policy and oversight alignment of the Voluntary Education Directorate and the Credentialing and Apprenticeship Programs Office. Specifically, these programs are:

- Voluntary Education primarily refers to the Services' Tuition Assistance programs that pay up to $4,500 a year in college tuition.
- Credentialing – the Services' Credentialing Opportunities On-Line (COOL) programs that pay for civilian certificate exams.
- The United Services Military Apprenticeship Program (USMAP) (all Services, except USAF) allows servicemembers to log work hours, leading to a Department of Labor apprenticeship certificate.
- The SkillBridge transition program (Army/Marines: Career Skill Program), which allows servicemembers to participate in employment training, including apprenticeships and internships, beginning up to six months before their service obligation is completed.
- Office of Financial Readiness, which prescribes regulations to implement the Military Lending Act.

All the above programs are designed to produce servicemember outcomes, either while on active duty, post-active duty, or as part of a life-long learning continuum that starts on active-duty.

This alignment builds and expands upon the concept that education opportunities are historically among the top three reasons that people cite for choosing to enlist for military service. It further allows DOD to elevate the recognition, importance, and value of obtaining credentials and in-demand skills while simultaneously supporting recruiting, retention, and skills improvement while on active duty. Ultimately, it sets up our servicemembers for a successful transition and acquisition of post-Service employment.

Director Kun stated, "Because at the end of the day, the Department of Defense, we're a workforce machine,"

DOD's presentation was followed by a briefing from the VA's Education Service Director Charmaine Bogue on improvements to the VA's education benefits. With a greater budget for IT improvements, VA is focused on modernizing claims processing and customer service for GI Bill users by providing direct, online, one-stop access to GI Bill benefits and information. VA has coined this initiative "Digital GI Bill", with a vision of moving beyond the technical modernization of claims processing by transitioning to a holistic service that improves user experiences across VA's entire ecosystem.

This vision rests on four pillars:

- *Improved Customer Service,* to provide world-class customer and financial services to enable timely and accurate calculation of awards, real-time eligibility, benefist information, and first contact resolution.
- *End to End Management,* to create a management perspective to ensure proper compliance and oversight of GI Bill programs, and the use of data and business intelligence to monitor and measure school and student outcomes.
- *Electronic Outreach,* to allow for GI Bill students to engage with VA through electronic outreach, intake, and communication tools for point-of-inquiry service.
- *Legislative Compliance,* to support new legislative requirements and adapt to policy changes. Increase capacity to meet legislative/program requirements to determine eligibility, entitlement, and benefits levels based on complex business rules.

While the Digital GI Bill will be an ongoing multi-year project, VA Education Service is in the process of gathering resource requirements to determine a measurable timeline of execution.

Ms. Bogue also shared their first update on the implementation of the *Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020* (Isakson Roe Act), signed by President Trump on January 5, 2021. The 133-page bill contains 32 provisions affecting veterans education benefits, with 15 of them having implementation deadlines for implementation within the first year.

As of the Commission meeting, VA had implemented 7 of the 15 "date of enactment" provisions and is working to have the remainder accomplished by August 1. With much of these changes affecting school certifying official procedures, VA staff have worked to regularly communicate with external stakeholders. Real-time updates to the Isakson Roe Act implementation will be shared online at https://benefits.va.gov/gibill/isaksonroe.asp.

Director Bogue emphasized that GI Bill benefits don't just apply to a traditional two-year or four-year college. "We're talking non-college degree programs; we're talking on-the-job training programs, we're talking about apprenticeship programs, we really do offer the full gamut," Bogue said. "I always tell folks, don't just think about a degree program when you think about (GI Bill programs), think about, 'What's my educational goal and where do I want to go?'"

V. VETERANS EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATION PANEL DISCUSSION WITH NATIONAL SECURITY

Joint Panelist Webinar Discussion with National Security and Veteran Employment and Education Division Guest Speakers – Securing the Industrial Base: Economic Security is a Matter of 21st Century National Security

Finally, VE&E staff held a Veterans Employment & Education and National Security Panel on "Securing the U.S. Industrial Base: Economic Security is a Matter of 21st Century National Security"; co-hosted with the Institute of Technology, Economics, and Diplomacy - INTED, a globe-spanning organization that serves as a platform to discuss global issues, exchange ideas, and implements solutions. Distinguished panelists, including former US ambassadors, discussed the impact on the economic security of international relations,

particularly regarding the vulnerable U.S. Industrial Base and explored what actions could be taken to strengthen national security in the 21st century. The panel was made up of Brad Markell, Executive Director, AFL-CIO Industrial Union Council; Thomas Pickering, Vice-Chairman Hills and Company; Dr. Joshua Walker, President & CEO of Japan Society; Richard Passarelli, National Director of Veterans Affairs, Utility Workers Union of America (UWUA) and was moderated by John Berry, President of the American Australian Association and former U.S. Ambassador to Australia.

Former U.S. Ambassador to Australia and the current president of The American & Australia Association, John Berry, started the discussion by asking panelists for their thoughts on what actions can be taken to strengthen national security. Area subjects included R&D (research and development), working with allies such as Japan, organized labor, licensing, and credentialing. One of the critical points panelists shared was the importance of buying American products so as to secure America's supply chain. The American Legion expresses its support as found in Resolution No. 13: Support "Buy American" Policy within the Federal Government to Create Veterans' Opportunities.

Another question posed by former Ambassador Berry was how the United States remains strong while retaining leadership in the 21st century. Richard Passarelli, Utility Workers Union of America (UWUA), National Director of Veterans Affairs, mentioned through investing in research and development; Joshua Walker, Ph.D., President and CEO, Japan Society, stated, "make sure that everybody is trained to be able to compete in a world in which a lot of other countries have gotten ahead start on us."; Brad Markell, Executive Director, AFL-CIO Industrial Union Council, AFL-CIO Working for America Institute identified maintaining our energy security and possible cyber-attacks on our grid or health-care system. For cyber-security, Passarelli said, "It's working with utility employers and encouraging them to utilize military veterans."

The panel discussion concluded with thoughts from the panelists on the best base for the United States' security. "A strong economy, a strong technical advantage, and understanding our position of leadership in the world," Executive Director Markell said. "We are going to have to pay a lot of attention to really understanding where the competition is, where the technology is, and how we're investing – investment in R&D, economic strength is the key to the whole thing." Dr. Walker added that "we are an immigrant nation that embraces that greatness, not just on behalf of ourselves but for that next generation to come. I really do think that we have to find ways of making ourselves stronger together while remaining true to our core. I believe you can't do that without having a strong economy; you can't do that without leading in innovation … we need to invest in ourselves; we need to really look and find that inner strength."

Report: Veterans Employment & Education Commission
Reverend Daniel J. Seehafer, Wisconsin, Chairman

The National Veterans Employment & Education Commission met via teleconference on March 1, 2021, where the committee discussed the Washington Conference, considered matters previously referred for study, and explored a range of other current issues.
Presiding: Daniel Seehafer (WI), Chairman
Also in attendance were:
Joseph C. Sharpe, Jr. (DC), Director, National Veterans Employment & Education Division; James Fratolillo (MA), Chairman, Employment & Veterans Preference Committee; Eric Measles (CA), Chairman, Veterans Education, Other Benefits & Homelessness Committee; Dennis Tipsword (IL), Vice Chairman, Veterans Employment & Education Commission; Geraldine Hince (TX), Vice Chairman, Veterans Education, Other Benefits & Homelessness Committee; Eugene O'Grady, Vice Chairman, Employment & Veterans Preference Committee; Lloyd Woods (ME), Chairman, Veterans Employment & Education Commission Liaison Committee; Ariel De Jesus, Employment & Transition Policy Associate, National Veterans Employment & Education Division; John Kamin, Education & Credentialing Policy Associate, National Veterans Employment

& Education Division; and Edwin Cruz, Administrative Assistant, National Veterans Employment & Education Division.

MATTERS RECEIVED, CONSIDERED, AND ACTED UPON BY THE COMMISSION:

RESOLUTIONS

The Subcommittees –The Veterans Education, Other Benefits & Homelessness Committee, and Employment and Veterans Preference Committee– considered two resolutions from the Veterans Employment & Education Commission and subsequently forwarded them to the National Executive Committee for adoption.

Origin: **VE&E Commission**
Title: **Expansion of Broadband in Rural Areas**

Origin: **VE&E Commission**
Title: **Improve the Veterans Employment Initiative**

Two (2) resolutions were presented to the subcommittee by the Veterans Employment & Education Commission. Both resolutions were approved

The Commission then discussed the following issues:

EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION COMMISSION FORUM

On Monday, March 1, the National Veterans Employment & Education Commission assembled via Zoom to address employment, education, and small business concerns regarding veterans and their families.

The meeting was moderated by Dr. Joseph Wescott, American Legion National Higher Education Consultant. Introductory keynotes started with remarks from Senator Tammy Duckworth (IL), an Iraq War Veteran and Purple Heart recipient, who mentioned that the transition from military service to civilian employment "can be a real serious challenge." Senator Duckworth said, "We need to make sure we're providing the tools necessary to smooth that transition and enable our veterans to capitalize on the skills they gained in the military. That's why I'm focusing this Congress on helping make sure that we can streamline transitioning military licenses and credentials into the civilian sector. There's more we can do to work with our local partners like community colleges and vocational schools to set transitioning servicemembers up for success. Above all, it's important to me that we are taking the best possible care of our veterans." Following Senator Duckworth, President Richard Trumka of The American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO) noted that "inequality and financial instability are among the most sinister enemies that veterans face when they take off the uniform." Afterward, a briefing from James D. Rodriguez, Acting Assistant Secretary, Veterans Employment and Training Services (ASVETS), Department of Labor, provided the new administration's vision on reducing the veteran unemployment rate and addressed concerns related to the ongoing implementation of changes outlined in the 2019 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). "Helping transitioning servicemembers and veterans just find jobs isn't enough," Mr. Rodriguez told The American Legion's Veterans Employment and Education (VE&E) Commission. "We want to help them find meaningful careers, with family-sustaining wages."

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Veterans Employment & Education staff and National Security held a panel titled "Securing the U.S. Industrial Base: Economic Security is a Matter of 21st Century National Security"; co-hosted with the Institute of Technology, Economics, and Diplomacy (INTED), a globe-spanning organization that serves as a platform to discuss global issues, exchange ideas, and implement solutions. Distinguished panelists, including former US ambassadors, discussed the impact of economic security on international relations, particularly regarding the vulnerable U.S. Industrial Base and explored what actions could be taken to strengthen national security in the 21st century. The panel was made up of Brad Markell, Executive Director, AFL-CIO Industrial Union Council; Thomas Pickering, Vice-Chairman Hills and Company; Dr. Joshua Walker, President & CEO of Japan Society; Richard Passarelli, National Director of Veterans Affairs, Utility Workers Union of America (UWUA); and was moderated by John Berry, President of the American Australian Association and former U.S. Ambassador to Australia.

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The panel discussion concluded with thoughts from the panelists on what the best base is for the United States' security. "A strong economy, a strong technical advantage, and understanding our position of leadership in the world," Executive Director Markell said. "We are going to have to pay a lot of attention to really understanding where the competition is, where the technology is, and how we're investing – investment in R&D, economic strength is the key to the whole thing." Dr. Walker added that "we are an immigrant nation that embraces that greatness, not just on behalf of ourselves but for that next generation to come. I really do think that we have to find ways of making ourselves stronger together while remaining true to our core. I believe you can't do that without having a strong economy; you can't do that without leading in innovation … we need to invest in ourselves; we need to really look and find that inner strength."

EMPLOYMENT AND CAREER FAIRS

The National Veterans Employment & Education Commission found ways to adapt to the pandemic, which derailed its annual career fair, normally conducted during the National Convention. On September 15, nearly 800 veterans and military family jobseekers from across the nation participated in a free virtual employment event with more than 220 hiring companies; presented by the National Veterans Employment & Education Commission, The American Legion Department of Texas, the Texas Veterans Commission, and the Texas Workforce Commission.

National Commander James W. "Bill" Oxford and VE&E Commission Chairman Daniel Seehafer welcomed job hunters with a video message from their homes in North Carolina and Wisconsin, respectively. Earlier in the summer, the VE&E Commission organized an online workshop featuring the leader of military and veteran services for LinkedIn, Sarah Roberts, who offered tips to set up effective professional profiles on the social media platform. The American Legion's national LinkedIn page saw a surge in followers, to nearly 20,000 by the end of the summer, as social media connections grew in importance during the pandemic.

Following the success in Texas, the Veterans Employment & Education Commission worked with the Department of North Carolina to schedule their own Job Fair, which drew 176 job seekers from 19 different states, the District of Columbia and Japan.

In 2021, the National Veterans Employment and Education Commission of The American Legion returned to supporting the Department of Texas and the Texas Veterans/Workforce Commission to host a virtual career fair on February 9 through the Premier Virtual platform. There were 260 employers from various industries and 910 preregistered job seekers. Job seekers consisted of Active Duty servicemembers, veterans, spouses, and family members. Job seekers came from across the nation and overseas (Italy, Germany, Japan, Australia, Botswana, Guam, Ghana, Bahrain), including two Active-Duty sailors currently out to sea aboard a U.S. Destroyer. Overall, the employers and participants at this event were pleased with the outcome. The employers noted the participant's professionalism and overall high level of qualifications. The participants commented that they were impressed with the variety of employers from different industries and their willingness to hire veterans.

The American Legion's National Veterans Employment & Education Division, through its established partnerships, continues to play a vital role in assisting American Legion Posts in their production of successful Job Fairs, small business development workshops, and employment training services throughout America. Likewise, the staff of the National Veterans Employment & Education Division is involved in several advisory committees, such as the Small Business Administration's Advisory Committee. Additionally, The American Legion is a stakeholder and active participant in numerous government agencies and private businesses' veteran initiatives. The American Legion has a representative on the Interagency Task Force on Veterans Small Business Development. Lastly, The American Legion participates in the Veterans Entrepreneurship Task Force (VET-Force) business forums and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's Service Member's Affairs meetings.

The National Veterans Employment & Education Division has participated in numerous Career Fairs throughout the nation, allowing The American Legion to connect with more than 25,000 veterans and their families. The American Legion has been invited to participate in over 12 Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program (YRRP) events. The YRRP is a Department of Defense (DOD) effort to promote the well-being of National Guard and Reserve members, their families, and communities by connecting them with resources throughout the deployment cycle. The American Legion is the only Veterans Service Organization that participates in these events. As a result of our presence, the Legion was tasked with coordinating and moderating the YRRP employer panel. The panel consisted of employers sharing advice and information to help servicemembers land their dream job. The recruiters were asked a variety of questions to help understand what runs through the mind of hiring managers or human resources (HR) professionals while interviewing them and what it takes to get the job. Locations for the YRRP included but were not limited to Florida, California, Maryland, Virginia, the District of Columbia, and Hawaii.

EDUCATION

On Monday, March 1, Zoom briefings were presented by the Department of Defense (DOD) and Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) about education programs and benefits to the National Veterans Employment & Education Commission.

DOD's office of Force Education and Training is responsible for service and joint training policy, cyber training policy, professional military education, training capability modernization, voluntary education, credentialing, and apprenticeship policy. Boris Kun, the office's Director of Credentialing and SkillBridge Programs, briefed Commission members on a new concept for DOD voluntary training: Career Investment Programs.

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This alignment builds and expands upon the concept that education opportunities are historically among the top three reasons that people cite for choosing to enlist for military service. It further allows DOD to elevate the recognition, importance, and value of obtaining credentials and in-demand skills while simultaneously supporting recruiting, retention, and skills improvement while on active duty. Ultimately, it sets up our servicemembers for a successful transition and acquisition of post-Service employment. Director Kun stated, "Because at the end of the day, the Department of Defense, we're a workforce machine,"

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NATIONAL EMPLOYER AWARDS

During the Washington Conference, the Commission's Awards Subcommittee met to select winners in the Employer of Veterans and Employment Service awards categories. Winners include:

SMALL EMPLOYER:	Nardis Gun Club San Antonio, TX
MEDIUM SIZE EMPLOYER:	CyberDefenses , Inc. Round Rock, TX
LARGE EMPLOYER:	TriWest Healthcare Alliance Phoenix, AZ
EMPLOYER OF OLDER WORKERS:	Lynden Air Cargo, LLC Anchorage, AK
LVER OF THE YEAR:	Lee Ware Ft. Worth, TX
DVOP OF THE YEAR:	Trevor Wilson Fort Collins, CO
ES LOCAL OFFICE OF THE YEAR:	Workforce Solutions Borderplex El Paso, TX
MICHAEL GUTY'S HOMELESS VETERANS OUTREACH:	Department of Ohio Ride with Valor
ENHANCE THE LIVES OF DISABLED:	Veteran Outdoors, Inc. Georgetown, TX

COVID-19

In April 2020, The American Legion Veterans Employment & Education Division began a COVID-19 survey of veterans and their families to assess their well-being on a number of levels: financial, occupational, physical, mental, and emotional. Extended to mid-June, the survey was completed by nearly 24,000 respondents. It included a field

where veterans could request direct, immediate assistance from American Legion service officers, and more than 1,000 did.

Foremost, respondents confirmed that The American Legion was taking well-targeted steps during the pandemic. Buddy Checks were fulfilling the most common response to a question asked about what works best to improve emotional well-being. "Communication with friends and family" was the top choice from 40.58% of respondents. "Physical exercise" was second at 25.26%. In the months ahead, physical exercise through the 100 Miles for Hope initiative would address that response among thousands of veterans across the country.

The majority of survey respondents were Vietnam War veterans. Although that age group is not as affected by job loss as younger veterans, over 25% responded that they were somewhat or very concerned about job security in the pandemic. Thirty-seven percent (37%) said they were worried about their ability to pay bills, and nearly the same percentage reported they were "very concerned" about their ability to buy groceries. As the spring wore on, items such as toilet paper, paper towels, and disinfectants disappeared from store shelves.

Links were broken in the supply chain for many essential goods as workers and drivers were idled or forced to change their schedules. American Legion posts across the country began working their connections and purchasing or obtaining through donations necessary items to distribute free of charge in communities where supplies were limited, and the need was significant.

The survey revealed over 80% of respondents were somewhat or very concerned about contracting COVID-19. The majority of veterans who completed the American Legion survey fit into the high-risk age group for infection. Over 50% reported they believed the pandemic posed a "large threat" to the entire U.S. population.

More than 1,800 veterans responded that they were suddenly working from home. Nearly 1,000 said their hours had been reduced. Another 512 revealed that they had been laid off because of the pandemic, and 584 reported they were furloughed, at least for the time being. 639 respondents said they were suddenly out of work because their employers were forced to shut down.

Respondents reported closely followed the news about the coronavirus, largely trusting in VA and concerned about what this would mean for the U.S. economy.

SMALL BUSINESS ECONOMIC INITIATIVES

The National Veterans Employment and Education staff is continuing its relationship with the Small Business Administration (SBA) Office of Veterans Business Development to increase participation in the Boots to Business entrepreneurial education and training program. VE&E is also promoting the establishment of at least two new Veteran Business Opportunity Centers to expand access to business training and counseling for veteran-owned small businesses. VE&E is collaborating with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to establish a procurement advisory board to provide feedback on current VA procurement policies, procedures, and practices; encourage competition at the VA; and ensure VA procurement officials are using best practices to maximize competition. Furthermore, VE&E is in the process of addressing small business development in rural areas. VE&E is currently identifying Federal, State, and local resources throughout the United States that can be accessed by veterans, such as business loan guarantees and counseling services.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, two companies owned by members of The American Legion Business Task Force – Global Procurement Solutions and Aldevra – worked around the clock to manufacture and deliver needed personal protective equipment (PPE) to healthcare facilities as the supply chain continued to weaken in April. Legionnaire-owned companies in California and Ohio also swiftly transformed their business to manufacture masks and meet the urgent nationwide need.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

A very important part of the work of the National Veterans Employment & Education Division is the preparation and presentation of congressional testimony as well as letters of support on issues affecting the economic well-being and financial stability of America's veterans. Since January of 2021, the National Veterans Employment & Education Division has been involved in one congressional testimony.

The following is a synopsis of the congressional hearings and correspondence held from January 1, 2021, to May 3, 2021, on matters pertaining to the National Veterans Employment & Education Commission:

In April 2021, Staff testified before the Subcommittee on Oversight & Investigations Committee on Veterans' Affairs concerning H.R 711, H.R. 2082, and draft legislation:

H.R. 711 - *West Los Angeles VA Campus Improvement Act of 2021*. This legislation would direct the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) West Los Angeles Medical Center campus to use revenues from leases and easements as a dedicated funding source to build additional housing for homeless veterans, offset the high costs of housing construction, and help fund the provision of supportive services for veterans in the community. The American Legion places special priority on the issue of veteran homelessness. To help our struggling veterans, the Legion works on lobbying for legislation affecting veteran homelessness at a national level and acts on directly assisting veterans who have fallen on tough times and are without a place to live or facing the prospect of it at the local level. Through **Resolution No. 141**: *Department of Veterans Affairs Enhanced-Use Leasing*, The American Legion supports VA's use of enhanced use leasing that provides obvious and permanent benefits, resources, and services to the veterans' community. This legislation is consistent with the resolution, and The American Legion believes it would dramatically help end and prevent veteran homelessness in the greater Los Angeles area.

H.R. 2082 - *VA Supply Chain Resiliency Act.* VA became abruptly aware of the vulnerabilities and lack of resiliency built into its supply chain as it struggled to acquire critical medical supplies throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. The VA Supply Chain Resiliency Act requires VA to identify critical supply items and anticipate the needs of the VA medical system in the event of future public health or national emergencies. Additionally, it requires VA to participate in the Defense Logistic Agency's Warstopper program and thereby "ensure the maintenance and stability of items that are identified as critical." Furthermore, this legislation mandates that VA partners with manufacturers and distributors to secure a supply of critical items rather than holding physical inventories. Through **Resolution No. 13**: *Support "Buy American" Policy within the Federal Government to Create Opportunities for Veterans*, The American Legion supports legislation and policy that incentivizes the return of manufacturing from overseas and the creation of more domestic manufacturers.

H.R. 1319 – American Rescue Plan Act**.** Legion staff played a key role in the passage of the 90/10 provision of this important legislation, to include supporting a floor amendment that delays implementation for 6 months so as to make sure that implementation of the 90/10 rule will not harm veterans by limiting their access to quality vocation and technical programs that result in good-paying jobs.

CONCLUSION

The National Veterans Employment & Education 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 sincerely appreciate their continued support and participation. Chairman Seehafer would also like to thank 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 CHAIRMAN KILE: Commander, a motion to receive and file the report of the Veterans Employment & Education Commission with the exception of two resolutions. There is no addendum. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second to receive and file the report of the Veterans Employment & Education Commission with the exception of two resolutions. Any discussion? Any objections? Hearing none, seeing none, motion carries, unanimous consent.

Resolution No. 1: Expansion of Broadband in Rural Areas
Origin: Veterans Employment & Education Commission
Submitted by: Veterans Employment & Education Commission

WHEREAS, More than 22 million veterans live in the United States, of which, more than 5.6 million live in rural or small-town communities; and

WHEREAS, There are 2.52 million veteran-owned small business in America; and

WHEREAS, There are over 1.1 million veteran-owned businesses in rural areas throughout the country; and

WHEREAS, There is a shortage of small business resources in rural areas of the country, such as limited broadband services; and

WHEREAS, Rural small business owners deal with a lack of access to parts and supplies, broadband access, lack of facilitators and mentors, poor financial literacy and lack of funding for programs that serve rural areas; and

WHEREAS, Rural e-connectivity supports economic development for the whole nation through access to capital and global markets, job training and workforce development, innovation and technology, and enhanced quality of life; and

WHEREAS, Broadband is a tool that enables increased productivity for farms, factories, forests, mining, and small business; and

WHEREAS, Connectivity is especially vital for agriculture, the original "Made in America" industry, to increase farm productivity to feed the world; and

WHEREAS, High-speed broadband, and the digital opportunity it brings, can be essential to innovation, economic opportunity, health care, and civic engagement in today's modern society, and rural areas continue to lack access due, in part, to challenges with providing service to areas where deployment costs are high, and returns in investments are low; and

WHEREAS, The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is charged with encouraging the deployment on a reasonable and timely basis of advanced telecommunications capability to all Americans, by removing barriers to infrastructure investment and by promoting competition in the telecommunication market; and

WHEREAS, The Office of Rural Development of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) offers telephone service and broadband in rural areas; and

WHEREAS, The National Telecommunications and Information Administration's BroadbandUSA program of the Department of Commerce (DOC) serves communities, industry, and nonprofits that want to expand broadband infrastructure and promote digital inclusion; and

WHEREAS, Rural prosperity can only truly be achieved by connecting rural American to high-speed internet; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled virtually on May 5-6, 2021, That The American Legion urges the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and Department of Commerce (DOC) to prioritize the expansion of broadband in rural America; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the FCC, USDA and DOC continue to identify where gaps in broadband deployment still exist; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the FCC and USDA improve broadband mapping data and information that will aid in advancing efforts to close the digital divide; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the FCC, USDA and DOC improve loans and grants transparency and reporting; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the FCC, USDA and DOC engage with private and public partners to effectively identify and address broadband deployment challenges.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER WOODS: Resolution Number 1 has the approval of the Veterans Employment & Education Commission and your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second to adopt Resolution Number 1. Any discussion? Any objections? Hearing none, seeing none, motion carries, unanimous consent, Resolution Number 1.

Resolution No. 2: Improve the Veterans Employment Initiative
Origin: Veterans Employment & Education Commission
Submitted by: Veterans Employment & Education Commission

WHEREAS, Executive Order 13518 created the Veterans Employment Initiative (VEI), a comprehensive program to improve government-wide recruiting, use of applicable hiring authorities, and retention of veteran employees across federal departments and agencies; and

WHEREAS, A study by the Institute for Veterans and Military Families found that agency-level perceptions of veterans employment included some concerns about competing hiring priorities and struggles to commit full-time resources to implementation; and

WHEREAS, Despite the mandate in Executive Order 13518 for the Office of Personnel Management to develop a Government-wide Veterans Recruitment and Employment Strategic Plan every three years, no plan has been released since 2014; and

WHEREAS, Because each agency or department named in Executive Order 13518 is not required to develop its operational plan and standards, there is no efficient way for the government, the individual veteran, or the public at large to track these plans and their outcomes; and

WHEREAS, Neither Executive Order 13518 nor the strategic plan establish metrics to assess whether the Veterans Employment Initiative have been successful; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled virtually on May 5-6, 2021, That Executive Order 13518 be amended to include mandatory operational plans and measurable, specific goals and metrics to better assess the effects and successes of the Veterans Employment Initiative; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That Executive Order 13518 and the Veterans Employment Initiative be amended to include all federal agencies and departments; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That every federal agency commit full-time staff and resources to develop Veterans Employment Program Offices, to align the talents and mission-critical occupational skills of transitioning servicemembers with federal positions, exploring program collaboration opportunities with the Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense, and increasing the recruitment of veterans and their families.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER WOODS: Resolution Number 2 has the approval of the Veterans Employment & Education Commission and your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second to adopt Resolution Number 2. Any discussion? Any objections? Hearing none, seeing none, motion carries, unanimous consent, Resolution Number 2.

Next order of business, the chair recognizes Internal Affairs Commission Chairman Robert E. Newman of Indiana for the purposes of a report.

Oral Report: Internal Affairs Commission
Robert E. Newman, Indiana, Chairman

Commander, thank you for the opportunity to serve as your chairman. Members of the National Executive Committee, fellow Legionnaires, ladies and gentlemen, you have my report of our actions and deliberations before you. I draw your attention to the great work the Sons of The American Legion and the Legion Riders have accomplished, and I commend every department for supporting these two great programs.

The commission reviewed 13 resolutions and our recommended action on each is in our report, except for the Distinguished Service Medal which will be considered in executive session.

Last fall, Resolution 36 was passed to assist posts impacted by the public health protection restrictions implemented in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Mission Blue Post Assistance Program grant to date has approved 405 grants for a grand total of $404,616. We are concerned about the low number of posts taking advantage of this program at this date.

The spring storms have started and we are positioned to provide our members and their families with immediate assistance. For anyone in our departments who has questions on NEF program, there is an excellent training video and PowerPoint on the national website at www.legion.org/training/training-tuesdays.

Operation Comfort Warriors is a program dedicated to meeting the needs of wounded, injured, or ill veterans and military personnel by providing them with comfort items normally not supplied by the government. This program highlights the great work The American Legion can do for our veterans. We have granted 14 grants for $73,916.37 so far in 2021.

A good news story from the pandemic. We have learned new ways to offer training to our members. I would like to bring your attention to what we have done with Training Tuesdays. On the last Tuesday of each month, training is offered on a variety of topics aimed at furthering members' knowledge of the organization. Last month we had over 800 attendees learn more about myLegion. Please pass this on to the members in your department so they can virtually attend.

After my report, you will hear from M&PA Committee Chairman Bowen. I would like to mention, though, how we need to focus our efforts on growing the organization. We do not want a stagnant membership base. It affects everything: fewer members, less activities, less new leaders, less new ideas, fewer volunteers, and the list goes on and on. The first area we should focus on is retention. It has been said we bring them in and do not engage them properly. It is everyone's responsibility in this room to engage our members. We need to inform and educate these new members. Don't ask anything from them until they know and understand what we do. We need to show them their value of membership in this great organization. Mentoring is an essential tool in the engagement process.

Lastly, Buddy Check continues to grow and should be a leadership tool used as often as possible. It is used as a health and welfare check on our members. We need to check on them and find out what we can do for them and their families. Let them know of all the outstanding Legion programs available to them.

Commander, I submit my report and the resolutions for the action of the National Executive Committee with my deepest respect and appreciation for the support and encouragement we enjoy from this body.

Report: Internal Affairs Commission
Robert E. Newman, Indiana, Chairman

Chairman Robert E. Newman (IN) called the Internal Affairs Commission to order virtually at 3:00 p.m., April 28, 2021. We had 60 members and guests present.

The report consists of the following sections: Standing Committee Reports; Subcommittee Reports; Staff Action Reports; and Actions on Assigned Resolutions.

I. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

MEMBERSHIP AND POST ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE
JOHN W. BOWEN (CO), CHAIRMAN

As of April 22, 2021, the total 2021 traditional membership was 1,491,158 which is 88.8% of the membership goal of 1,679,116. With the conversion to Personify, we have changed the dates of the April 95% target date and the May 100% target date to ensure departments are given ample opportunities to meet these targets. The new dates are as follows: 95% target date is May 12, 2021 and the 100% target date is June 9, 2021.

The membership results do not include newly acquired 2021 DMS members. The total DMS members acquired as of March 31, 2021 was 96,848, which was 2,946 ahead of 2020 totals – the 2021 DMS goal is 123,000.

DMS is a valuable tool to the membership program. The overall intent has always been to engage these members and move them into a local post. The 2021 membership goal incorporated 60% of the 2020 encumbered DMS members along with the traditional post members as of July 1, 2020. To incentivize departments to work the 2020 encumbered DMS members list, every 2020 encumbered member that transfers and renews at the local post for 2021, the department will receive $5.00. As of February 22, 2021, the total number of 2020 encumbered DMS members who have transferred and renewed at the local post is 15,397. This equates to $76,985 that will be paid to the departments. We expect a new report once all of the report conversions are completed in Personify. This incentive ends on June 1, 2021.

Traditional new starts have been affected immensely due to stay-at-home orders because of the COVID pandemic. As of February 19, 2021, our traditional recruiting is at 26,762 which is 23,157 behind last year.

Our biggest concern is and has been renewals. In 2020, we finished with a renewal rate of 87.1%. Commander Oxford continued his goal of 90% retention for 2021. As membership efforts were adversely affected by the stay-at-home orders, Commander Oxford implemented **Operation Comeback.** This ended on March 15th, but departments were encouraged to continue working on their own. The takeaway from this initiative is it has to start at the end of September and must become a standard operating procedure. We cannot wait until January to put plans in place to work renewals.

The online renewal program was performing very well prior to the conversion to Personify. As of 3/31/2021, 304,369 had renewed online for 2021. Which is an increase over 2020 final totals. This will continue to grow as the sixth renewal notice is being sent out around May 1, 2021.

The American Legion's Buddy Check program is a health and welfare check that has proven vital since its inception in 2019. This highly successful engagement tool should be utilized by posts/districts/departments to contact current and expired members. It is an effective tactic to thank members, while letting them know there is help available if needed. It also shows that leadership cares about each and every member. This must be an ongoing tactic used for engagement if we are going to increase our renewal rates.

Our direct transmittal program via mylegion.org is slowly coming back online in Personify. There are five training videos available for members to help guide them through these processes. This program continues to be a great workload reducer as well as a timelier service to our members. It allows for earlier posting of renewal transactions to the national

database which results in reduction of duplicate renewal notices going to members who paid their dues to posts.

In October 2020, we implemented "Training Tuesday" which are one-hour sessions scheduled on the last Tuesday of each month. The intent is to increase our member's knowledge about our organization, which we believe will assist our renewal and membership efforts. The more we know, the better we can share our great story

AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MARK R. CLARK (MO), CHAIRMAN

Chairman Clark opened the meeting with opening ceremonies and the introduction of special guests who offered greetings and appreciation to the ALR Advisory Committee for the hard work they do.

Resolutions:

The following resolution was presented and reviewed by the ALR Advisory Committee. Below is their recommendation to the Internal Affairs Commission. Each resolution was discussed in-depth regarding relevance and practicality to the ALR program. Resolution A submitted by Internal Affairs was discussed at length. The committee was willing to support the resolution as a replacement to Resolution 19, passed in October 2020. The following was recommended as changes:

1) Add in the resolve clause verbiage allowing current members of The American Legion Family to join ALR chapters as supporting members. Though this had been addressed in a 2016 memorandum by National Adjutant Wheeler, there is still confusion and questions regarding these types of members. The committee wanted to include it in the resolution making it clear support members into an ALR chapter is allowed.
2) Bullet #5 the committee wanted to simplify language regarding acceptable leadership titles to be used by departments and chapters. Many departments and chapters have already changed their bylaws to reflect the use of director and/ or chairman in their leadership structure. Adding director was recommended and added to the resolution to go before the Internal Affairs Commission.

Number	Origin	Title	Result
Register Resolution No. 2798 (2020, DEC)	Department of Alaska	Restructure of the American Legion Riders Advisory Committee	Not supported
Register Resolution No. 2801 (2021, DEC)	Department of Arizona	Rescinding of October 2020 NEC Resolution No. 19	Not supported
Register Resolution No. 2802 (2021, DEC)	Department of Arizona	Amending of October 2020 NEC Resolution No. 19	Not supported
Register Resolution No. 2806 (2021, DEC)	Department of Iowa	Program Requirements for the American Legion Riders	Not supported
Resolution A – Spring 2021	Internal Affairs Commission	Guidelines for the American Legion Riders National Program	Supported with recommended changes

Resolution B-Spring 2021	Internal Affairs Commission	Department Adjutant Appointment to the American Legion Riders Advisory Committee	Supported

Remarks from Americanism

Americanism Chairman Richard Anderson (CT) thanked the ALR Advisory Committee for the important work they do and commended the ALR across the country for their efforts to raise funds for the Legacy Scholarship Fund.

Director Jill Druskis briefed the totals for the 2021 Legacy Scholarship Fund and brought the committee up to date on the ongoing efforts to identify ways to reach more students. She pointed out that many students fail to complete their applications so they are never considered for the scholarship. The committee felt this was an indication that perhaps local Posts and Departments should, to be more proactive in helping eligible students complete their applications. Despite the restrictions and impact on fundraising in 2020, the 2021 scholarship awards have the potential to reach 32 students totaling $357, 228, to include five children of the fallen and 27 children of veterans with a 50% or greater disability assigned by the VA.

ALR Committee Discussion

Chairman Clark provided a year in review and highlighted the success of Legacy Scholarship Fundraising in 2020 despite the restrictions associated with COVID-19. He was especially proud of the efforts across the nation to continue to support this very worthy cause resulting in over $558,000 being raised. Chairman Clark participated in many in-state legacy rides and the national Pony Express ride and asked his fellow committee members to pass on his thanks to the Department ALR programs that participated for their dedication and commitment to the children who benefit from the Legacy Scholarship.

Chairman Clark expressed an interest in broadening the role of the ALR in promoting motorcycle safety and asked the committee members to poll their respective departments to determine if a successful training program was being utilized that perhaps could be adopted across the entire ALR enterprise. He plans to host a meeting in the near future via Zoom with the committee to discuss what they have learned.

Chairman Clark discussed the possibility of the ALR hosting its own version of the 100 Miles for Hope except doing it with targets of 500/1000/1500 miles respectively. The concept would allow both individuals and chapters to complete the contest with certificates of completion being awarded in the bronze, silver and gold categories depending on distance. He asked the committee to think on it and they will meet in a few weeks to discuss further.

2021 National Legacy Run Overview

Chairman Clark introduced staff member Ron Neff who provided a general overview of the 2021 Legacy Run route which begins in Rogers, AR and ends in Scottsdale, AZ. Maps and photos of proposed stops were shared with the committee and all questions were answered. Chairman Clark thanked committee Vice Chairman Steve Ridenour and committee member Dave Schoonover for providing the initial draft of the route. He also thanked Assistant Chief Ride Captain Jim Cowley, HQ ALR Liaison Ken George, and HQ Staff member Ron Neff for the work they did on the initial pre-ride route review.

Chairman Clark is enthusiastic about this year's run and he reported that he is getting calls and emails about it almost every day. The committee is confident that there will a great turnout this year for the Legacy Run as America returns to normal.

Open Topics Discussed

Committee Member Chad Woodburn forwarded an email from the Dept of Ohio ALR asking if The American Legion would support a "Jr. Rider" program similar to what the

Auxiliary does with their junior program. The committee discussed the concept but felt that the children of ALR members could participate as supporters. No further action is planned on this subject.

Conclusion

Due to COVID-19, 2020 was a challenging year but the ALR remained engaged and active keeping the brand of The American Legion before the American people. This was critical as many posts were closed for extended periods of time with little to no contact with the communities they serve. The presence of ALR members on the roads of America reminded the American people and our American Legion Family members that The American Legion was alive and well bringing hope to many and inspiring others to join our cause.

It has been an honor and privilege serving as the Chairman of the ALR Advisory Committee and on behalf of the entire committee I would like to thank Chairman Newman and the entire Internal Affairs Commission for the support they have provided our committee and the Riders this past year. We look forward to a successful 2021!

II. INTERNAL AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION SUBCOMMITTEE
GEORGE V. WEST (NH), CHAIRMAN

The Sons of The American Legion Sub-Committee of the Internal Affairs Commission convened at 7:00 PM on April 26, 2021.

Commander Bolt's Report

Commander Bolt gave his report summarizing the Spring SAL NEC meeting on April 24, 2021, hosted virtually from the national headquarters national executive committee room. Overall, he was pleased with the meeting. Some notables the commander wanted to highlight that made the meeting "*feel more like a meeting*." Those notables were; 1) the commission and committee chairman gave a summary of their reports, then made themselves available for questions and answers from the NEC. 2) The Child Welfare Fund President Dennis Boland (FL) submitted a pre-recorded message to the NEC with his appreciation for the efforts to support CWF and shared a personal story. The commander noted it had been over 18 months when Mr. Boland has spoken to the NEC. The commander believes Mr. Boland's message will motivate SAL members to drive CWF and collect donations for this charity the SAL has championed. 3) The last notable that made the meeting more personal was allowing members to announce pledged donations to various American Legion Charities. In a face-face meeting, members can get on stage and present their donations to the commander. With virtual meetings, that small touch has been lost. For the good of the order, donations were pledged to CWF, OCW, NEF & VCF, which totaled $35,734. The idea was a first and the commander feels this will improve if we are destined for more virtual meetings. Commander Bolt closed his remarks by thanking his team, headquarters staff, and Markey's for their dedication and hard work to present a good meeting. The sub-committee accepted the commander's report through unanimous consent.

Committee on Committees Report

The Committee on Committees reported two vacancies. One in Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission and one in Public Media & Communication Commission. Robert Manzo (MD) was appointed to the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission and Douglas Heiser (IN) was appointed to the Public Media Communications Commission.

50th Convention Commemorative Committee

The 2022 National Convention in Milwaukee, WI, will be the 50th Sons of The American Legion National Convention. The first convention took place in 1972, Chicago,

IL. Resolution 2 was presented to the 2021 Spring SAL-NEC asking to approve a 5-9 member Ad-hoc Committee. When appointed by Commander Bolt, the committee is "charged with the responsibility to formulate, coordinate, and implement plans for the proper recognition, honoring, and celebrating of our 50th National Convention." Upon passing SAL Resolution 2, Commander Bolt made the following appointments:

Joseph Gladden (MD), chairman - PNC (2014)
Charles Treat, II (AZ), vice-chairman – Phoenix Convention Chairman
Robert McBride (OH), member - PNC (1969)
Christopher Cerullo (NY), member - PNC (1983)
J. R. Stilwell (IL), member - PNC (1970)
Robert Avery (NY), member - Asst. Nat. ADJ
William Towns, Jr. (OH), member
David Faust (WI), member - PNC (1989)

The national executive committee approved the commander's appointments, and the sub-committee also approved those appointments. The ad-hoc committee will start immediately and conclude their duties on August 16, 2022, upon closing the National Convention. The sub-committee accepted the full slate of commission and committee appointments through unanimous consent.

SAL Commander's Advisory Committee

The Commander's Advisory Chairman, PNC Douglas Bible, addressed the committee with his report. The chairman stated the committee interviewed all interested candidates in becoming the Sons of The American Legion National Commander. The committee unanimously approved that Donald J.R. Hall from Maryland would be a candidate for SAL national commander for the 2023-2024 year after Chris Carlson, Indiana, for the year 2022-2023 year.

Chairman Bible also reported the Commander's Advisory Committee and the Committee on Committees began coordinating and creating a path for national commander candidates to follow. Leading candidates before their campaign year will be appointed to chair various commissions and committees designed to challenge, develop, observe, and evaluate the candidate's performance. The committee believes the change will develop stronger commanders while waiting to campaign for national commander.

Past National Commanders Panel Report

The Past National Commanders Panel submitted their report directly to the sub-committee and gave a brief overview to the SAL-NEC. The following was contained in their report to the sub-committee.

Strategic Plan update - The Strategic Plan was reviewed item by item with the updated version indicating the status of each item. Overall, the Commissions & Committees have completed their specific items; however, some have reported "in process," meaning not implemented or completed their tasks. Other items are awaiting approval from various divisions of The American Legion.

Training Materials - A proposal was presented to the PNCP requesting approval and implementation of the commission/committee basics training modules. It was agreed the following steps should be as follows: Continue to review new presentations for correct content, grammar & spelling and assemble training material on a memory device. Then forward to the Media Training & Development (MT&D) Committee, who would create a training template. Release forms will have to be obtained on certain content containing pictures, clip art and copyrighted logos before final review and general release for use.

SAL Resolutions – Accepted by the 2021 SAL Spring NEC

The disposition of SAL resolutions are as follows below:

Number	Origin	Title	Result	Sub-Com
SAL Res 1 – Spring NEC 2021	Mississippi	Change to Rule 1 of the National Executive Committee	Approved	Accept
SAL Res 2 – Spring NEC 2021	Internal Affairs Commission/ National Commander	Creation of 50th Convention Commemoration Committee	Approved as corrected	Accept
SAL Res 4 – Spring NEC 2021	Child Welfare Foundation Committee	Child Welfare Foundation Donation of $5,000 from the 2021 Budget	Approved	Accept
SAL Res 5 – Spring NEC 2021	Massachusetts	Empowering the National Adjutant to Correct Resolutions	Approved as amended	Accept
SAL Res 6 – Spring NEC 2021	Internal Affairs Commission	Establishing a Policy and Procedure for a National Representative to Attend the Funeral or Memorial Service of a Past National Commander or Significant Leader	Approved as amended	***Handled administratively to comply with The American Legion travel policy on death of a Past National Commander***

National SAL Liaison Report

The National SAL Liaison addressed the sub-committee summarizing the last six months since the 2020 fall meeting. The virtual Spring NEC Meeting was well attended, with a steady 170 members logged in via the NEC meeting link, the viewing link, or the SAL Facebook live page. After the meeting concluded, the SAL Facebook page has more than 1,400 views of the NEC meetings and that number is increasing. Technology upgrades have been the focus for both the SAL and The American Legion. The Personify software will enable many requested capabilities such as member online renewal, enhanced reports, and access to a database the surpasses the old software. However, with the implementation of new software, the transition can be painful due to frustration and unfamiliarity. The headquarters staff understands these frustrations and asked that everyone be patient with the transition, and the mission is to create a better user experience. The Annual Squadron Data Report (SDR) was introduced as a new annual form. Like the "Annual Post Data Report" (PDR), the SDR was created so that individual squadron per capita can be recorded. With the addition of this per capita reporting to national, the individual member will have the ability to renew their membership online.

The SAL Liaison reported that more forms and publications are being moved to the www.legion.org website. He provided an example with the Consolidated Squadron Report (CSR). Each year national sends out 6,500 three-part CSR forms. In 2020 the return rate was just over 1,300 or 12%. Of those returns, less than 800 returned were the actual CSR form itself. That means more than 5,700 CSR forms were not returned, and more than 5,200 CSR forms were not completed. After reviewing these statistics, it was determined the CSR and the new SDR would be made available at the www.legion.org/sons website. Moving these forms online will provide wider access to our members.

The leading candidate for SAL National Commander and National Vice Commanders attended the first virtual ambassador training on April 25, 2021. The candidates were instructed on how to conduct themselves as a national SAL officer. The training covered duties and responsibilities, effective communication, public image, as well as some dos and don'ts while attending functions as a representative of the organization. The candidates were engaged, asked a lot of questions, and provided positive participation and feedback.

Other projects discussed were the "Outline of Authorization" for the SAL and the continued review of the National SAL Constitution & Bylaws, The Rules of the NEC and The Rules of The SAL National Convention. These publications will continue to be reviewed and screened by the SAL Liaison and the SAL national judge advocate. Changes will be brought forth via resolution, with the overall goal being to get the SAL more in line with the actions and processes of The American Legion.

The Internal Affairs Commission received and filed the report and approved the recommendations of the Subcommittee on the five resolutions.

AMERICAN LEGION TROPHIES, AWARDS & CEREMONIALS (TAC) SUBCOMMITTEE
JAMES R. BOJANOWSKI (NY), CHAIRMAN

The Trophies, Awards & Ceremonials Subcommittee was called to order by Chairman James R. Bojanowski (NY) at 2:00 p.m. on Monday, April 26, 2021, virtually via Zoom, to receive the 2020 and review the 2021 Official and Unofficial Awards and the 2021 Trophies, Awards and Ceremonials Manual (TAC).

The Subcommittee also studied the following proposed resolutions:

Resolutions that were approved at the 2020 Fall NEC:
No. (2020-16), National Global War on Terrorism Memorial
No. (2020-18), The American Legion Canadian Friendship Award
No. (2020-21), The American Legion Patriot Award
No. (2020-31), American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year Eligibility

New resolutions for action:
Service Academy Awards
2760 Korean "Unknown War"
2784 To Report Veteran Treatment Court Program Activities on CPR
2785 National Veterans Memorial and Museum Four Chaplains Display
2789 American Legion Yearbook Rules

Discussion:

- **National Global War on Terrorism Memorial** resolution pertains to national memorials or monuments to be constructed within the National Capital Region of Washington, D.C. *This resolution does not require financial support from The American Legion.* This resolution was approved at the 2020 Fall NEC.

- Three resolutions were approved by the 2020 Fall NEC but had an impact on this year's update to the TAC manual. They are **The American Legion Canadian Friendship Award, The American Legion Patriot Award,** and the **American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year Eligibility** resolutions**.**

Recommendations:

- The committee observed that the **Service Academy Awards** resolution was a consolidated version of the previously approved resolutions by the Internal Affairs Commission and recommends approval.
- The **Korean "Unknown War" (#2760)** resolution was recommended to hold for further study for lack of additional information at this time.
- It is the recommendation of the committee that the **To Report Veteran Treatment Court Program Activities on CPR (#2784), National Veterans Memorial and Museum Four Chaplains Display (#2785)** and the **American Legion Yearbook Rules (#2789)** resolutions be rejected.

The report of the Subcommittee was received and filed by the Internal Affairs Commission except for acting on the resolutions.

III. NATIONAL STAFF UPDATES;

NATIONAL EMERGENCY FUND

Since its creation in 1989, the National Emergency Fund (NEF) has awarded nearly $10M to American Legion and Sons of The American Legion members and posts. Up to $3,000 is available to members, and up to $10,000 is available for posts that, because of a declared natural disaster, temporarily lose the ability to maintain existing Four Pillar programs within the community.

In 2020 we approved 93 grants (81 individual grants and 12 post grants) totaling $160,923. Most of the grants were distributed in the last half of 2020 for Hurricanes Laura, Delta, Zeta, Marco, and Sally (Texas and Louisiana) and flooding in Michigan, Mississippi, North Carolina, Illinois, and Missouri.

2020 Individual Grants (81)	**$90,843 (Average individual grant $1,122.00)**
2020 Post Grants (12)	**$70,080 (Average post grant $5,840.00)**

So far in 2021, the NEF has provided grants to **nine members and one post** within the department Louisiana for a total of $20,093 (compared to $45,045 on this date in 2020). 2021 NEF donations (Jan 1 to April 1) total **$47,417.**
The trust has $7,531,666 as of April 1, 2021.

OPERATION COMFORT WARRIORS (OCW)

Purpose:

Operation Comfort Warriors (OCW) offers activities and delivers items to wounded, injured and ill servicemembers, veterans and their families to support, empower and provide transition assistance. This OCW report provides a start-of-year overview of 2021.

Eligibility:

Individuals: OCW assists wounded, injured, or ill service members and veterans in military and veterans' medical facilities, wounded warrior battalions, and warrior transition units, as well as those individuals transitioning back to their community from those medical facilities without distinction as to them being wounded, injured, or ill. There is also no

distinction made regarding the component of service, such as Active Duty, Reserve, or Guard, for eligibility. Those eligible for an individual grant are those who have or are still serving honorably in the U.S. Armed Forces and have become wounded, injured, or ill.

OCW provides "non-essential" items not typically found as a budget line on government spreadsheets. OCW ***is not*** a program that was designed to aid with an individual's rent or mortgage, utilities, vehicles, credit card bills, other debt, etc.

Facilities:

Those eligible for OCW assistance include Department of Defense (DoD) and VA medical facilities and clinics, wounded warrior regiments, battalions, or units, Soldier & Family Assistance Centers, or any other DoD medical care facility. State funded veterans' facilities are not eligible for this program. Other non-profit facilities serving veterans or active-duty service members, e.g., USO, Fisher House, etc., are considered on a case-by-case basis. OCW ***is not*** a program designed to provide facilities assistance with building construction, improvements, repairs, or furnishings.

Impact:

Over 1,000 servicemembers, veterans and their families have been directly impacted by Operation Comfort Warriors thus far in 2021, either by participating in an OCW-sponsored event or receiving care at a grant-receiving facility. $73,916.37 was distributed through 14 individual and facility grants. This is a marked increase in veterans and their family members impacted in comparison to the previous calendar year. Application submissions for OCW grants continue to indicate an increase in the annual number of grants to individual veterans and federal medical care facilities.

2020 OCW Grant (22)	**$208, 802.21 (Average individual grant $9,491)**
2021 OCW Grants (14)	**$73,916.37 (Average post grant $5,279.74)**

MISSION BLUE POST ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Background:

The American Legion National Executive Committee approved Resolution No. 36 October 14, during its annual Fall Meetings in 2020 to provide up to $5,000,000 from the National Emergency Fund (NEF)Trust for assistance for posts who have a financial need. Posts may ask for up to $1,000 grants if in good standing with their respective department. These funds must be used exclusively to pay current or past due rent, mortgage, utilities, and/or insurance premiums.

Application Process:

The post can download the application and, upon completion, submit it to their department for review and recommendation. The application can easily be downloaded at: https://www.legion.org/documents/pdf/Mission_Blue_PAP_Application_1.pdf

Posts must meet the following criteria to qualify for a grant.

- Must have a consolidated post report on file.
- Must have filed an IRS 990 within the prescribed due date.
- Must have filed all other required forms and reports prescribed by the department.
- Must have actively participated in one or more American Legion programs within the last 18 months.
- Must have a financial need.
- Must provide a certificate of insurance for all liability coverage naming The American Legion doing business as (dba) American Legion National Headquarters and the post's department as an additional insured.

Departments verify the information, submit to the Internal Affairs & Membership Division for review and approval. Upon receipt, the turnaround time is normally around 24 hours. Checks are mailed directly to the department headquarters for distribution.

Summary of Program--as of 4/16/2021

For 2020, there were 159 posts located in 28 departments that submitted applications and were approved for $159,000. In 2021, there have been 208 posts located in 38 departments that submitted applications and were approved for $207,616.

The grand total since the Mission Blue Post Assistance Program started is 367 posts located in 42 departments have been approved for grants totaling $366,616.

161 posts have sent in their reports after receiving a grant. They have reported using the funds as follows:

Mortgage	$15,655
Rent	$3,602
Utilities	$71,197
Insurance	$63,390
Other	$8,156
Total	**$162,000**

To date 367 posts received grants from 42 departments. There are currently 12,549 posts. So only 2.9% of posts have received financial assistance from the Mission Blue Post Assistance Program.

Discussion:

- There are 13 departments who have not had one post receive a grant.
- There are 29 departments who have had less than 10 posts receive a grant.
- Seven departments have received grants in between 10-19 posts receive a grant.
- Majority of the requests are coming from seven departments (IL, IN, ME, MD, MI, NC, and OH).

Questions:

- Is the word getting out to the posts?
- Should we grant more money to the posts who already received grants?
- What about those posts not submitting applications, how many are there?

Feedback from posts and departments:

- Posts are receiving other PPP funds from either federal or state and in some cases form departments—no need for additional funds.
- Too difficult to provide information needed.
- Costs to obtain Certificate of Insurance from broker (not true in majority of cases submitted for grant).
- Posts are recovering from shutdowns and members are returning and utilizing post services.

Recommendation:

- Priority is effectively communicating with the posts on the availability of the Mission Blue Post Assistance funds and get the funds to those posts who need it before increasing amount for those posts already in receipt of grant.
- Maintain the $1,000 due to the low participation rate and availability of other government or local funds to assist.

TRAINING

Training Tuesdays

The Internal Affairs & Membership Division has developed a series of training topics that are currently hosted on the webpage at: www.legion.org/training/training-Tuesdays.

The last Tuesday of each month since October 2020, American Legion National Headquarters staff and other guests have presented seven sessions on topics aimed at post commanders and adjutants. Each session is recorded and made available along with downloadable PowerPoints, and Q&As via the Training landing page.

National American Legion College (NALC)

Two NALC in-person classes will be conducted in 2021. The first is scheduled for November 13-19, 2021 with 31 attendees. The second is scheduled for December 12-17, 2021 with applications being accepted through July 31, 2021.

Training In A Box

Sixteen complete training modules are available for download via the training webpage covering 35 topics. The 2021 Membership Workshop materials and program specific modules will be added as they are developed.

Basic Training

The online Basic Training course was given a refresh this year. Some videos and outdated information have been replaced. It is still offered to all American Legion Family members for free. Approximately 6,700 members have completed & passed the online course since February 2017. New members are invited to take Basic Training during their first-year engagement communications.

Many departments require completion of the Basic Training course before election to their officer positions. Completion of the course is also a prerequisite for application to National American Legion College.

Training Newsletter

Approximately 5,155 subscribers receive the training newsletter every other month via email. This is an increase of 1,200 subscribers in the last six months.

Subject Matter Expert Training

Live 30-minute training sessions will be conducted during the National Convention. Planning will be coordinated with Convention division to ensure accommodations for social distancing and attendee limits.

IV. RESOLUTIONS

INTERNAL AFFAIRS ACTION ON ASSIGNED RESOLUTIONS

Approved and Forwarded to the Resolutions Subcommittee

Guidelines for the American Legion Riders National Program
Department Adjutant Appointment to the American Legion Riders Advisory Committee
Support of the Presidential Medal of Freedom Award

Approved and forwarded to the Finance Commission

Service Academy Awards

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 submit this report. Our commission is "Still Serving America," and "Veterans Strengthening America."

ADDENDUM A

Held for Further Study

Register Resolution No. 2760 (MI) (2018 DEC): **Korean "Unknown War" Memorial**

Rejected

Register Resolution No. 2784 (OH) (2020 DEC): **Add Veterans Treatment Court Questions to the Consolidated Post Report**

Register Resolution No. 2785 (OH) (2020 DEC): **Add Four Chaplains Exhibit at the National Veterans Memorial**

Register Resolution No. 2789 (CA) (2020 DEC): **Digitally Created Yearbook Category for the National History Contests**

Register Resolution No. 2798 (AK) (2020 DEC): **Restructure of the American Legion Riders Advisory Committee**

Register Resolution No. 2801 (AZ) (2021 DEC): **Rescinding of October 2020 NEC Resolution No. 19**

Register Resolution No. 2802 (AZ) (2021 DEC): **Amending of October 2020 NEC Resolution No. 19**

Register Resolution No. 2806 (IA) (2021 DEC): **Program Requirements for the American Legion Riders**

ADDENDUM B

Internal Affairs Commission Report to
National Executive Committee
The American Legion
May 5-6, 2021

Disposition of Action 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 virtually at the National Executive Committee Meeting on April 24, 2021.

RESOLUTION NUMBER	SOURCE	TITLE	RECOMMENDED ACTION
SAL Res. No. 1 Spring NEC, 2021	Detachment of Mississippi	Change to Rule 1 of the National Executive Committee	***Recommend Approval***
SAL Res. No. 2 Spring NEC, 2021	Internal Affairs Commission	Creation of the 50th Convention Commemoration Committee	***Recommend Approval***
SAL Res. No. 4 Spring NEC, 2021	Child Welfare Foundation Committee	Child Welfare Foundation Donation of $5,000 from the 2021 Budget	***Recommend Approval***
SAL Res. No. 5 Spring NEC, 2021	Detachment of Massachusetts	Empowering the National Adjutant to Correct Resolutions	***Recommend Approval***

SAL Res. No. 6 Spring NEC, 2021	Internal Affairs Commission	Establishing a Policy and Procedure for a National Representative to attend the Funeral or Memorial Service of a Past National Commander or Significant Leader	***Handled administratively to comply with The American Legion travel policy on death of a Past National Commander***

No.: S.A.L. Resolution 1 - Spring, 2021
Title: Change to Rule 1 of the National Executive Committee
Origin: Detachment of Mississippi
WHEREAS, Rule 1 of the National Executive Committee states, "The National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion, as provided by the National Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion, shall be a self-governing committee and transact business in accordance with the rules hereinafter set forth, subject only to the Constitution and By-Laws of the Sons of The American Legion and mandates of the National Convention. Voting representation from five (5) Detachments shall constitute a quorum;" and
WHEREAS, According to *Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised*, the "requirement for a quorum is protection against totally unrepresentative action in the name of the body by an unduly small number or persons;" and
WHEREAS, Archive research of NEC meetings, including Fall, Spring, Pre-Convention and Post-Convention for a period including 2013 to date reveals that the minimum number attending was 28 at the Post-Convention meeting in 2015 and the highest number was 44 at the Fall meeting in 2018, the average over the years mentioned was 37 National Executive Committeemen attending meetings; now, therefore, be it
RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled virtually on April 24, 2021, That the quorum for the NEC meetings including Fall, Spring, Pre-Convention and Post-Convention be changed by amending Rule 1 of the National Executive Committee to state, "Voting representation from twenty-five (25) of the Detachments of the Sons of The American Legion of those elected, voting NEC or the Alternate NEC representing their Detachment at any NEC meeting, with quorum to be established by a roll call."

No.: S.A.L. Resolution 2 – Spring, 2021
Title: Creation of 50th Convention Commemoration Committee
Origin: Internal Affairs Commission
WHEREAS, The Sons of The American Legion was first created by action of the 14th Annual Convention of The American Legion, assembled in Portland, Oregon, in September 1932; and
WHEREAS, In 1968-1971, National Caucuses/Workshops were held to organize and structure a blueprint for a National Organization for the Sons of The American Legion; and
WHEREAS, In 1972, the first National Convention of the Sons of The American Legion was held in Chicago, Illinois, with National Officers being formally elected, and operating processes being enacted, and desire and intent to maintain and proceed with annual Conventions, to be held in conjunction with The American Legion; and
WHEREAS, Since its inception, the Sons of The American Legion have continued to promote the principles of The American Legion throughout the nation; and
WHEREAS, During 2022, the Sons of The American Legion will conduct its 50th National Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on August 26-28, and at that time it is fitting that special and significant recognition and celebration be conducted; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The Sons of The American Legion, in regular meeting assembled virtually on April 24, 2021, That the National Executive Committee does hereby authorize the National Commander of the Sons of The American Legion to appoint a "50th Convention Committee" as a Special Ad-hoc Committee of the National Executive Committee, reporting to the Internal Affairs Commission, and that the committee be comprised of an odd number of members, totalling not less than five (5) and not more than nine (9) members, one being appointed as the Chairman and one as Vice-Chairman, as determined by the National Commander; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the committee be charged with the responsibility to formulate, coordinate, and implement plans for the proper recognition, honoring, and celebrating of our 50th National Convention, with any budgeting requests and requirements to follow the established path of approval through the standing commissions of the NEC; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Committee will coordinate with the Convention Division of The American Legion regarding proposed plans and activities at the site of the National Convention; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the National Commander's selection of members to this committee be approved by the adoption of this resolution, so long as all appointees are members in good standing in the organization; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That said committee will begin their work immediately upon adoption of this resolution, and serve until the conclusion of the 50th Annual National Convention of the Sons of The American Legion, scheduled to be held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, August 26-28, 2022.

No.: S.A.L. Resolution 4 - Spring, 2021
Title: Child Welfare Foundation Donation of $5,000 from the 2021 Budget
Origin: Child Welfare Foundation Committee

WHEREAS, The Child Welfare Foundation is a vital part of the Sons of The American Legion since its inception in 1987; and

WHEREAS, There is a constant and vital need for funding of many programs and grants that can assist children in our country; and

WHEREAS, Donations by the Sons of The American Legion have provided greatly needed assistance to the children in our country; and

WHEREAS, The support and recognition provided by The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation has further established our organization as a true partner in the goals and principles of The American Legion Family; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The Sons of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled virtually on April 24, 2021, That a donation in the amount of five thousand dollars ($5,000) be made to The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the funds be taken from the 2021 Child Welfare Foundation budget line.

No.: S.A.L. Resolution 5 - Spring, 2021
Title: Empowering the National Adjutant to Correct Resolutions
Origin: Detachment of Massachusetts

WHEREAS, Resolutions adopted at National Conventions or by the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion sometimes contain erroneous references, or the intent of the resolution is obscured by language inappropriate to the purpose of the action sought in the resolution, or by the erroneous application of facts or law; and

WHEREAS, It is recognized that such a situation develops under conditions calling for immediate action at a National Executive Committee meeting, or at a National Convention; and

WHEREAS, Those charged with the responsibility of carrying out the action sought are frequently hampered by the imperfections of the resolution wording; and

WHEREAS, No officer, representative, or employee of the Sons of The American Legion or The American Legion is authorized to make any changes in, or additions or corrections to any resolution adopted at a National Executive Committee meeting or a National Convention; and

WHEREAS, The situation may warrant prompt and corrective action being taken; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled virtually on April 24, 2021, That the National Adjutant be, and hereby is empowered and directed to make such changes in resolutions as may be necessary to eliminate factual misstatements or language inconsistent with the clear intent of the resolution when taken as a whole, and as evidenced by the deliberation of the body from which such resolution emanates, and then publishing the corrected and original resolution, in an electronic form, to the body of the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion.

No.: S.A.L. Resolution 6 – Spring, 2021

Title: Establishing a Policy and Procedure for a National Representative to Attend the Funeral or Memorial Service of a Past National Commander or Significant Leader

Origin: Internal Affairs Commission

WHEREAS, The remembrance and celebration of a Past National Commander, and other popular leaders of the organization, who pass into Squadron Everlasting draws many people who want to pay their respect, and it needs to be recognized with proper distinction; and

WHEREAS, There has been limited, and loosely defined guidance previously provided; and

WHEREAS, The lack of proper protocol and procedures have caused confusion and lessened the ability for proper and significant recognition of the contributions of the accomplishments of our Past National Commanders and other significant leaders of the organization; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The Sons of The American Legion, in regular meeting assembled virtually on April 24, 2021, That a National Policy and Procedure titled Significant Leader Funeral or Memorial Service, be adopted and placed in the Sons of The American Legion Administrative Manual; and, be it further

RESOLVED, For a Past National Commander Funeral or Memorial Service, that the National Representative for a deceased Past National Commander shall be another Past National Commander selected in advance, if predetermined, by the deceased in order of preference and availability, and if there is none available, then the procedure for selecting a National Representative for other Significant Leaders shall be followed; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the sequence of representation selection for other Significant Leaders begin with the sitting National Commander. If he is unable to attend, he shall appoint a National Vice Commander or the closest Past National Commander (who is not from the same Detachment). If neither of those individuals is available, he may choose from other National Officers; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the National Representative for a deceased Significant Leader, selected by the standing National Commander and his advisors, or for a Past National Commander, selected in the manner previously described in this resolution and approved by the Subcommittee of the Sons of The American Legion, through the Internal Affairs Commission of The American Legion, be allowed reasonable and appropriate travel expenses (travel per diem and potentially lodging), not to exceed

standard guidance established by The American Legion's Travel Division; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That these revisions be implemented effective immediately, with record of the Policy and Procedure for Past National Commander Funeral or Memorial Service and the Policy and Procedure for Significant Leader Funeral or Memorial Service being filed at National Headquarters and with the National Adjutant for placement into the National Administrative file.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Commander, a motion to receive and file the report of the Internal Affairs Commission with the exception of three resolutions and two addenda. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and second to receive and file the report of the Internal Affairs Commission with the exception of three resolutions and two addenda. Any discussion? Any objections? Hearing none, seeing none, motion carries, unanimous consent.

Resolution No. 3: Support of the Presidential Medal of Freedom Award
Origin: Internal Affairs Commission
Submitted by: Internal Affairs Commission

WHEREAS, The Presidential Medal of Freedom, an award bestowed by the President of the United States to recognize individuals who have made an especially meritorious contribution to the security or national interests of the United States, world peace, cultural or other significant public or private endeavors; and

WHEREAS, It is in keeping with the principles, purposes and traditions of this award that it now be bestowed upon a person who served his Nation in the United Press International, as foreign and war correspondent/ bureau chief for 22 years, helping Americans understand the experiences of their sons and daughters in war, starting with the Vietnam War, where he served five separate tours as a war correspondent and one tour in the Persian Gulf with the U. S. Army's 24th Mechanical Infantry Division; and

WHEREAS, He was born in Refugio, Texas in 1941, and he describes his childhood in Texas collecting scrap metal for the war effort while his father and uncles were away fighting in World War II; and

WHEREAS, He was hired as a reporter at The Victoria (Texas) Advocate, then worked as a journalist in Kansas City, then in 1961 joined the United Press International as a reporter; and

WHEREAS, During his 22 years with United Press International (starting at the age of 17), he served in news bureaus in Kansas City, Topeka, Tokyo and Saigon, and was Chief of Bureau in Jakarta, New Delhi, Singapore, Moscow and Los Angeles; and

WHEREAS, During the Vietnam War, he often worked alongside the American troops he covered and was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for Valor in 1998 for his bravery at the Battle of Ia Drang at Landing Zone X-Ray for having carried a badly wounded man to safety while he was under very heavy enemy fire in 1965; and

WHEREAS, As a war correspondent, he did so with courage, compassion and empathy for the servicemen and women who fought in our name, as well as with honesty and a sense of duty to his fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, He took risks covering five wars and numerous combat operations across fifty years because he believed that, in our democracy, the American people must understand those wars if they were to have a say in the decisions and policies in which the stakes are the highest; and

WHEREAS, He drew his inspiration from World War II reporter, Ernie Pyle and one of his mentors was Harry Truman who he met in Kansas City, and Truman asked him to meet with Hiroshima's mayor and assess how the people were doing after the bombing, essentially to be his personal "eyes and ears" in Hiroshima; and

WHEREAS, In 1990-1991, he returned to duty as a war correspondent in the Persian Gulf and accompanied the U.S. Army's 24th Infantry Division on its tank charge through

the western Iraq desert and at the age of 65 described his incredible story of escape from heavy machine gun fire via a garbage pit during that time; and

WHEREAS, He co-wrote with Lieutenant General (Ret.) Hal Moore, "We Were Soldiers Once… and Young" (1992) which dramatizes the Battle of Ia Drang on November 14, 1965 and was made into a movie; and

WHEREAS, He is a former Military Affairs consultant for the Knight-Ridder chain of newspapers and was a columnist with McClatchy Newspapers and received the other following awards: National Magazine Award (1991) for coverage on the 25th anniversary of the Ia Drang Battles, the National News Media Award (1992) for coverage of the Gulf War, the BG Robert L. Denig Award for Distinguished Service (2001) presented by the USMC Combat Correspondents Association, the Abraham Lincoln Award of the Union League Club of Philadelphia and the John Reagan McCrary Award of the Congressional Medal of Honor Society in 2005; and

WHEREAS, In 2013, he was sworn into service as a special consultant to the Vietnam War 50th Anniversary Commemoration Project conducting some 1,000 interviews, and in 2016 was made a permanent consultant to Ken Burns' Florentine Films Project to make a documentary on Vietnam War history; and

WHEREAS, In 2020, he and Marvin J. Wolf co-authored the "They Were Soldiers" book which outlined the inspiring stories of 49 Vietnam veterans who returned home to enrich America's present and future; and

WHEREAS, Marvin Wolf, recently, took the initiative to recommend Joseph L. Galloway for Presidential Medal of Freedom Award to President Biden and he is being joined with as such noted veterans as Admiral Mike Mullen, LTG H.R. McMaster, Diane Carlson Evans, MG Mike Myatt, John Swensson and Jay Mancini who are seeking support of established veteran related organizations; and now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled virtually on May 5-6, 2021, That The American Legion supports and encourages the awarding of the Presidential Medal of Freedom to be presented to Joseph L. Galloway.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER FLOREZ: Resolution Number 3 has the approval of the Internal Affairs Commission and your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second to adopt Resolution Number 3. Any discussion? Any objections? Hearing none, seeing none, motion carries, unanimous consent, Resolution Number 3.

Resolution No. 4: Department Adjutant Appointment to the American Legion Riders Advisory Committee

Origin: Internal Affairs Commission

Submitted by: Internal Affairs Commission

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 8 (NEC, October 14-15, 2015) Subject: "Assignment of American Legion Riders Advisory Committee" outlined the responsibilities and authority of the American Riders Committee Advisory Committee and authorized a chairman, vice chairman, and seven (7) members at-large to serve on the Committee and was added to the *Outline of Authorization: Membership and Purpose for Commissions and Committees*; and

WHEREAS, For the last several years, the committee has had a department adjutant, who is a Legion Rider, assigned as a consultant to advise on American Legion Rider matters as they relate to department and post hierarchy and structure; and

WHEREAS, The current *Outline of Authorization* does list consultants may be assigned but does not specify the consultant be a department adjutant; and

WHEREAS, It is important to clarify the membership requirements are modified to add this designation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled virtually on May 5-6, 2021, That the *Outline of*

Authorization: Membership and Purpose for Commissions and Committees **shall be updated to reflect that at least one consultant appointment to the American Legion Riders Advisory Committee, which is assigned to the Internal Affairs Commission, be a department adjutant who is also a Legion Rider and read as follows: "The American Legion Riders Advisory Committee shall consist of a chairman, a vice chairman, and not to exceed seven members selected at large; provided, however, that the chairman shall not be appointed from among the members of the committee, and the vice chairman shall be appointed from among the members of the committee. Appointments to fill expiring terms shall be made annually at each fall meeting of the National Executive Committee, and such appointments shall be for terms of three years. The national commander is authorized to make such interim appointments as may be required to fill vacancies in unexpired terms, subject to ratification by the National Executive Committee at its next ensuing meeting. At its fall meeting each year, the National Executive Committee shall appoint, upon nomination by the national commander, a chairman and a vice chairman of the committee to serve in such capacity for one year. Also, there is authorized to be affiliated with this committee as many consultants as deemed appropriate and necessary but at least one who is a department adjutant as well as a Legion Rider."**

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER FLOREZ: Resolution Number 4 has the approval of The American Legion Riders advisory committee, the Internal Affairs Commission, and your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second to adopt Resolution Number 4. Any discussion? Any objection? Hearing none, seeing none, motion carries, unanimous consent, Resolution Number 4.

Resolution No. 5: Guidelines for the American Legion Riders National Program
Origin: Internal Affairs Commission
Submitted by: Internal Affairs Commission

WHEREAS, American Legion Riders (ALR) was established in 1993 as a post-level activity at Garden City American Legion Post 396, Department of Michigan; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 35: "American Legion Riders as a National Program," NEC, October 17-18, 2007, Resolution No. 32: "Amendment to Resolution No. 35," NEC, May 4-5, 2011 and Resolution No. 19 (NEC, Oct. 2020), Subject: "Updated Program Guidelines for the American Legion Riders (ALR) National Program" were guiding documents for the post and department ALR programs under the support of the hosting posts and departments and are combined in this resolution; and

WHEREAS, Today there are more than 2,100 ALR chapters at the post, district and department levels whose membership consists of members of The American Legion, Sons of The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary who share a common interest in motorcycle ownership and pleasure riding for veterans' causes; and

WHEREAS, The ALR has expanded to more than 150,000 members, 2,100 local chapters in all 50 domestic departments and in two foreign departments; and

WHEREAS, The purpose of the ALR is to use their common interest and association to promote the aims and purposes of The American Legion as well as the promotion of motorcycle safety and awareness; and

WHEREAS, Since 2014, ALR has raised approximately 1 million dollars annually for the American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund while raising The American Legions brand awareness and penetration in their communities and promoting the American Legion Family; and

WHEREAS, Membership growth in The American Legion has increased in many posts that have supported ALR and in some cases these members now serve in leadership positions within The American Legion; and

WHEREAS, Many posts, districts and departments of The American Legion have acknowledged ALR as a local American Legion program and are tasked with establishing guidelines for their ALR program to follow; and

WHEREAS, ALR supports those individuals serving in uniform today through participation in such activities as the Patriot Guard, which was founded by the Department of Kansas ALR to provide escorts for our fallen heroes returning from war and taking care of the needs of the families left behind; and

WHEREAS, All ALR members strive to maintain the image of The American Legion by upholding The American Legion name and brand which symbolizes the integrity and principles of this great organization; and

WHEREAS, It is in the best interest of The American Legion, through the ALR Advisory Committee, to review and amend from time to time such guidelines to provide more effective direction to The American Legion Riders programs in order to protect the trademarks, emblems and copyrights of The American Legion; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled virtually on May 5-6, 2021, That all American Legion Riders (ALR) groups be organized as programs supported by a post, department or other duly constituted department governing body of The American Legion and shall uphold the declared principles of The American Legion as well as conform to, and abide by, the lawful regulations and decisions of their department, post and/or other duly constituted department governing body; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That because The American Legion owns, controls, protects and defends The American Legion's intellectual property, composed of trademarks, emblems and copyrights (Emblem or Emblems), the following guidelines are required to fulfill protective standards:

1. **All members of the ALR shall be current members of The American Legion, Sons of The American Legion or American Legion Auxiliary.**
2. **Each ALR member shall establish and maintain ALR membership by owning, individually or through marriage, a common-law marriage, a life partnership or a long-term relationship, a motorcycle licensed and insured as required by the ALR member's state laws.**
3. **ALR programs may allow for continued ALR membership for those ALR members who have given up motorcycle ownership because of age, illness, injury or other reasons outside the ALR member's control.**
4. **ALR programs may allow current members of The American Legion family to join ALR chapters as supporting members.**
5. **The only approved titles for ALR officers shall be chairman and vice-chairman or director and assistant director.**
6. **All ALR members shall maintain the image of The American Legion, protect The American Legion's Emblems, which symbolizes the integrity and principles of The American Legion and if wearing Emblem items then the Emblem items will be American Legion authorized Emblems.**
7. **ALR members' vests should display the integrity, principles and values of The American Legion and the ALR by avoiding patches or pins with (1) explicit or offensive language and/or images and (2) political or partisan language and/or images since The American Legion is a non-partisan organization.**
8. **The ALR chapter should strive to represent the virtues, values, ethics and morals of The American Legion in support of freedom, democracy and the safety of our citizens.**
9. **Per NEC Resolution No. 37, May 4-5, 1988 ALR chapters do not have the authority to enter into any formal association or club/council membership with any outside organization that may act or vote in any manner outside the control of The American Legion.**
10. **All ALR members shall obey the laws of their respective state and/or the**

state(s) in which they ride.

11. The ALR chapter's sponsoring organization (post, district and/or department) are strongly urged to review liability insurance coverage to ensure that adequate insurance coverage is available to insure/cover the sponsoring organization, including insurance coverage for any specific special riding event; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That American Legion Riders programs shall abide by the American Legion National Constitution and National By-laws as well as their established post, district and department directives; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That American Legion National Headquarters and the respective departments shall maintain general oversight of the American Legion Riders program in regard to proper use of the Emblems of The American Legion, the American Legion Riders and the American Legion Legacy Run and to ensure compliance with the American Legion National Constitution and National By-Laws; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That Resolution No. 19 (NEC, Oct. 2020), Subject: "Updated Program Guidelines for the American Legion Riders (ALR) National Program" is hereby superseded and rescinded.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER FLOREZ: Resolution Number 5 has the approval of The American Legion Riders Advisory Committee, the Internal Affairs Commission, and your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second to adopt Resolution Number 5. I'd like to call on the NEC member from Arizona, Judy Beischel.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER BEISCHEL (AZ): Thank you, commander. I want to thank the Internal Affairs committee for taking a relook at this resolution. This resolution actually addresses all but two of our concerns. My first is actually a question. Because the original Resolution 19 superseded Resolution 32 and 35, does that need to be included in this resolution now that we are rescinding Resolution 19?

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Based on the opinion of the national judge advocate, no.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER BEISCHEL: Okay. Then our only other concern is with Number 5. And because over half of our chapters in Arizona use the title of president, which they feel is more appropriate than director, we would like to see Number 5 reworded to simply prohibit the word "commander" or "vice commander" by the ALR chapters, and allow a president or a director to still be utilized.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Judy, was that a motion or was that just a comment?

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER BEISCHEL: I will put that in the form of an amendment, to word Number 5 to simply say that it prohibits the words "commander" or "vice commander" in the titles for American Legion chapters.

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE BARTLETT: To address this, could you please state your motion in proper form so that we can get this transcribed so the record will reflect exactly what you would like the amendment to state, please?

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER BEISCHEL: Yes. One second. Reword Number 5 to simply prohibit use of the title "commander" or "vice commander" by an ALR chapter.

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE BARTLETT: To clarify, say your motion one more time. So the motion to amend Resolution Number 5, sub 5 is going to say what now?

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER BEISCHEL: Simply prohibit the use of the title "commander" or "vice commander" by an ALR chapter.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion to amend Resolution 5, sub 5. Is there a second?

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER UHRIG (WY): I'll second that for purposes of discussion.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: So we have a motion and a second for further discussion. Is there any further discussion? I'd like to recognize Past National Commander Comer.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: I'm certainly against this amendment. I appreciate the NEC for her efforts, but we've gone over this months after months after months, and finally the Riders Committee has come up with something that I was not even for, but I acquiesced and I accepted. Remember this, they want to change it to president. The Riders have the Legion, the Auxiliary, and the Sons, they're all part of the Riders. And the president then reflects on the president of the unit, the president of the department. That's why we didn't want the commander, because there's only one commander, national commander, state commander, post commander. There's only one president. But we accepted director because that's what the patches say. And I strongly urge the NEC to vote down this amendment because we finally have agreed to chairman or director, and that's the way it should be.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Thank you, commander. I'd like to recognize Tim Smith, NEC member.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER SMITH (OK): Yes, commander. We've discussed this in detail in Oklahoma, and I agree that director or chairman would be best for the long run, because of the confusion with the president of the Auxiliary. At our post, we've actually passed a resolution that, if you're the director of ALR, you can't be the post commander, unit president, or the Sons commander. You can only wear one top hat. Sadly, I don't like that motion, and I'll vote against it. Thank you, sir.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Is there any further discussion on the amendment? I'd like to recognize Past National Commander Ric Santos.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER SANTOS: Commander, I am against the motion. I feel we need continuity in the titles within our organization. We've worked very hard in other departments to finally get all of the chapters to agree to be directors for their titles, or the individuals be directors for their titles. This is going backwards. I think we should maintain the directors and move forward from that. Thank you, commander.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Thank you, commander. Any further discussion on the amendment to the motion? All in favor of the amendment to Resolution Number 5, raise your hand if you're in favor of the amendment to Resolution Number 5. That is the amendment to the motion. So it appears there are two votes in favor of the amendment to Resolution Number 5. That amendment fails. Is there any other discussion about the original Resolution Number 5? Are there any objections to Resolution Number 5? Hearing none, seeing none, motion carries, Resolution Number 5.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Commander, attached to the report of the Internal Affairs Commission are Addendum A and B. I move the actions of the Internal Affairs Commission become the actions of the National Executive Committee. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: It's been moved and seconded that the action of the Internal Affairs Commission become the action of the National Executive Committee. Any discussion? Any objections? Hearing none, seeing none, motion carries, unanimous consent. At this time, the chair recognizes John W. Bowen of Colorado, chairman of the Membership & Post Activities Committee, for the purposes of a report.

Oral Report: Membership & Post Activities Committee
John W. Bowen, Colorado, Chairman

National Commander Oxford, members of the National Executive Committee, national officers and guests, Legionnaires all, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to address you today on matters related to Membership & Post Activities.

You have a copy of my written report. In it you will find updated information on the 95 percent target date, DMS, membership renewals as well as online renewals. As you know, Commander Oxford's theme is a Foundation for the Future, and that foundation The American Legion's Four Pillars is built upon is membership.

You've heard it before. Membership is one of the most challenging aspects we continually deal with as leaders. We realize membership is not always easy, but a successful membership program is critical if we are to continue supporting our Four Pillars, especially helping our veterans and their families. It requires us to be proactive, roll up our sleeves, and put in the effort.

To achieve one of Commander Oxford's goals of 90 percent renewal rate, we introduced Operation Come Back in late January. This program challenged our departments and posts to concentrate on working their expired lists and renewals through 15 March. Statistics show this campaign produced positive results for increasing our renewal rate and membership totals across the organization, and we were able to bring more than 100,000 Legionnaires back into The American Legion.

For the 2022 membership campaign, we plan to roll out two phases of Operation Come Back. The initial phase will start in October, and the second phase will start in January 2022. And this needs to become our standard way of working membership retention.

So what comprises a retention program? It includes engaging our members by conducting Buddy Checks not just when it's time to pay dues, but as Chairman Newman stated in the past, it must be a routine leadership tool to check on our members' health and welfare. We can make phone calls, send out letters and emails. And we should all be taking advantage of technology and set up a virtual visit through Zoom or similar medium to ensure our members are not left behind. It's really nothing more than communication in showing our members their value. As Independence Day fast approaches, we need to prepare for our Buddy Checks and ensure we have our rosters ready to go, and proper points of contact when we call and discover somebody needs assistance.

So what are some of the things we can do to improve our retention rate? We have to educate our members and encourage them to take the basic training course. We have to invite them to post and district training events, and we have to mentor them to be successful Legionnaires.

As you know, last August we conducted a virtual membership workshop during which we offered a series of one-hour training sessions over four days. According to feedback we received, this was a tremendous success and it allowed many Legionnaires who would not have normally been able to participate a chance to receive the information and training firsthand. Because the decision was made to conduct the membership workshop virtually again this year, we're planning to do something very similar. We believe training is key to a successful membership program. We have to arm our members with all the great benefits of membership and educate them about our traditions and history so they can share our story with others.

Additionally, we are planning to bring back the one-on-one meetings between leading candidate and our department meetings. Our plan is to schedule departments separately, giving them about a 15-minute window to talk with the leading candidate, our national vice commander candidates, and the respective M&PA support. We believe this is an important time to start building that team relationship so critical for successful membership plan.

You may recall we introduced Training Tuesday last October. These one-hour training sessions are offered on the last Tuesday of each month and the subjects are based on feedback we receive from our membership on what they feel is needed most. These sessions are constantly changing to ensure we are meeting expectations of our members on what they need to be successful. We are also developing a lunch and learn with 30-minute sessions intended to engage new members. By actively engaging these members, we will not only put them in a position to success, we will show them we care about their personal growth in the American Legion.

Additionally, we're working with Bill West, adjutant for the Department of Texas, and some of his counterparts to develop new post adjutant training sessions. With these and other training opportunities and virtual meetings, there is absolutely no excuse for us not to be able to offer training at all levels of the organization at any given time. And when we do this, retention is no longer a goal. It is a given.

But when we meet Commander Oxford's 90 percent renewal rate, we will still be short of our overall membership goal, so we cannot grow membership alone through retention. We have to engage veterans and ask them to join. And with the passage of the LEGION Act in 2019, the potential pool of qualified veterans rose by another three-plus million.

This all sounds pretty easy to do, but many Legionnaires may not feel comfortable recruiting new members, talking to existing members about their dues, or connecting with today's military. That is again where training comes into play. We have to use any and all chances to teach Legionnaires on some of the basic items we may take for granted. We want them to feel at ease and know how to sell The American Legion.

Ultimately, whatever we do, our engagement efforts have to continue to adapt and overcome during these crazy times. In the end we'll be better for it. We have to continue to find innovative ways to engage veterans. Social media can be used to show off what our posts are doing and engage veterans who are not yet members. It is important for us to utilize this tool to get the word out about the great things The American Legion does for veterans and their community. You know it is an honor and a privilege to be a member. It is also our responsibility to engage all veterans and ask them to join no matter their race, religion, creed, or gender. We need to welcome them into our ranks.

Commander Oxford's last goal is for all of our departments to submit 100 percent of their consolidated post reports by the July 1 deadline. You know, we talk about being the best-kept secret and that we need to toot our own horn more; right? Well, by increasing our response rate on the Consolidated Post Report, we can accomplish this task. Commander Oxford can then go before Congress and report on 100 percent of post activities rather than the 71 percent we received this past year.

With these goals before us, I want to remind everyone about reaching out to military, whether it's a recruiting station, a National Guard armory, or a large military installation. The American Legion has always taken to heart to provide support to the military and their family.

Commander, thank you for allowing me to serve this past year as chairman of the Membership & Post Activities Committee. I have learned much over the past year and have enjoyed working with an amazing group of volunteers and professional staff members in Internal Affairs and Membership & Post Activities. I can tell you without hesitation that all commission, committee, and staff members care about The American Legion and the veterans we serve. I am firmly convinced that by working together at the post, district, county, department, and national levels, we can reverse the downward trend we have witnessed over the past few years.

In closing, I stated at our fall meetings, there is no question we are living in an unprecedented time, but we must remember we are not that special. Every generation before us had an unprecedented event that occurred that defined their generation. Our rich history tells the stories of how we worked together to overcome and respond to those events. So what will history report about our response? Will it read that we stayed home with doors locked, waiting for the crisis to go away? Or will it reflect that as American veterans, we stepped up to be part of the solution rather than to be part of the problem. I submit to you it needs to say The American Legion was there for our veterans and communities then, we are there now, and we will be there always; then, now, always.

Thank you again for allowing me the time to address this distinguished group. Commander, this concludes my report.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Commander, motion to receive and file the report of the Membership & Post Activities Committee. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second to receive

and file the report of the Membership & Post Activities Committee. I'd like to call on NEC Member John Knox for a comment.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER KNOX (MI): Mr. Commander, thank you. I have been contacted by my department commander and the department adjutant about the concerns of myLegion. I'm not getting membership reports in accurately, and they want to know if the national is not going to address this problem in the near future. I cannot believe that Michigan is the only one having problems with myLegion. Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Could we ask David Sutton to come up and possibly address that issue, the national IT director? Thank you for that comment, John.

DIRECTOR SUTTON: Thank you for the question. You are correct, Michigan is not the only one who is having issues. Many of these issues have been a result of the over 100 million records that we have transferred from the old myLegion MMIS system into the new Personify platform. We are working rapidly to correct those and ensure that the membership reports that we are putting out there are correct. As many of you are aware, we have set up different avenues for reporting these issues, and we are moving as quickly as we can to contact those who are reporting problems, to resolve those problems. Thank you for your question.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Are there any other questions or discussions?

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: I'd like to recognize the NEC member from Utah, Terry Schow.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER SCHOW (UT): Terry Schow, Utah. One of the concerns I've had raised from my folks is that we not be penalized in reporting deadlines or either requirements that are out there, and hopefully we can address that. Anytime you do an IT change, it's challenging, it's huge. But perhaps we can have someone address that relative to deadlines and reporting requirements that may or may not be missed as a result of challenges in the new IT system.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Chairman Newman, can you address those concerns?

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN NEWMAN: I think the staff is doing this as fast and reasonable as possible. Anytime that you have a hundred million records that you're going to put from one place to another, there's bound to be some glitches. Had they known that there were going to be glitches beforehand, they would have obviously taken care of them prior to doing this. As it is, you hate to say it, but what it is, it is. They're doing their best to straighten everything out.

COMMITTEE CHAIR BOWEN: Commander, this is Jay Bowen.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Go ahead.

COMMITTEE CHAIR BOWEN: Yes, sir, thank you. To follow on and pile on to Chairman Newman, you may recall that traditionally, our 95 and 100 percent target dates for membership reporting occurred in April and May respectively. Well, knowing the issues we had with Personify, we extended the 95 percent date to 12 May and the 100 percent target date to June, and that is because of what's going on with the Personify. We'll continue to look at that and see if we can do anything else with it. Please understand, too, that the deadlines, we are up against many, many things. It's not just recognition of departments for hitting membership. It falls into line with so many other things that piggybacks off of that.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Thank you, Chairman Jay. I'd like to recognize Paul Espinoza, the NEC from New Mexico.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER ESPINOZA: My name is Paul Espinoza, NEC from New Mexico. We're also having problems here in New Mexico, along with many other problems putting down our CPRs and everything else. My question is, are there any other numbers other than that are listed on emails to get ahold of people back in Indianapolis to help out with these issues, anybody we can talk to? Because the numbers that are listed, they're really backed up when we're having this problem with myLegion.org.

Is there any other numbers we can call that we can give out to our department here in New Mexico to help out with these issues? Thank you, commander.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Thank you, Paul. David, do you want to break the bad news?

DIRECTOR SUTTON: As much as I hate to say it, those are the numbers that we have. We are moving through them as quickly as we can. We attempt to collate every issue that comes in, to see if it's an existing or new. After that has been evaluated, it goes into a process where we thereby assign a priority, and we return those as quickly as possible. If you are having an issue and feel like you have not been contacted in a reasonable amount of time, please feel free to contact me directly. Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Thank you, David. Any further discussion on the motion? Are there any objections? Hearing none, seeing none, motion carries to receive and file the report of the Membership & Post Activities Committee.

At this time, chair recognizes Americanism Commission Chairman Richard W. Anderson of Connecticut for the purposes of a report which will include a video about our youth programs.

Oral Report: Americanism Commission
Richard W. Anderson, Connecticut, Chairman

National Commander Oxford and members of the National Executive Committee, I am privileged to report on the actions of your Americanism Commission. Copies of my detailed report have been distributed for your review, so I will only brief you on some of the highlights from our meetings.

This year there were 1,075 Legacy Scholarship applications opened. Of those numbers, 541 were completed, and of those, 127 demonstrated both verifiable eligibility and financial need. And of those, there were 32 American Legion Legacy Scholarships awarded this year. Scholarships were awarded to five children of the fallen and to 27 children of disabled veterans. Total dollar amount for 2021 Legacy Scholarships awarded was $357,228.

The commission wishes to extend its congratulations to the Department of California for having the 2021 American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year, John McPhie. Although it was necessary to again cancel the National Oratorical Contest earlier this year due to lingering effects of the COVID pandemic, things are a go for the national youth programs the remainder of the year including the Junior Shooting Sports national championship in Colorado Springs, Boys Nation in Washington, D.C., and regional baseball tournaments and the American Legion World Series in Shelby, North Carolina.

All national youth programs will be observing CDC guidelines in addition to any applicable state and local mandates, so you will see some COVID risk mitigation accommodations being made. But an outstanding time is still expected for all. The commission is very excited to return to Legion youth programs for the youth of our nation. Programs they have been patiently waiting for and deserve.

Coming before this body are three resolutions for which the commission wishes to seek approval from the NEC. The first of the resolutions is titled, "Raising Awareness of the Presumptive Service-Connected Condition Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), Also Known as 'Lou Gehrig's Disease.'" It originates from the Americanism Commission, however, it was initiated at the excellent suggestion of Past National Commander David Rehbein. This resolution calls for American Legion Baseball to follow suit with Major League Baseball's new annual tradition of bringing a greater awareness to the condition of Lou Gehrig's disease. Just as Major League baseball teams will begin doing annually on June 2, this resolution strongly encourages every American Legion baseball team to also observe a moment of silence before their games each year on June 2 in memory of Lou Gehrig, who died on June 2, 1941, at the age of 37, as well as in memory of all veterans who suffer or who have died from Lou Gehrig's disease, a presumptive service-connected

disease. This resolution has concurrence of the VA&R Commission, and both commissions thank the National Executive Committee for its consideration of this resolution.

And also on behalf of both commissions, I personally wish to thank Past National Commander Rehbein for his excellent suggestion which not only gives honor to the memory of a baseball great, but also to the vast number of veterans who are suffering from or have succumbed to Lou Gehrig's disease.

The second resolution is titled "Authority to Temporarily Amend, Delay, or Suspend Rules or Policies of National Youth Programs." This resolution calls for authorizing the Americanism Commission, with the concurrence of the national commander, to temporarily amend, delay, or suspend any established rule or policy of a national youth program when a program is subjected to the occurrence of certain extenuating circumstances beyond control of The American Legion. The impetus of this resolution came through the far-reaching and enduring impact of the 2020-2021 coronavirus pandemic. The pandemic illustrated the need for having a degree of measured flexibility for amending national youth program rules and formal policies in the interest of benefiting youth to the greatest extent possible under extenuating circumstances.

Lastly, the Americanism Commission put forth resolution titled, "Applicability of Resolution Number 28 titled 'Citizenship, Residency, or Visitor Status for Youth Participation in American Legion Youth Programs at the National Level.'" The catalyst of this clarifying resolution occurred when confusion arose by a department oratorical chairman regarding the applicability of the currently existing Resolution Number 28 of the Spring 2018 NEC.

Resolution Number 28 states that all youth participating in any national level program must be in the United States in a legal status either through birthright or naturalized citizenship, through legal permanent residency, commonly referred to as a green card, or in a legal visitor status such as a visa or passport. Oratorical program rules, however, specifically state that a contestant is only eligible to compete in the National Oratorical Contest if they are a U.S. citizen or are a permanent lawful resident of the United States.

That oratorical rule does not allow youth who are visiting the U.S. in a legal but temporary status on a visa or passport to compete in the National Oratorical Contest. The resolution presented today seeks to clarify that Resolution Number 28 is not intended to supersede or replace any official youth program rules and is intended solely to ensure that youth program participants of national youth programs are adhering to the law by being in the United States in a legal status prior to their participation.

Mr. Commander and members of the National Executive Committee, subject to any questions, that concludes my report, and the Americanism Commission thanks you for your longstanding support.

...A video was shown to the National Executive Committee.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Commander Oxford and those in attendance today, I hope everyone enjoyed as much as I do this brand-new video titled "American Legion Youth Programs and Responsible Citizenship." The Media & Communications Commission did an absolutely phenomenal job in producing this video. It captures the driving force that is truly behind all our youth programs. I have great pride each time I watch this video because it not only unfolds insight into each of our youth programs, but also who The American Legion is, our enduring impact, and why we are driven to do what we do for the youth of our nation, for our communities, for servicemembers and fellow veterans and their families. I feel it is especially important for the young people who participate in our youth programs to gain that awareness.

So I have asked the national headquarters staff to show this video during each of our national youth programs every year. As NEC members, I urge you to share the availability of this video with your department and posts, and I hope you'll also strongly encourage them to show it during their youth programs, and perhaps also as a means for introducing the Legion to community members or prospective Legion members. The video is available for download from the Legion's YouTube channel via the Legion website.

Mr. Commander, that concludes my report. Once again, I thank you for the opportunity to come before you today. That concludes my report. If there's any questions, I'd be happy to respond to them.

Report: Americanism Commission
Richard W. Anderson, Connecticut, Chairman

The Americanism Commission met in a virtual meeting on Saturday, May 1, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. (EDT). Following the formal opening, the roll was called; 30 members of the Americanism Commission were in attendance and a quorum declared. Following Chairman Anderson's opening remarks, welcome and greetings were delivered by National Commander of The American Legion James W. "Bill" Oxford (NC); Past National Commander John "Jake" Comer (MA); and National Executive Committeeman Dennis Boland (FL), chairman of the Americanism Commission Liaison Committee. Procedural matters for participating in the meeting were reviewed, and Chairman Anderson then called upon individual committee and subcommittee chairmen to deliver their reports.

COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN & YOUTH

The members of the Committee on Children & Youth (C&Y) Committee met in a virtual meeting on Saturday, April 10, 2021. The meeting was chaired by Herbert Petit, Jr. (LA). Roll call was taken and a quorum declared.

Chairman Petit reviewed that during the meeting of the Committee on Children & Youth (C&Y) last fall, the committee identified that it has been some time since the governing resolution for the Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA) program has been thoroughly reviewed; the governing resolution is Resolution No. 8 of the October 2017 National Executive Committee (NEC) titled "Restructure of the Temporary Financial Assistance Statement of Policy" and has the full TFA policy document incorporated into it. The committee discussed that a thorough review will allow the committee opportunity to seek greater clarity and scope in areas lacking clear intent, update any language within the document that is not gender neutral, and help department chairmen and their local investigators with more refined guidance for assessing a potential TFA case. To begin the process some committee members undertook preliminary review as an ad hoc working group on March 6, 2021. That working group developed a proposed working draft of updated TFA policies and procedures that the Committee on C&Y reviewed during this spring meeting. The committee is pleased with progress of the review and once the committee is fully satisfied with its systematic review and draft development, it will then be presented to the Americanism Commission for consideration and further vetting.

The committee next received an update on the status of TFA grants for 2021. During this current calendar year through April 1st, over $5,946* in TFA grants have been provided to qualified veterans with minor children in the home to help with the basic needs of their child(ren). The calendar year (CY) 2020 ended with the TFA program providing over $54,913* in assistance to 43 veteran families, thereby keeping 95 children in a stable and safe environment. The number of requests for TFA slowed during CY 2020 and has continued to be slow during CY 2021. It is felt this is due the federal government providing multiple stimulus packages to Americans to help combat unemployment and stimulate the economy in response to impact of the global coronavirus pandemic. The stimulus packages in general provided $600 per person in January and then another $1,400 per person in March. The most recent stimulus package extended additional unemployment benefits until September 6, 2021. (*subject to final audit)

For the good of the Legion, the Committee on C&Y discussed the 2nd annual "100 Miles for Hope" campaign that is underway; viewed the new Legion video titled "Youth Programs and Responsible Citizenship"; reviewed Resolution No. 5 as amended by the National Executive Committee, October 14-15, 2020 titled "Vision, Mission Values and Motto of The American Legion"; and discussed "April is Children and Youth Month."

The Americanism Commission received and filed the written report of the Committee on Children & Youth.

AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL

Gary Stone (MO), Chairman of the American Legion Baseball (ALB) Committee reported that the ALB Committee met in a virtual meeting on Thursday, April 15, 2021, with a quorum present. The committee received an update regarding the 2021 online registration and national tournament status from Baseball Operations Program Manager Steve Cloud. As of the date of the committee's meeting, a total of 1,511 teams (962 senior teams and 549 junior teams) from 47 departments registered online for the 2021 season. Cloud further reported that he and Chairman Stone will be attending planning meetings in Shelby, North Carolina with the ALWS Shelby Executive Committee on April 21 - 23 to discuss preparations and schedules for the 2021 American Legion World Series.

The Baseball Committee reviewed a new resolution titled ***"Raising Awareness of the Presumptive Service-Connected Condition Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), Also Known as "Lou Gehrig's Disease"*** and recommends its approval to the Americanism Commission. This resolution was suggested by Past National Commander David Rehbein (IA) and calls for following suit with Major League Baseball's new annual tradition of bringing a greater awareness to the condition of Lou Gehrig's disease - also known as "ALS" . Just as Major League Baseball teams will begin doing annually on June 2nd this summer, this resolution strongly encourages every American Legion Baseball team to observe a moment of silence before their game each year on June 2nd in memory of Lou Gehrig, who died on the same date in 1941 at age 37, and also in memory of all veterans who suffer or have died from Lou Gehrig's disease, which is a presumptive service-connected disease. Military veterans, regardless of their branch of service, or the era in which they served, or during a time of peace or war, are at a greater risk of dying from Lou Gehrig's disease than non-veterans. And for reasons yet unknown, veterans are in fact twice as likely to be diagnosed with Lou Gehrig's disease than the general population. The resolution further calls for National Headquarters to promote this observation each year in appropriate media channels; and American Legion Baseball teams and posts are encouraged to also promote this annual observance within their own local communities. This resolution has the concurrence of the VA&R Commission.

The ALB Committee next put forth an "American Legion Baseball Contingency Plan" for consideration. As the coronavirus global pandemic stretched into 2021, the importance for the ALB program to be prepared with a contingency plan in the event any ALB national tournaments were to encounter conditions in hosting departments that might require cancellation, the development of a contingency plan was deemed prudent. At the time of this report, conditions are looking favorable for having all of the ALB national tournaments this summer, so a contingency plan will likely not need to be implemented this year, but the ALB Committee feels it is still a good plan to keep in reserve should it be needed in the future.

The ALB Committee discussed the new Major League Baseball (MLB) extra inning rule whereby each extra inning starts with a runner on second. The committee recommends that the ALB program not adopt this MLB rule. The MLB plays 9-inning games, and they adopted this rule as a pace of play rule. The ALB Committee feels pace of play is not an issue for the Legion since ALB games are 7-innings.

As a result of an audit review of all the national scholarship programs, the baseball scholarships are being assessed for the 2022 season. The ALB Committee also took opportunity to review the new Legion video titled "Youth Programs and Responsible Citizenship;" discussed the 2nd annual "100 Miles of Hope" campaign that is underway; and also reviewed Resolution No. 5 as amended by the National Executive Committee, October 14-15, 2020, titled "Vision, Mission Values and Motto of The American Legion."

The Americanism Commission received and filed the written report of the ALB Committee, with the exception of: 1) the resolution titled *Raising Awareness of the Presumptive Service-Connected Condition Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), Also*

Known as "Lou Gehrig's Disease"; 2) Exhibit A titled "American Legion Baseball Contingency Plan"; 3) Exhibit B titled "American Legion Baseball 2021 National Tournament Rules and Policies"; and 4) ratification of the ALB Committee's recommendation not adopt the new MLB extra inning rule – each of these were voted upon separately. The Americanism Commission voted to accept each of the recommendations put forth by the ALB Committee to: 1) approve the resolution; 2) approve Exhibit A; 3) approve Exhibit B; and 4) ratify the recommendation to reject adopting the MLB's new extra inning rule.

YOUTH CADET LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE

Larry Price (SD), chairman of the Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Committee (YCLEC), reported that on April 14th, 2021, the YCLEC met via a virtual meeting platform. Chairman Price asked Americanism's new Youth Programs Manager, Todd Foster, to introduce himself to the committee and Foster gave a brief history of his experience and skills. The YCLE went on to view the new Legion video titled "Youth Programs and Responsible Citizenship"; discussed Resolution No. 5 as amended by the National Executive Committee, October 14-15, 2020, titled "Vision, Mission Values and Motto of The American Legion"; and discussed the 2nd annual "100 Miles for Hope" wellness campaign currently underway as a fundraiser for the Veterans & Childrens Foundation.

Chairman Price led a discussion by asking each committee member to share the status of the YCLE program in their respective home departments for this year. Chairmen Price next sought to learn if there had been any response to the letter over his signature sent out in January 2021 to departments who have a YCLE program asking them to reach out to neighboring states to offer support and generate interest. Jim Willis (OR) stated that he will be visiting with the Department of Washington, as they have indicated interest in starting a YCLE Academy and that the Department of California is considering having two YCLE Academies due to the size of its state, in the summer of 2022. Chairman Price spoke with the Departments of Iowa and Texas and they are each interested in starting a department YCLE program in the future. Americanism Commission Chairman, who was attending the YCLEC as a guest, offered a room at convention if the YCLE committee wished to invite prospective departments to facilitate a discussion.

The Americanism Commission received and filed the written report of the Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Committee.

CITIZENSHIP & NATURALIZATION SUBCOMMITTEE

Chairman Randy Edwards reported that the Citizenship & Naturalization Subcommittee (CNSC) convened on April 16, 2020. Roll was taken with a quorum present.

The CNSC discussed the Citizenship Outreach Guide of The American Legion that was provided in advance of the meeting to review for potential updates. Last updated in 2015, the CNSC determined that the content is still relevant but moved that staff review the many web links within the document to ensure they are still working and valid.

The CNSC next moved that Americanism Division staff work with the Media & Communications Division of the National Headquarters to create a media campaign generating support for citizenship and naturalization events, as well as highlight this publication, in conjunction with Independence Day. This will link immigrants to becoming new citizens with that of America having become a new nation on July 4th.

Chairman Edwards discussed National Commander Oxford having testified before the new U.S. Congress in March 2021, wherein the commander called upon the 117th Congress to again take up a position in support of finding a path of "Citizenship for Honorable Service."

For the good of the Legion, the CNSC discussed the 2nd annual "100 Miles for Hope" campaign and reviewed Resolution No. 5 as amended by the National Executive Committee, October 14-15, 2020, titled "Vision, Mission Values and Motto of The American Legion."

The Americanism Commission received and filed the written report of the Citizenship & Naturalization Subcommittee.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES SUBCOMMITTEE

Chairman Loren "Bud" Sperry reported that the Youth Activities Subcommittee (YASC) met in a virtual meeting on Wednesday, April 21, 2021. The roll was called, and a quorum declared.

For the first order of business the YASC reviewed the following two resolutions to make recommendations to the Americanism Commission:

- Register Resolution No. 2779 (AR) 2020 DEC ***Remove Assigned Topics From Oratorical Contest***
- Resolution No. 49 (OR) 2019 National Convention ***Changes to The American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year***

Register Resolution No. 2779 (AR) titled ***Remove Assigned Topics From Oratorical Contest*** calls for removing the requirement for the 3-to-5 minute assigned topic speech and retaining the 8- to 10-minute prepared speech. Department oratorical chairmen discussed this resolution at the 2020 national Combined Americanism Conference, with all 29 of the department oratorical chairmen in attendance unanimously recommending rejection of this resolution. The department chairmen discussed that the purpose of the 3- to 5-minute assigned topic speech is to test the speaker's knowledge of the constitutional amendment that's been assigned, the extent of his or her research, and the ability to discuss the topic as it relates to the basic principles of government under the Constitution. It is felt that to eliminate the assigned topic speech would be to eliminate an important aspect for giving judges insight into each contestant's level of knowledge, ability to research, and skill to discuss. The YASC also discussed this resolution and are in agreement with the department chairmen's recommendation to reject this resolution.

Resolution No. 49 (OR) titled ***Changes to The American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year*** calls for changing the current name of "The American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year Award" to "The American Legion Top Scouting Award of the Year Scholarship" so as to extend eligibility for receiving the award not only to Eagle Scouts, but also to youth in the Venturing and Sea Scout programs of the Boy Scouts of America organization. It also seeks to include eligibility of females. Legion department Scouting chairmen discussed Resolution No. 49 during the 2019 national Combined Americanism Conference and it was unanimously recommended by all 14 departments represented to reject this resolution as there is no good methodology for objectively comparing the pinnacle achievements of each of the three Boy Scouts of America youth programs (Eagle Scout Award in Scouting, the Summit Award in Venturing, and the Quartermaster Award in Sea Scouting) because each are very separate and distinct. It is extremely difficult to make like-comparisons among the pinnacle awards of three very different Boy Scouts of America programs in order to combine them into a single award that will adequately recognize the nuances of each. The resolution additionally seeks that Legion Scouting awards "be extended to the female gender," however, there is nothing in the current eligibility of any pinnacle awards of the Boy Scouts of America organization limiting awards to any one gender, therefore a Legion Scouting award would not exclude female recipients. The YASC also discussed this resolution and are in agreement with Scouting department chairmen to reject this resolution.

The YASC next discussed youth program updates:

- Junior Shooting Sports: The 30th American Legion Junior Shooting Three Position Air Rifle National Championship will be held July 21 – 24, 2021, at the temporary USA Shooting range facility located in Colorado Springs, Colorado. The sixth annual Junior Shooting Sports Chairmen's Conference will be held virtually September 18 – 19, 2021.
- Oratorical: The 83rd National Oratorical Finals Contest of The American Legion were cancelled this year due effects of the ongoing COVID-19 global pandemic

in Indianapolis, however, a $5,000 scholarship was awarded to each youth certified as a 2021 department oratorical winner. The scholarship was generously sponsored by the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation and The American Legion. The 52nd annual meeting of department Oratorical chairpersons will be held September 25 – 26, 2021, at the Sheraton Hotel in Indianapolis, Indiana. The 2022 National Oratorical Finals Contest will be held April 22nd – 24th at the Wyndham Indianapolis West Hotel. The certification of 2022 department oratorical winners are due to National Headquarters no later than March 14, 2022. Assigned topics for the 2022 National Oratorical Contest are as follows:

- **Amendment III** – Quartering of soldiers
- **Amendment VIII** – Excessive bail
- **Amendment XIV Section 3** – Insurrection amendment
- **Amendment XXV Section 4** – President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of the Presidential office.

- Scouting: Scouting patches currently available for purchase through Emblem Sales reflects "Boy Scouts". Because the Boy Scouts of American organization changed the name of its "Boy Scouts" youth program to "Scouts BSA", it was recommended that consideration be given to seek having the patches changed to instead simply reflect "Scouting." A motion was made and approved to seek approval from the Americanism Commission for staff to pursue this change. This year Eagle Scout of the Year nominations were received from 26 Legion departments. Members of the Youth Activities Subcommittee reviewed and scored those nomination applications, results were compiled, and the four top scoring Eagle Scouts were ranked from 1st to 4th, with the Eagle Scout of the Year as the first ranked and the subsequent three as runners-up. As you saw from the Youth Activities Subcommittee report the following Scouts have been put forth for the Americanism Commission to ratify:
  - John McPhie of California as the 2021 American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year
  - Cale Abbott of Oklahoma as 1st runner-up
  - Thomas Kopasko of Pennsylvania as 2nd runner-up
  - Spencer Burke of Texas as 3rd runner-up

The YASC tasked staff with making changes to the ESOY application which the YASC discussed and asked staff to present a draft to the subcommittee for discussion via email this summer. The Scouting Department Chairmen's Conference will be held September 25th and 26th at the Sheraton City Centre Hotel. Additional information will be posted.

- Boys State/Nation: In 2020 all 50 Boys State programs across the United States were heavily impacted by the coronavirus global pandemic, with the vast majority having been canceled in the interest of health and safety of everyone involved. American Legion Texas Boys State did demonstrate success in swiftly pivoting to a virtual program in 2020. For 2021 there are currently a total of 44 departments will be having a Boys State program this year (31 in-person 13 virtual). Six departments cancelled their Boys State program for this year. Marymount University in Arlington, Virginia has confirmed it can accommodate the Boys Nation program this year.
- Risk Mitigation Measures: All national youth programs of The American Legion will be observing CDC guidelines, in addition to any applicable state and local mandates.

The YASC took opportunity to discuss the 2nd annual "100 Miles for Hope" campaign that is underway; reviewed the new Legion video titled "Youth Programs and Responsible Citizenship"; and also reviewed Resolution No. 5 as amended by the National Executive Committee, October 14-15, 2020, titled "Vision, Mission Values and Motto of The American Legion."

The Americanism Commission received and filed the written report of the YASC, with the exception of: 1) the two resolutions discussed; and 2) changing the scout patch available through Emblem Sales – each of these were voted upon separately. The Americanism Commission voted to accept each of the recommendations put forth by the YASC to: 1) reject Register Resolution No. 2779 (AR) titled *Remove Assigned Topics From Oratorical Contest*; 2) reject Resolution No. 49 (OR) titled *"Changes to The American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year";* and 3) approve seeking to have patches sold through Emblem Sales changed to read "Scouting."

COMMITTEE ON YOUTH EDUCATION

Michael Westergren (AR), chairman of the Committee on Youth Education (COYE), reported that the committee met virtually on April 28, 2021. The COYE recommended the following 32 applicants as recipients of a 2021 American Legion Legacy Scholarship, totaling $357,228.84. These applicants demonstrated both eligibility and financial need. The breakdown of 2021 applications and scholarships awards follows:

- A total of 1,075 applications were opened and started
- Of those there were 541 having submitted a complete application
- Of those there were 127 having demonstrated verifiable eligibility and financial need
- Of those a total of 32 were awarded an American Legion Legacy scholarship as detailed below (5 children of the fallen / 27 children of disabled veterans)
- 95 applications with verifiable eligibility and financial need totaling $706,158 remained unfulfilled due to The American Legion meeting its financial award cap for the year

Children of a fallen servicemember – 2021 Legacy Scholarship awards

Endira Caldwell (IA)	$ 20,000.00
Ahlania Davis (NV)	$ 20,000.00
Nicole Desiree Fontenot (MA)	$ 19,232.81
Dennis Abiola Jallah III (NC)	$ 15,653.81
Chelsea Briggs (HI)	$ 15,064.39

Children of a disabled veteran – 2021 Legacy Scholarship awards

Makayla Sharonne Hamlin (WA)	$ 10,000.00
Dominique Marie Smith (OH)	$ 10,000.00
Jared Neil Layton (PA)	$ 10,000.00
Destiny Quinn (FL)	$ 10,000.00
McKayla Ann Kraft (NC)	$ 10,000.00
Katline Barrows (WA)	$ 10,000.00
Trinity A Rivas (TX)	$ 10,000.00
Joseph Anderson (OK)	$ 10,000.00
Emily Anne Lewis (NY)	$ 10,000.00
Sydney Alissa Long (NE)	$ 10,000.00
Jerusha Patera Simmons (KS)	$ 10,000.00
Nathan Russell Smith (AZ)	$ 10,000.00
Axel Adrian Oquendo (GA)	$ 10,000.00
Emma Rose Furlan (CT)	$ 10,000.00
Xzavier Latchison (TX)	$ 10,000.00
Dequiala D Kelly (GA)	$ 10,000.00
Noelani Milena Allison (WA)	$ 10,000.00
Paige Kathleen Roff (IA)	$ 10,000.00
Hannah Elizabeth Brooks (GA)	$ 10,000.00
Madeline Alexis Starling (PA)	$ 10,000.00
Erin Moroney (DC)	$ 10,000.00
Jesse Michael Pettigrew (OH)	$ 10,000.00
Andino James-Vincenzo LaVersa (TX)	$ 10,000.00

Sabrina Rose Starling (PA)	$ 10,000.00
Isabel Bathke (SD)	$ 10,000.00
Emily T Jansen (MN)	$ 10,000.00
Mark W Kolb (MD)	$ 7,277.83
	$357,228.83

In accordance with Resolution No. 6 approved by the National Executive Committee in October 2011, the COYE selected S. Adam Seagrave, Ph.D. as recipient of the 2021 American Legion National Education Award. S. Adam Seagrave is associate director of the School of Civic and Economic Thought and Leadership at Arizona University. He is the author of "The Accessible Federalist", the editor of "Liberty and Equality: The American Conversation", and his article "Whatever Happened to Civics?" was featured in the March 2021 issue of The American Legion Magazine. In "Whatever Happened to Civics?", S. Adam Seagrave writes that serious deficiencies in U.S. civics and history education are depriving generations of Americans of the knowledge needed to maintain our republic. "The events of recent months underscore the urgency of strengthening our civic fabric," he writes. "There is a general acknowledgment of the fact that a constitutional democracy such as ours cannot survive on STEM alone." The recipient of the American Legion National Education Award is invited to the national convention city each year to receive their award personally from the chairman of the Americanism Commission, and Dr. Seagrave will be invited to Phoenix this summer.

The COYE also discussed updates to The American Legion Education Guide, and draft SOP's for the Legacy and Samsung Scholarships; discussed the 2nd annual "100 Miles for Hope" campaign; and reviewed Resolution No. 5 of the National Executive Committee, October 14-15, 2020, titled "Vision, Mission Values and Motto of The American Legion."

The Americanism Commission received and filed the written report of the COYE, with the exception of ratification of Exhibit A titled "2021 American Legion Legacy Scholarship Award Recipients", which was voted upon separately. The Americanism Commission voted to ratify Exhibit A titled "2021 American Legion Legacy Scholarship Award Recipients."

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to come before the Americanism Commission.

NEW BUSINESS

The commission previewed a new video produced by the Media and Communications Division of National Headquarters titled "American Legion Youth Programs and Responsible Citizenship." The American Legion created this video to illustrate the one common denominator that all of our youth programs have – instilling responsible citizenship. The video also highlights why those who served in the U.S. military and who continue their service through membership in The American Legion have such a vested stake in our youth programs – programs that develop tomorrow's leaders. This 7-minute video will be shown during all national youth programs, with posts and departments encouraged to do the same.

The Commission next reviewed Resolution No. 5 as amended by the National Executive Committee titled "Vision, Mission, Values and Motto of The American Legion," discussing that its purpose is to provide The American Legion clear guidance about who we are and what we wish to stand for. The vision and mission statements, along with the value principles and motto, helps define the purpose of our organization; provides guidance for aligning our organization's resources toward a successful future; provides clear and effective decision-making guidance; helps formulate strategic planning; and publicly communicates our message. This resolution should serve as a guide when assessing if a topic, position, or initiative is aligned with the Legion's organizational purpose.

Commission members were encouraged to participate in 2nd annual American Legion "100 Miles for Hope" virtual 100-mile walk, run, ride challenge that promotes promote

wellness by encouraging people to get active and to invigorate donations for the American Legion Veterans and Children Foundation.

RESOLUTIONS SUMMARY

At the virtual meeting of the Americanism Commission on May 1, 2021, a total of seven resolutions were considered. The Americanism Commission agreed upon recommending the following action for consideration by the National Executive Committee:

Approve

- ***Raising Awareness of the Presumptive Service-Connected Condition Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), Also Known as "Lou Gehrig's Disease"***
- ***Authority to Temporarily Amend, Delay or Suspend Rules or Policies of National Youth Programs***
- ***Applicability of Resolution No. 28 Titled "Citizenship, Residency, Or Visitor Status For Youth Participation In American Legion Youth Programs at the National Level"***

Reject

- Resolution Register No. 2779 (AR) 2020 Department Executive Committee ***Remove Assigned Topics from Oratorical Contest***
- Resolution No. 49 (OR) 2019 National Convention ***Changes to The American Legion Eagle Scout of The Year***

Handle Administratively

- Resolution Register No. 2799 (MN) 2020 Department Executive Committee ***Seek Clarification From the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America Concerning Their Letter to Scout Leaders Concerning Racism Dated July 15, 2020***

Hold for Further Study

- Resolution Register No. 2803 (AL) 2021 Department Executive Committee ***Department of Alabama Offers To Host The American Legion Junior Shooting Sports National Championship***

Addendum A

Rejected

Resolution No. 49 (OR) (2019 Natl. Conv.): **Changes to American Legion Eagle Scout Of The Year**

Register Resolution No. 2779 (AR) (2020 DEC): **Remove Assigned Topics from Oratorical Contest**

Handled Administratively

Register Resolution No. 2799 (MN) (2020 DEC): **Seek Clarification From the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America Concerning Their Letter to Scout Leaders Concerning Racism Dated July 15, 2020**

Held for Further Study

Register Resolution No. 2803 (AL) (2021 DEC)**: Department of Alabama Offers To Host The American Legion Junior Shooting Sports National Championship**

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would wholeheartedly support and endorse that that video be shown to all people who are interested and all participants in our youth programs of The American Legion.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Commander, a motion to receive and file the report of the Americanism Commission with the exception of three resolutions and one addendum. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second to receive and file the report of the National Americanism Commission with the exception of three resolutions, one addendum. Any discussion? Any objections? Hearing none, seeing none, motion carries, unanimous consent.

Resolution No. 6: Raising Awareness of the Presumptive Service-Connected Condition Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), Also Known as "Lou Gehrig's Disease"

Origin: Americanism Commission

Submitted by: Americanism Commission

WHEREAS, Lou Gehrig has been hailed one of Major League Baseball's all-time greats as a famed slugger from 1923-1939 with 493 homers in 17 seasons; and

WHEREAS, Gehrig was elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame on December 7, 1939; and

WHEREAS, June 2, 1925, was the day when Gehrig started at first base for the New York Yankees, beginning his record streak of 2,130 consecutive games played – a mark which stood until September 1995; and

WHEREAS, Gehrig died on June 2, 1941, at age 37 of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) disease; and

WHEREAS, Patients with ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig's disease, suffer from the degeneration of nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord that affects muscle control throughout the entire body, thereby making it increasingly difficult for a person to eat, walk, talk, and breathe; and

WHEREAS, Gehrig's speech at Yankee Stadium on July 4, 1939, about his diagnosis is still today considered one of the most famous moments in Major League Baseball history; and

WHEREAS, On June 2, 2021, Major League Baseball is beginning a new annual tradition of observing "Lou Gehrig Day" as an avenue for raising awareness for those afflicted with ALS; and

WHEREAS, The ALS Association states that military veterans, regardless of their branch of service, the era in which they served, or whether they served during a time of peace or a time of war, are at a greater risk of dying from ALS than non-veterans, and for reasons as yet unknown, veterans are in fact twice as likely to be diagnosed with ALS than the general population; and

WHEREAS, In 2008, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) established a presumption of service connection for ALS in which the VA presumes that ALS was incurred or aggravated by a veteran's service in the military, thereby allowing veterans with ALS and their families and survivors to be eligible for service-connected benefits; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion has an opportunity to bring a greater awareness to the connection of ALS and military service through its American Legion Baseball program; and

WHEREAS, This resolution has been reviewed by the Americanism Commission, and with concurrence of the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission, is now 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 virtually on May 5-6, 2021, That the American Legion Baseball program follow suit with Major League Baseball in bringing greater awareness to the condition of "Lou Gehrig's disease" (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, aka "ALS"), by strongly encouraging every American Legion baseball team to observe a moment of silence before their game(s) each year on June 2 in memory of

Major League Baseball's great Lou Gehrig and all veterans who suffer or have died from ALS, a presumptive service-connected disease; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That this annual commemoration be promoted by National Headquarters in all media channels deemed appropriate and any resources needed for such be handled through the normal budgeting process; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That American Legion baseball teams and posts are encouraged to also promote this annual commemoration within their own local communities.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Resolution Number 6 has the approval of the VA&R Commission, the Americanism Commission, and your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption. ...*Second*.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second to adopt Resolution Number 6. Any discussion? Any objections? Hearing none, seeing none, motion carries, unanimous consent, Resolution Number 6.

Resolution No. 7: Authority to Temporarily Amend, Delay or Suspend Rules or Policies of National Youth Programs
Origin: Americanism Commission
Submitted by: Americanism Commission

WHEREAS, In 2020 and 2021 the United States and the world in general experienced a public health crisis, the likes of which unseen since 1918, associated with the spread of a novel coronavirus (COVID–19); and

WHEREAS, The 2020-2021 global pandemic caused communities, cities, states and the federal government to enact unprecedented emergency actions in order to contain and combat the impact and risks of spreading the COVID–19 virus; and

WHEREAS, Emergency state and local public health protection ordinances placed a limit on a great many of The American Legion's abilities to operate, thereby necessitating the cancellation national youth programs of The American Legion; and

WHEREAS, Great care and caution is given to the drafting of rules and policies for national youth programs of The American Legion; and

WHEREAS, Currently established rules and policies for national youth programs of The American Legion provide no provision for implementing accommodations to amend, delay or suspend operations or competitions in the face of a global pandemic or other act of God; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled virtually on May 5-6, 2021, That the Americanism Commission is authorized, with concurrence of the national commander, to temporarily amend, delay or suspend any established rule or policy of a national youth program when a program is subject to the occurrence of a circumstance beyond control of The American Legion, such as acts of God, war against the United States, acts or specific threats of terrorism against the United States, reasonable fear for personal safety of attendees, pandemic/epidemic disease or illness, government regulations, public health threats as determined or recognized by the Centers for Disease Control or by state or local public health agencies, curtailment of transportation facilities preventing or unreasonably delaying youth participants from attending, disaster, strikes, civil disorder or any other cause beyond the control of The American Legion, whereby making it impossible, illegal, impracticable, or inadvisable to conduct a youth program in accordance with established rules or policies; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That this provision shall be included in writing among all rules and policies of all national youth programs of The American Legion.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Resolution Number 7 has the approval of the Americanism Commission and your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption. ...*Second*.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second to adopt Resolution Number 7. Any discussion? Any objections? Hearing none, seeing none, motion carries, unanimous consent, Resolution Number 7.

Resolution No. 8: Applicability of Resolution No. 28 Titled "Citizenship, Residency, Or Visitor Status For Youth Participation In American Legion Youth Programs at the National Level"

Origin: Americanism Commission

Submitted by: Americanism Commission

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 28 approved by the National Executive Committee at its 2018 Spring Meetings mandates that all youth participating in national-level youth programs of the organization must be a legal United States citizen, or possess legal residency or visitor status to be in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 28 provides guidance as to official documents which may be accepted as proof of legal status; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 28 establishes that proof of legal citizenship, residency or visitor status is required from all potential youth participants prior to their acceptance for participation in a national-level youth program of the organization; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 28 further establishes that potential participants will be denied participation in national-level youth programs of the organization if they do not comply with providing proof of legal citizenship, residency or visitor status in the United States, or who are not a legal citizen, resident or visitor in the United States; and

WHEREAS, The national organization wishes to ensure full clarity regarding the applicability of Resolution No. 28 of the National Executive Committee, Spring 2018; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled virtually on May 5-6, 2021, That Resolution No. 28 approved by the National Executive Committee of The American Legion at its 2018 Spring Meetings titled "Citizenship, Residency, Or Visitor Status For Youth Participation In American Legion Youth Programs At The National Level" is intended solely for ensuring that youth participants of American Legion youth programs at the national level are adhering to the law by being in the United States in a legal status prior to their participation, and is not intended to supersede or replace any official rules which are specifically established for operating or conducting a youth program of The American Legion at the national level.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Resolution Number 8 has the approval of the Americanism Commission and your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second to adopt Resolution Number 8. Any discussion? Any objections? Hearing none, seeing none, motion carries, unanimous consent, Resolution Number 8.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Commander, attached to the report of the Americanism Commission is Addendum A. I move the actions of the Americanism Commission become the actions of the National Executive Committee. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: It's been moved and seconded that the actions of the National Americanism Commission become the actions of the National Executive Committee. Any discussion? Any objections? Seeing none, hearing none, motion carries, unanimous consent. At this time the chair recognizes Michael E. Walton of Illinois, chairman of the Convention Commission, for the purpose of a report.

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

Good day, Commander Oxford and members of the NEC. Although my written report is in your packets, I would like to touch on some highlights of our meeting.

Department Commander Ken Queen, the president of The American Legion National Convention Corporation of Phoenix, gave an update on the progress for the up-and-coming 102nd National Convention in Phoenix, August 27 through September 2. The corporation, in tandem with the commission, recommends that, due to physical distancing measures, the parade component will not take place in Phoenix. Additionally, we have heard from all past band participants, and due to the pandemic creating challenges with funding and rehearsing, the band contest will not take place in Phoenix as well.

The Department of Arizona is ready to assist in all of our other endeavors. To assist in these endeavors, commander and members of the NEC, we all must play a pivotal role to ensure we can meet in Phoenix and to create a safe national convention experience for all who attend. Two items that we must adhere to in order for us to be able to meet are safety and flexibility.

Safety is the utmost importance. I, along with Director Robinson and Deputy Director Watson, met with the Phoenix Special Event Review Committee to obtain initial approval. We did, in fact, receive our initial approval based on several contingencies. Now, keep in mind, if things start to get worse with COVID again, they have the right to come back and halt all the meetings, so nothing is 100 percent guaranteed. But we are hopeful, the way the data is going, the progress being made, that things will absolutely make a positive turn all for better.

Nevertheless, those contingencies we have to follow are: Number one, the City of Phoenix accepts no liability and declines to indemnify anyone electing to attend this event. All attendees must sign a liability waiver to attend. We are working with the national judge advocate on creating this waiver, but we recommend each department adjutant sign for his or her entire delegation before coming to Phoenix. This will ensure anyone attending the national convention has been vetted appropriately at the department level and the adjutant has vouched for them with the waiver, adhering to all restriction and rules. For any distinguished guests, they too must assign a waiver before making plans to attend.

The Phoenix Convention Center is government owned. The venue dictates the restrictions. We are prepared to handle them as long as we follow the rules. Our event is a private event, really, not open to the public. With the band contest and parade not happening this year, we also recommend that any ancillary-type events like the job fair where the public has been invited not happen for this year.

National convention for this year must be Legion Family members only, along with invited distinguished guests. While we have had walk-in registrations in the past, those wanting to attend must pre-register with their respective department. Typically, walk-ins are mostly local, and we've had conversations with Adjutant Juarez and President Queen, with the Convention Corporation of Arizona, that walk-ins will not be granted for this year. Everyone must pre-register in advance with their department of their desire to come.

My team and I are more than welcome and glad to do a virtual meeting with the adjutants to review all the restrictions and mandates if so needed. We all must lead by example. We all have a personal responsibility if we want to meet. Our word is our bond, and other cities talk. So in saying that, when we have our national convention, they all know how good that convention is for that city, and that's why so many cities want to host our convention, is because our word has been our bond.

The other thing, face coverings and masks must be worn at all times unless you're actively eating or drinking. So you can't be walking down the aisle with a bottle of water in your hand and your mask off, saying, "Oh, I'm drinking." That won't work. Also, masks must be worn on stage and only removed on stage when you're at the lectern speaking.

Our temperatures will be taken each day, along with them asking basic COVID questions. We're estimating this will take about 15 seconds per person. And if a person's

temperature is 100.3 or below, then they will be provided a bracelet for that day for the attendee to wear on their wrist. If they lose the bracelet for that day, they'll have to be rescreened.

If their temperature is 100.4 or above, they will have to sit in a controlled area for ten minutes. Now, we're going into this city and we know how warm it is in Arizona in August, so that's why we're doing this. We figure people might be a little warm coming in. So after they sit for the ten minutes, a second temperature reading will be administered.

If the second reading is 100.3 or below, then the attendee will be provided a bracelet for that day. If, after the second screening and the attendee's temperature reading is again 100.4 or higher, they cannot obtain entry unless he or she receives a negative COVID rapid test. Now, there will be EMTs on site that will provide the options and the access, they'll be right there at these areas. If after your COVID rapid test is negative, along with the other screening questions, then they'll be allowed entry. If after your COVID rapid test is positive, you will be denied entry for the duration of the convention. Your registration credentials will be retained, and an EMT will provide the necessary medical steps telling the person what they need to do.

The bottom line is, if after your second temperature reading and you still register 100.4 or higher, you have to take the COVID rapid test and it must come back negative or you will not be allowed entry at all for the duration of the convention. By coming to the convention, you are taking the risk, cost, and personal responsibility.

What we all may want to consider due to temperature checks and this location is a modified dress code on all days except the general session days. Keep in mind that the temperature checks could be administered at any venue: the restaurants, the shuttle, the airport, et cetera, at any time.

We must also adhere to physical distancing in all areas of the convention center. In order to accomplish this, the Auxiliary supports remaining in their own general session hall for the duration of the convention. If a political figure does attend, the Auxiliary has communicated they will remain in their general session hall and we can stream the event to them. This will assist in ensuring our compliance with physical distancing. Additionally, there will be a maximum amount of people that can be in the exhibit hall at one time. This number will be determined as we get closer to August.

We must also provide the messaging of the importance to wash our hands, abiding by the CDC guidelines for washing our hands. We're also saying, "Salute, don't shake." We must provide a clear message that no hugging, touching, or handshakes, no matter if you've been vaccinated or not. This is their restriction for now. You can salute, nod, elbow bump, or wave instead, but no hugging and no handshakes.

We'll provide a consistent message for communicating exact meeting details. It is to our benefit to delay the exact meeting room locations for all the meetings. At this time in our communication efforts, we will state the event is at the Phoenix Convention Center and the time only. The reason is, things could change a lot from now until August 1, and this is where we all have to be flexible. If we communicate changes constantly throughout these next months, the confidence from our members will be lost and the trust gone.

To do this, we are working with our wonderful Media & Communications team to craft messages, so anyone attending understands the restrictions in place and it is a fluid situation. The national commander, national president, and SAL national commander have crafted public service announcement videos with creative sayings that, as a Legion family, we must work together to adhere to all restrictions. One item in this advance communication is that within 15 days of a person leaving for the convention, if you don't feel well or you have any COVID-19 symptom, it is your responsibility to not attend and possibly sit this one out. Don't come to convention if you are sick whatsoever.

Also at this time, we are sold out for the national commander's banquet. All of the department adjutants have been provided, if desired, a certain allotment of tickets to purchase. The commander's banquet entertainment this year is country music artist and U.S. Army veteran Craig Morgan.

Two other larger events typically held at the national convention are ANAVICUS and the PDCC, the past department commanders luncheon. I will share basic information but will lean on Past National Commander Comer for any additional remarks he has, if any.

This year in Phoenix, ANAVICUS will be invitation-only beverage reception for just those inductees. This will currently be held at the Sheraton hotel at 4 p.m. on Sunday, August 29. The past department commanders luncheon will be held currently at the Sheraton on Monday, August 30, same time for now as normal, but will be limited to 400 persons, rounds of four. There will be more information coming from national shortly.

Our headquarters hotel, the Sheraton, opened at the end of April. Just like around the country, the hotels and the travel tourist industry have lost over $766 billion since this started. With that, staffing may be reduced and some hotels are just now opening back up. Some of these amenities and luxuries that we have known to receive in hotels may not be available as we were used to in the past. This is the norm now due to COVID across the board. For example, you probably won't have housekeeping unless you request it. Once again, this is where flexibility comes into play.

I want to give you a comparison. As you know, the NCAA Final Four was held in Indianapolis. They had to administer 28,000 COVID swabs per day to make that event happen. That was every person every day had to get tested. Phoenix at this time is not asking for that. All they're saying is simply wear masks, physical distance, temperature checks, and sign waivers. What they're asking us to do is nothing out of the norm that we have all been getting accustomed to since this thing started. We can meet; it will just look a little different.

With a government building, which the Phoenix Convention Center is, it's our responsibility, The American Legion, to handle the compliance implementations that the Phoenix Convention Center mandates and the City of Phoenix mandates. The convention center will have a compliance manager for our event to ensure people are wearing their masks, they're doing their physical distancing, and they're taking their temperatures and et cetera.

The bottom line is, at this time we must wear face coverings and masks at all times in the venues. We must adhere to physical distancing. We must have our temperatures checked. We must sign waivers. Safety and flexibility will be the key. If someone does not agree with any of these, they need to sit this one out in Phoenix and return in 2022. This is the new norm, and for us to meet at this time, we need to comply.

Ladies and gentlemen, our members want to meet and we need to meet, but we must be personally responsible in our efforts and comply with all restrictions. If you don't feel well or you don't want to comply, sit this one out. Phoenix wants us, the Department of Arizona wants us, they do. They want us all to be safe in meeting, though, and we can certainly be flexible, have patience, and put the safety of our members first this year in order to meet. Remember, no touch or handshakes. And if you don't feel well, sit this one out.

In other business of the Convention Commission, we received a resolution to approve the contract between the national organization of The American Legion and the First District Convention Corporation in New Orleans for the dates of August 23 through 29, 2024, for the New Orleans National Convention. This was approved by the Convention Commission.

One resolution was received and recorded by the commission to host the 2027 108th Annual National Convention of The American Legion. This was from the Department of Missouri supporting the city of Kansas City. We now have two cities that are bidding to hose the 2027 108th National Convention; they are Columbus, Ohio, and Kansas City, Missouri. Our national conventions are now set through 2026 and I believe you have that in your handout: Phoenix this year, Milwaukee, Charlotte, New Orleans, Tampa Bay, and then Louisville.

Ladies and gentlemen, as we progress into the future, we want to make sure we are relevant not only in our content but also for our members. We are looking at reimagining the national convention. Back in early 2020, the American Legion Auxiliary and Legion

leadership met to discuss some opportunities for national convention. Then COVID hit and they weren't able to meet again until late December 2020.

This is our time to enhance and excel our conventions, especially in light of other changes that are going on due to the pandemic. We want to collaborate more with our Legion Family: with The American Legion, the Auxiliary, the Sons of The American Legion, and the Legion Riders. It is time to enhance our conventions to make it more engaging, create more experiences, provide more educational content, and make it more exciting for all to want to attend.

Some of the items National Convention Commission recommends updating on the request for proposal of changing some of the schematics of the convention, which they may not necessarily happen until 2027. However, we will try to incorporate little increments along the way.

Some things we're looking at, on Friday, we would move the community outreach project to Sunday. We'd have a new beginners workshop day possibly every day of the convention, and then we would have a continuing education workshop.

On Saturday there would be no changes to the commission meetings. Change would be, we would have a Legion Family, everybody involved, kickoff opening reception at 7 p.m. Saturday evening. Of course, the band contest would have to end by 6:00, and that's not a problem. So that would be a change for Saturday.

On Sunday, there would be no changes to the ANAVICUS or the chaplain's breakfast or the Patriotic Memorial Service or the convention committee meetings. Sunday would be a community day. No more outdoor/indoor parades. This would be an opportunity for all the departments to host their department parties and their caucuses, opportunity for the other events that go on, like the Four Corners that's normally on Monday, they would move to Sunday. And we've talked to them about that and they sound excited about it. So it would be another good day on Sunday for a community outreach project, Sunday instead of Friday. Also an opportunity for all the attendees to participate in a community day activity, and an opportunity for the community and local veterans to attend our exhibit hall.

Monday, our pre-NEC would remain the same, but our general sessions would start at 2 p.m. on Monday. The PDCC may need to end earlier than normal, but we think all this can work out.

Tuesday there would be no changes. National commander's banquet will still happen.

On Wednesday, we would have our election and general session, and it would be our last day. So the Auxiliary president states dinner would be replaced by a Legion Family new leadership closing reception where all of our attendees could meet all of our new leadership that are just going into office for the coming American Legion Family year.

Thursday morning, the post-NEC would start at 9 a.m. versus in the afternoon, and there would be the departures for the majority, and there would be one day less on the convention.

We have had a lot of discussions with the SAL national commander and staff liaison, and they're on board with these efforts. Additionally, we had special guests Linda Boone, national secretary for the American Legion Auxiliary, and Kelly Circle, executive director for the American Legion Auxiliary, join our Convention Commission meeting. They too support this endeavor and effort to reignite our conventions.

Ladies and gentlemen, like we have always done, we do what is best for The American Legion and will work with our family counterparts to enhance our national convention, to make them more engaging, interactive by providing memorable experiences while still getting the good work done of the American Legion Family. All of us look forward to seeing everyone in Phoenix, but always remember, safety first.

Commander and members of the NEC, that concludes my report. Thank you for allowing me to serve.

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

Chairman Michael E. Walton, Illinois, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. (EDT), Friday, April 23, 2021. Roll call was taken with all members either excused or present.

There were items which required action by the National Executive Committee discussed during the meeting:

Items Requiring NEC Action:
Resolution No. - 2024 National Convention Contract – Approval of the recommendation by the Convention Commission that the contract between the National Organization of The American Legion and The American Legion First District Convention Corporation for the purpose of holding The American Legion National Convention in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 23-29, 2024, be signed by the National Commander and the President of the Convention Corporation.

Addendum A:
Resolution No. 2804 – Submitted by the Department of Missouri supporting a bid for the 2027 National Convention from the city of Kansas City, Missouri - Received and recorded

2020 Fall Meeting Minutes were approved, which was the last time the Commission met and it was virtual.

President of The American Legion National Convention Corporation of Arizona, Kenneth Queen, gave an update on the progress of the 102nd National Convention. The Sheraton Phoenix Downtown will serve as the main Headquarters Hotel with two overflow hotels at the Arizona Grand and Courtyard/Residence Inn; Sons of The American Legion will be the Sheraton and American Legion Auxiliary will be the Hyatt. The Phoenix Convention Center will be the site of the general sessions, exhibit hall, color guard contest, the National Commander's Banquet and the Auxiliary States Dinner. The National Staff Offices for The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, Sons of The American Legion, Distinguished Guest Registration and Badges & Packets will also be in the Phoenix Convention Center. The Color Guard contest will take place on Friday, August 27, 2021 starting at 4:00PM. The Band Contest and the Parade will not take place this year in Phoenix. The National Commander's Banquet on August 31, which is currently sold out, will feature Country Music Artist and Army Veteran, Craig Morgan.

To date, the city of Phoenix, has initially approved for The American Legion to host a meeting at the Phoenix Convention Center. This is subject to change. At this time, all convention attendees must comply to physical distancing, face coverings/masks, temperature checks, and a waiver of liability to be signed to attend the convention as these are the current mandates for the City of Phoenix/Phoenix Convention Center.

The National Convention Request for Proposal (RFP) will be updated to reflect proposed changes for future national conventions to ensure what we provide to bidding cities is properly reflected within the RFP. The RFP will be updated each year as necessary.

We have a second Department of The American Legion, Department of Missouri, that has submitted the proper resolution expressing their interest in Kansas City, Missouri, bidding on the 2027 National Convention (Addendum A); the first being Department of Ohio, submitted a Resolution of Support for Columbus to bid on the 2027 National Convention (2020 Fall NEC).

Dates for future Conventions are the following:

Phoenix, Arizona	August 27 – Sept. 2, 2021
Milwaukee, Wisconsin	August 26 – Sept. 1, 2022
Charlotte, North Carolina	August 25 – 31, 2023
New Orleans, Louisiana	August 23 – 29, 2024

Tampa Bay, Florida	August 22 – 28, 2025
Louisville, Kentucky	August 28 – Sept. 3, 2026

Addendum A

Received and Recorded

Register Resolution No. 2804 (MO) (2020 DEC): **City of Kansas City Offers to Host the 2027 National Convention**

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second to receive and file the report of the Convention Commission with the exception of one addendum. Any discussion? I'd like to call on NEC David Carlson.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER CARLSON (HI): Yes. We have a lot of information there. I haven't received anything yet regarding the convention. Do I expect to have any written information soon?

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Can we ask Chairman Walton to address that question?

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN WALTON: Yes, sir. Yes, information is going to be going out. It's all forthcoming. As I mentioned, also I would be willing to meet with all of our department adjutants at their convenience, if that will help also. But there will be information forthcoming from our convention office. Once we get through all of the meetings this week, that information will be coming out really quickly, we hope. We're looking forward to having a great convention in Phoenix.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Any further discussion or questions? I'd like to recognize PNC Jake Comer.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: I just want to make it very specific in regards to the ANAVICUS breakfast. There will be no breakfast, but there will be a reception at 4 p.m. on Sunday for the ANAVICUS executive committee and all those that are going to be sworn in and get their regalia. There will be a small reception, no food, but limited to a few drinks or libations. But it's 4:00 on Sunday for all of those that are going to be sworn in plus the executive committee of ANAVICUS. Thank you.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN WALTON: That's correct, commander, and that will be held at the Sheraton hotel, commander.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Yes, thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: I'd also like to recognize NEC John Knox.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER KNOX (MI): Yes, thank you, commander. I have two questions. First question is, are the delegations from the departments going to be reduced this year? And the second question is, on the meeting rooms, is there a limitation on how many people can go in the meeting room? Thank you.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN WALTON: Yes, if I may, commander, you will have your normal delegations, and there could be a limitation and spacing, obviously, in the meeting room. That's why we're not going to assign the actual rooms for the meetings until August 1, as we believe that things are going to get better on COVID between now and August 1. So all the meetings will be held, unless otherwise indicated, at the Phoenix Convention Center. We're going to let the times out and that it's going to be the Phoenix Convention Center. But we're not going to send out the actual locations of the meetings. But again, there has to be physical distancing.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Thank you, chairman. I'd like to recognize Past National Commander Comer.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Part of that question came up in a previous meeting, so I just want to make it very clear. There will be no change in the call-

ins. As long as you all remain very loyal to the team, there will be no changes to the number of call-ins.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Thank you, Commander. I'd like to recognize NEC from Louisiana, Charles Aucoin.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER AUCOIN (LA): Thank you, commander. I've got a question for the chairman about the commander's banquet. It says that allocations have already been done for the tickets, and I haven't heard anything here in Louisiana about it. So I'm just wondering how that's being done. Through the adjutant's office, I'm assuming?

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN WALTON: Yes, sir. All of the adjutants have been given their allotment of tickets for the national commander's banquet.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Any other discussions or questions? Any objections? Hearing none, seeing none, motion carries, unanimous consent.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Commander, attached to the report of the Convention Commission is Addendum A. I move the actions of the Convention Commission become the actions of the National Executive Committee. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second that the actions of the Convention Commission become the actions of the National Executive Committee. Any discussion? Any objections? Hearing none, seeing none, motion carries, unanimous consent. At this time I would entertain a motion for the NEC to go into executive session.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Commander, I move the National Executive Committee go into executive session. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second that the National Executive Committee go into executive session. Is there any discussion? Any objections? Hearing none, seeing none, motion carries. For the executive session, the members of the National Executive Committee who are speaking for their department may stay online. Alternates who are not representing their department as a sole spokesperson on the NEC must leave. Past National Commanders may stay, national officers may stay, chairman of the Finance Commission and the Internal Affairs Commission may stay, and the operational staff. All others are requested to terminate the link.

...At 2:46 p.m., Wednesday, May 5, 2021, following the executive session the National Executive Committee went into regular session and recessed to reconvene at 11:00 a.m., Thursday, May 6, 2021.

PROCEEDINGS

of the

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Thursday, May 6, 2021

...At 11:00 a.m., the National Executive Committee reconvened, National Commander Oxford presiding.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: I call this meeting of the National Executive Committee to order. Please join me in a salute to the colors of our country by the numbers: One, two. I call on National Chaplain Edward L. Harris of Indiana for the invocation, followed by National Sergeant-at-Arms David Shore with the Pledge of Allegiance. Please uncover.

Invocation
Edward L. Harris, Indiana, National Chaplain

Dear God, thank You for this day and thank You for allowing us to be a part of this day. We are here once again because You have allowed us to be. Bless those of our comrades who have transferred on to Post Everlasting since we last met. Those comrades who are presenting to us during this session, go with them, stand by, stand by, stand by them and fill them with the information that is necessary for us to receive. Bless our sick, our infirmed, and our bereaved. All of this we ask in Your name. Amen.

Pledge of Allegiance

...The National Executive Committee recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Please recover and be seated. At this time I call on National Adjutant Daniel S. Wheeler of Virginia for the roll call.

Roll Call

National Officers

National Commander
James W. Oxford, North Carolina

National Adjutant
Daniel S. Wheeler, Virginia

National Vice Commanders
Bruce C. Feuerbach, Iowa
David L. King, Kentucky
Francis J. MacDonald, Jr., Massachusetts
Richard A. Heigert, Missouri
Robert D. Liebenow, Oregon

Past National Commanders

John P. "Jake" Comer, Massachusetts
Miles S. Epling, West Virginia
Robert S. Turner, Georgia (Excused)
Dominic D. DeFrancesco, Pennsylvania
Bruce Thiesen, California
Daniel A. Ludwig, Minnesota
Joseph J. Frank, Missouri (Excused)
Anthony G. Jordan, Maine
Butch L. Miller, Virginia (Excused)
Hon. Alan G. Lance, Sr., Idaho
Richard J. Santos, Maryland (Excused)
Ronald F. Conley, Pennsylvania
Hon. John A. Brieden, III, Texas
Thomas L. Bock, Colorado
Paul A. Morin, Massachusetts
Martin F. Conatser, Illinois
Robert W. Spanogle, Michigan (Excused)
David K. Rehbein, Iowa
Clarence E. Hill, Florida
Jimmie L. Foster, Alaska
Fang A. Wong, New York
James E. Koutz, Indiana
Daniel M. Dellinger, Virginia
Michael D. Helm, Nebraska
Harold D. Barnett, Georgia
Charles E. Schmidt, Oregon
Denise H. Rohan, Wisconsin
Brett P. Reistad, Virginia

National Executive Committee Members

Department	Committee Member	Alternate
Alabama	Willis Frazier (Excused)	Hardwick (Rico) Hall, Sr.
Alaska	James E. Pisa	
Arizona	Judith S. Beischel	
Arkansas	Mary V. Erdman	
California	Mary A. Foxworthy	
Colorado	Thomas J. Florez	
Connecticut	D. Joseph Jackson	
Delaware	Robert L. Michael	
D.C.	George E. Roundtree	
Florida	Dennis R. Boland	
France	James M. Settle	
Georgia	Charles F. Wessinger	
Hawaii	David R. Carlson	
Idaho	Robert L. Skinner	
Illinois	Tom Marciciak	
Indiana	Jerry L. Jordon	
Iowa	Jerry D. Sebben	
Kansas	Dan K. Wiley	
Kentucky	William O. Moore, Jr.	
Louisiana	Charles D. Aucoin	
Maine	Lloyd H. Woods	
Maryland	Patricia A. McCoy	
Massachusetts	James E. Brehio	
Mexico	Michael D. Wood	
Michigan	John W. Knox	
Minnesota	William C. Barbknecht	
Mississippi	Steve Sweet	
Missouri	Kenneth J. Goth	
Montana	David A. Driver	
Nebraska	William D. Crosier, Jr.	
Nevada		Yvette L. Weigold
New Hampshire	Kenneth B. Maynard, Jr.	
New Jersey	Charles K. Robbins	
New Mexico	Paul L. Espinoza	
New York	William R. Kearsing, Jr.	

North Carolina	Jeff W. Joyner	
North Dakota	Robert L. Krause	
Ohio	Robert M. Klostermeier	
Oklahoma	Timothy W. Smith	
Oregon	Robert A. Millar	
Pennsylvania	E. Michael Stelacio	
Philippines	Lawrence E. Wade	
Puerto Rico	Angel O. Narvaez (Excused)	Isaac Rodriguez
Rhode Island	David A. Williams	
South Carolina	Michael D. Strauss	
South Dakota	James Huls	
Tennessee	David G. Alexander	
Texas	C. W. Sparks, Jr.	
Utah	Terry D. Schow	
Vermont	Frederick E. Latour (Excused)	David Woodward
Virginia	Michael F. Mitrione	
Washington	Dale F. Davis	
West Virginia	William W. Kile	
Wisconsin	Robert L. Shappell	
Wyoming	Douglas Uhrig	

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: Commander, the record is accurate and we have a quorum.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a quorum. Well, good morning. Before we continue on with our reports from the national commissions, I would like to entertain a motion that this paragraph be inserted into the Internal Affairs Commission report as the first paragraph under the section "SAL Commander's Advisory Committee" and read as follows: "The Commander's Advisory Chairman, PNC Douglas Bible, addressed the committee with his report. The chairman stated the committee interviewed all interested candidates in becoming the Sons of The American Legion National Commander. The committee unanimously approved that Donald J.R. Hall from Maryland would be a candidate for SAL national commander for the 2023-2024 year after Chris Carlson, Indiana, for the year 2022-2023 year."

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: So moved. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Okay. It's been moved and seconded to replace the previously reported paragraph in the Internal Affairs Commission report. Any discussion? Any discussions? Hearing none, seeing none, motion carries by unanimous consent. We will continue to receive reports from national commissions, national committees, boards, and subcommittees of the NEC. The chair would like to recognize Walter W. Ivie of Texas, chairman of the Media & Communications Commission, for the purposes of a record.

Oral Report: Media & Communications Commission
Walter W. Ivie, Texas, Chairman

National Commander Oxford, national officers, members of the National Executive Committee, and friends. The American Legion Media & Communications Commission met virtually, Monday, May 3, to review progress against the division's strategic plan and to assess the various effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the national media program. You have my written report so I will just touch on some high points.

The pandemic has had a substantial impact on budget performance in terms of reduced advertising revenue, largely caused by supply chain breakdowns, and lower division expenses, such as advertising commissions, email costs, and editorial costs.

The bottom line is that advertising revenue is about $500,000 below budgeted expectation through June *American Legion Magazine* sales. Division expenses overall are

just over $140,000 under budget, which helps cut into the revenue situation. Also unaccounted for in the current budget status are 21.4 magazine pages placed by the Marketing Division in support of corporate relationships such as USAA and United Health Care advertising. That represents about $321,000 in cost. The revenue is booked through Marketing so it all comes out in the wash.

Digital media advertising, however, is well ahead of budget for this point in the year, with better-than-expected sales in The American Legion Online Update, the national website, and the year-old Tango Alpha Lima podcast. These digital assets have produced just under a $100,000 in sales revenues so far this year, which is substantially ahead of budget.

The podcast was recently rated No. 2 in the nation for transitioning veterans. It has a new regular advertising sponsor and growing interest after record-breaking download numbers in March. We are now planning a special podcast series related to the 20th anniversary of 9/11 that we believe will raise more awareness about the podcast and The American Legion among younger veterans.

While the Media & Communications Division staff members have weathered the COVID storm mostly from their home computers, they have been able to fulfill most initiatives on their 2021 strategic plan to this point in the year including: advancing media and continued support through training materials for the myLegion.org conversion; successful launch of the second annual 100 Miles for Hope campaign; support of American Legion Veterans & Children's Foundation; and incremental redesign of *The American Legion Magazine* which kicks off with the June issue; advancement of media training tools through The American Legion Media Alliance; and the development of a new PR toolkit for posts, districts, and departments, which is due out this summer; redevelopment of a new legion.org architecture set to roll out later this year; writing, editing, and printing of "COVID Operations: The American Legion's Response to the Global Pandemic," an 84-page illustrated bookazine that truly shows what we mean by "Veterans Strengthening America"; development of a "Rally Around the Flag" media campaign that kicked off in April in support of the Citizens Flag Alliance and the Americanism Commission; media support for The American Legion-sponsored 48 car in this year's Indy Car series; and recording and delivering reports, resolutions, and live-streamed events virtually so we can continue The American Legion's business, service, and values, even if we are still waiting a bit longer to gather in person.

Commander Oxford, members of the NEC, on behalf of The American Legion Media & Communications Commission, thank you for your leadership and inspiration through this challenging time. That concludes my report.

Report: Media & Communications Commission
Walter W. Ivie, Texas, Chairman

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a profound influence on The American Legion Media & Communications Division. Advertising revenue reductions and cost increases alike were caused largely by supply-chain, logistics and labor issues throughout the manufacturing and publishing industries. The division has leaned into the crisis by maintaining robust operational performance, providing technological support through virtual meeting delivery and live-streamed events. While working primarily from home computers, on a daily basis, staff members collected and reported on hundreds of pandemic-relief efforts by American Legion posts and departments, and redeveloped or launched a variety of media assets.

The inability to gather in groups or conduct traditional program, event and mission-driven journalism that would normally require travel has created an opportunity for the division to strengthen its informational infrastructure, support media initiatives of multiple other divisions and develop an illustrated bookazine on The American Legion Family's response to the pandemic. Other accomplishments include the installation of new asset-management software, developing campaigns to promote 100 Miles for Hope and the

Buddy Check program, the smooth transition to a new e-newsletter vendor, and working toward a complete web conversion with the Information Technology staff.

Advertising revenue through the June 2021 issue of *The American Legion Magazine* stood at $493,719 below budget, but advertising in The American Legion Online Update, Legion.org and the Tango Alpha Lima podcast added nearly $100,000 in budget-positive revenue through March, and division expenses were under budget by $140,872. Also, no revenue is reflected in the Media & Communications Division's books to account for 21.4 pages of advertising placed by the Marketing Division in support of USAA, United Health Care and other corporate relationships and internal fundraising promotions. Those pages represent an estimated $321,000 in actual cost through the May magazine.

The American Legion Magazine sustained a $2 per hundredweight paper price increase April 1, and another $2 jump is already expected July 1 – a reflection of massive cost increases in the paper milling and freight industries. Mailing costs are also expected to climb substantially in the summer of 2021.

The division began 2021 knowing the budget equation would be fluid and uncertain due to the pandemic. Working primarily from home, division staff members have concentrated on communication infrastructure development (digital and print) and major national programs and campaigns in support of the Marketing Division and others in the organization. Through April, the division has been able to accomplish, or at least advance, the majority of its strategic plan initiatives, including:

- Development and execution of awareness media in advance of the MyLegion.org conversion, to include training videos, a regular cadence of articles in *Dispatch*, presentation editing for the Information Technology/Membership team and more.
- An incremental redesign of *The American Legion Magazine* to make more efficient use of scarce and valuable page count, which kicks off with the June issue.
- The successful launch of the 2nd Annual 100 Miles for Hope campaign in support of the American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation.
- Refreshed media tools and coverage emphasis to promote the Buddy Check program.
- An 84-page illustrated bookazine documenting The American Legion Family's response to the global pandemic, titled "COVID Operations." This publication is built on division coverage, including more than 200 stories and videos, about the ways in which The American Legion has strengthened America and promoted safety in a time of great difficulty.
- Meteoric growth of the Tango Alpha Lima podcast, which continues to break previous month-over-month download records in 2021, has begun receiving advertising placements, and was recently cited as the No. 2 podcast for transitioning servicemembers, behind only a podcast by VA.
- Development of a media campaign called "Rally Around the Flag" in support of the Citizens Flag Alliance and the Americanism Division.
- Support and promotion of The American Legion's sponsorship of the 48 car in the INDYCAR racing series.
- Installation and training in new asset-management software that will improve and accelerate efficiency in the writing, editing, approval and posting process of media material for print and digital channels.
- Development of a long-awaited and updated national PR Toolkit to help posts spread the word about the organization in today's media environment.
- Ongoing redevelopment of the legion.org website as the Personify conversion proceeds, to better present American Legion values and identity through digital media, such as the "Responsible Citizenship" video in support of American Legion youth programs.

- The growth of The American Legion Media Alliance, which has provided members vital resources and training to advance their efforts to promote Legion activities, priorities and programs at the post level.

Multiple other initiatives laid out in the division's 2021 strategic plan have advanced, and will continue to do so, as the year progresses, and as The American Legion and the entire nation travel the road to recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Commander, motion to receive and file the report of the Media & Communications Commission. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second to receive and file the report of the Media & Communications Commission. Any discussion? Any objections? Hearing none, seeing none, motion carries, unanimous consent. The chair recognizes Steven A. Brennan of Maryland, chairman of the National Security Commission, for the purpose of a report.

Oral Report: National Security Commission
Steven A. Brennan, Maryland, Chairman

Good afternoon, National Commander Oxford, Legion officers, past national commanders, National Executive Committee members and distinguished guests. I believe you received our advance report as well our report, so I'd like to highlight a few things from these reports.

I'd like to compliment The American Legion national leadership and the staff for making the virtual Washington Conference such a success despite the challenges of COVID-19. With your help, we were still able to do the important work of our National Security Commission.

As U.S. troops begin withdrawing from the Forever Wars, we need to recognize Afghanistan and Iraqi translators who stood shoulder to shoulder with U.S. troops and diplomats. In 2018 you unanimously passed Resolution Number 16 which called for the president of the United States and Congress to do everything in their power to keep the nation's promise to these individuals and ensure them the American dream.

Last week, the national commander called on the president of the United States and the state department to speed up the processing of visa applications for these heroic allies and their families. He said, "While we welcome an end to these wars, we must never abandon the brave Afghan and Iraqi allies who took great personal risk to assist our military with its mission. We must not leave them behind. They have earned safe passage to the United States of America."

One thing the pandemic brought us is our evolving ability to have virtual meetings. Consequently, our seven committee chairmen, our division staff, and myself met biweekly for months to review over 220 resolutions between the years 1941 and 2015. Our committee chairmen separately met with their committees to discuss these resolutions, and we recommended 98 resolutions be rescinded as accomplished, obsolete, or superseded. Our next goal is to review all the current resolutions from 2016 until current, which enables us to focus only on the current and pertinent resolutions.

We asked our 575 Legionnaires on our commission, and specifically the 350-plus members of our National Security Council, to talk with their departments and stress the importance of writing appropriate resolutions for national security. To help our Legionnaires understand more about national security and The American Legion, during the Washington Conference we hosted several expert speakers on national security. In the afternoon we provided a class discussing the purpose of the commission, our seven committees, and our council. We discussed our priorities and the importance of communicating to the departments all the way down to the posts.

The commission was honored to welcome Past National Commanders Dan Ludwig, Thomas Bock, Charles Schmidt, National Adjutant Dan Wheeler, and Executive Director

Chanin Nuntavong. We were pleased and appreciative of their attendance. Combined with our speakers, there are more details in our advance report.

The first speaker was Major General William Walker, who is the 23rd commanding general of the District of Columbia National Guard, where he discussed the posture of the National Guard within the District of Columbia

He was followed by Brigadier General Aaron Dean, who is the adjutant general of the Washington, D.C. National Guard, on the current status of the state partnership program which now includes 82 partnerships with 89 nations worldwide. General Dean highlighted some recent relationships with Burkina Faso in West Africa, and Jamaica in the Caribbean.

Also the commission was honored to have Mr. Kelly McKeague, director of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, and Mrs. Fern Sumpter Winbush, who is the principal deputy director, on the posture of the DPAA. Both thanked The American Legion for our outstanding support for this important cause, which is to recover, identify, and bring our servicemembers home to American soil. You can see in the advance report all of the outstanding report the DPAA is doing.

In cooperation with the Veterans Employment & Education Commission, we hosted a joint panel on "Securing the U.S. Industrial Base: Economic Security is a Matter of 21st Century National Security." The panel was comprised of leading experts in their respective fields. The panel was moderated by John Berry, who is the former United States ambassador to Australia. The panelists included Thomas Pickering, who is the former ambassador to the United Nations, Russia, Jordan, India, Israel, and was the undersecretary of state for political affairs; Dr. Joshua Walker is the president and CEO of Japan Society; Brad Markell is the executive director of AFL-CIO Industrial Union Council; and Richard Passarelli, who is the national director of veterans affairs from the Utility Workers of America. As seen in our report, the panel discussed how the United States can remain strong in the 21st Century while retaining leadership. They discussed the importance of energy, security, and cybersecurity.

Earlier this year, because we weren't able to provide these awards during last year's national convention, we flew all the winners to Washington, D.C. for the 2020 Spirit of Service Awards and the 2020 National Law Enforcement and National Firefighter of the Year. This was timed for these outstanding individuals to be there for the president's inauguration.

During the Washington Conference, our Law and Order & Homeland Security Committee met to select this year's National Law Enforcement and Firefighter of the Year, which will be presented at the national convention. Our written report announces the 2021 Regional Law Enforcement and Firefighter of the Year. The national winner will be announced at the convention. The division staff is currently working with our military services for this year's Spirit of Service Award nominations.

On April 15, our commission met virtually to vote on each resolution, some of which were forwarded to the NEC and others were listed on Addendum A. Finally, in our report we provide a national security update on the current threat environment.

Commander, the National Security Division, our seven committees, and our council will continue to build a strong national security program, and we are honored to continue serving our American Legion. The National Security Commission thanks you, all the past national commanders and the distinguished members of the National Executive Committee, for their continued support. We look forward for your continued support and involvement in advocating for robust national defense. Thank you.

Advance Report: National Security Commission
Steven A. Brennan, Maryland, Chairman

The National Security Commission (including its seven committees and council) virtually convened on March 1st during the 61st Annual Washington Conference. National Security Commission Chairman Steven Brennan of Maryland opened the meeting by acknowledging the difficulties of not convening in person this year. "This year is definitely

a challenge because of the restrictions COVID brought upon us," he said. "Despite this being virtual, please understand this is equally important. The speakers we bring to this conference are always important to our work and our national resolutions, which steer what our Washington office does with our government's legislative and executive branches. This year is no different." The program proceeded in the following sections:

Morning:

- Opening remarks and roll call virtually
- Major General William Walker, the 23rd Commanding General of the District of Columbia National Guard on the posture of the National Guard
- Brigadier General Aaron Dean, II The Adjutant General of the District of Columbia National Guard on the State Partnership Program
- Mr. Kelly McKeague, Director of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA), and Mrs. Fern Sumpter Winbush Principal Deputy Director of the DPAA, on their Agency's posture.

Afternoon:

- Steven Brennan (Maryland) led a discussion on the National Security Commission, the Commission's priorities for the next six months, and a class on the Commission's purpose, its seven committees, and the council.
- George Wehrli (Florida), Law and Order & Homeland Security Committee Chairman, hosted the Regional and National Law Enforcement Officer and Firefighter of the Year Awards selection committee.
- Joint Panelist Webinar discussion with National Security and Veteran Employment and Education Commission's Guest Speakers – Securing the Industrial Base: Economic Security is a Matter of 21st Century National Security

The Chairman, Steven Brennan (Maryland), thanked the more than 170 Legionnaires for attending the Washington Conference and discussed upcoming resolutions. He also discussed the Commission's goal of reviewing all "active" resolutions dating back to 1941 (and how he assigned each resolution to the appropriate committee). Separately on March 4th, Chairman Brennan presented the new resolutions to the commission for recommendations on the disposition. These resolutions include: Oppose Deportation of Non-Citizen Immigrant Veterans (RES 20) that would seek to help non-citizen immigrant veterans who honorably served in the military from being deported for reasons other than a felony, thereby honoring the pathway to citizenship; Oppose the Exclusion of Transgender Americans from the Military (RES 2770) that would seek to support lifting the ban on transgender Americans to serve in our armed forces; Support for First Responders and Law Enforcement Officers (RES 2796) to seek further support for our First Responders and Law Enforcement Officers pertaining to internal threats; Review Support to the Republic of China - Taiwan (RES 2797) to promote peaceful dialogue on both sides of the Taiwan Strait; Update The American Legion Spirit of Service Award (RES 23) to include the Space Force as the sixth branch of the United States Armed Forces.

Our morning speakers were:

I. Major General (MG) William Walker, the 23rd Commanding General of the District of Columbia National Guard on the posture of the National Guard

MG Walker, a Paid Up For Life Legionnaire, serves as the 23rd Commanding General of the District of Columbia National Guard, a Presidential Appointment. He is responsible for strategic leadership, training, readiness, operational employment, and performance of the District of Columbia National Guard's army and Air Force components. MG Walker reports to the Army's Secretary and is charged with ensuring units are manned, trained, equipped, and ready for war and any national emergency. Noted was how particularly proud MG Walker was to serve at our Nation's helm for the last 18 months, where the

Nation experienced some of the most challenging times in his 40 years of being a member of the National Guard.

Major General William J. Walker updated attendees about the National Guard's work during these unprecedented times.

"We've had some of the most challenging times in my almost 40 years of being in the National Guard," Walker told the Legionnaires. "But I'm especially proud to have had approximately 26,700 Guardsmen come to the Nation's capital that helped ensure the peaceful transition of Presidential power on Jan. 20. I could not be prouder of the men and women of the National Guard of the District of Columbia."

The Nation endured many challenges during the summer, and more recently, here in the nation's capital, as the District of Columbia experienced much civil unrest. MG Walker expressed the National Guard's posture, the Joint Reception, Staging, Onward Movement, Integration (JRSOI), and the legal rules for using force. Logistically guardsmen arrived in the nation's capital from all three airports, by bus, train, and automobile. MG Walker expressed how proud he was of the magnificent job implemented and accomplished by all guardsmen.

Around 5,200 Guardsmen remain on duty in the Capitol to provide security and ensure Congress remains safe. Task Force Capitol Response includes the Capitol complex, House, Senate, Supreme Court, and the Library of Congress.

"We're a community-based organization," Walker said. "We have a dual mission to fight and win America's wars along with our active-duty counterparts, and also to be that first military response to homeland security and disasters."

He added their next mission to supporting Operation Warp Speed — President Biden's initiative to get Americans vaccinated against the novel coronavirus.

II. Brigadier General Aaron Dean II, the Adjutant General of the District of Columbia National Guard; States Partnership Program (SPP).

BG Dean opened by thanking National Guard members for their response to the Jan. 6 attack. "It was just a tremendous effort and tremendous Americans coming together to protect the Capitol." He led a discussion on the importance of the SPP and what the program is.

The SPP connects a state's National Guard component with an equivalent partner in a different country. These arrangements have built mutually beneficial relationships around the globe and now include 89 allied nations.

"What we do, is we team up with other countries to provide lasting and enduring relationships that further strategic objectives of the United States," he said during his presentation. "The DoD supports and executes the security cooperation programs, that's a state partnership program on a geographical combatant command." The program began after the fall of the Soviet Union to assist Eastern European countries and currently has a growth rate of about two countries per year.

"The vision at the time was to create as pertain to strategic alignment using a small footprint and non-intimidating engagements to build relationships, to facilitate access to infrastructure, information, and leadership." Countries must apply to become state partners. "These are countries that want to be partners with the United States and establish enduring relationships for everything to include training opportunities, educational opportunities, and other operational capabilities and capacities that the United States has that they want to learn about," BG Dean said.

One of the most significant regions for partnership growth has been in Africa. D.C. National Guard has an SPP with Burkina Faso. This SPP supports the United States Africa Command's (AFRICOM) mission in the region in terms of peacekeeping and defense institution building. The Office of the Secretary of Defense initially approved the partnership in 2017, and it was signed into agreement in Burkina Faso in February 2019. In Fiscal Year 2019, D.C. National Guard completed five engagements with the country. Their focus areas included medical and logistics sustainment, military intelligence, the rule of law, and family support.

"We talked about our institution building, readiness and peacekeeping," said BG Dean. "What we wanted to do was allow them to support themselves as they combatted terrorism along their northern and western border. So we wanted to enhance their capability to do that.

"But what we found with Burkina Faso is that they were hesitant to engage outside of cities because they didn't have the medical infrastructure actually to treat patients in that golden hour," he continued, "So what we did was we expanded their medical knowledge and capability on certain methods that they could use to expand that golden hour, to give them confidence, to go outside their city, to discourage terrorists and other groups that are anti-government from going into the cities on the outskirts of their major cities and disrupting government operations."

The SPP is more than just an exchange of military knowledge and capabilities. It's also an exchange of culture. "As we blend to understand each other's cultures, it gives better insight into future engagements and understanding their capabilities and how they use their capabilities as they try to engage and support that then the national government."

One of the most significant values of the SPP is making a call and learning what's going on in a particular country. "You build these enduring relationships," Dean said. "So when there's something that we need to do together, we're not exchanging business cards. And when something happens, we know each other, we make phone calls, we assist each other, and we can move along with enhancing each other's capabilities."

III. Kelly McKeague Director of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA);

An unwavering commitment to bring home missing servicemembers

The efforts to bring home men and women missing in action are a sacred obligation, according to Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) Director Kelly McKeague. "This mission serves as a marker for those currently in uniform today that their nation will never forget them should they go missing," McKeague told the National Security Commission at The American Legion's annual Washington Conference on March 1. He updated Legionnaires on his agency's progress and the impact the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has had on their efforts.

Nearly 82,000 U.S. servicemembers are still considered to be missing in action, according to the DPAA, whose mission is to provide the fullest possible accounting for the missing U.S. servicemembers. They are searching for missing personnel from World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Cold War, the Gulf Wars, and other recent conflicts. Their efforts include coordination with hundreds of countries and municipalities around the world.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has greatly impacted DPAA across all areas from the outset," he said.

"We brought multiple teams home who were deployed, we maximized our telework in our eight locations, and we've adjusted our work schedules to optimize access to our laboratory."

The agency's efforts to protect their employees paid off — out of 725 personnel, only 23 have tested positive for COVID-19, and all have recovered.

"Despite having had to cancel or postpone numerous missions last year, it was important for us to build an ambitious operations plan for this fiscal year," McKeague said. "Not knowing where COVID would take us, most of these missions were either postponed or canceled from October to today."

Many of the cancellations occurred due to partner nations restricting entry. "For us, it's important that we are ready to resume operations whenever and wherever COVID restrictions allow," he added.

Despite these obstacles, efforts to recover and repatriate the remains of U.S. servicemembers have pressed on. In Vietnam, three U.S.-trained recovery teams agreed to conduct three consecutive missions when DPAA staff members were not permitted to travel.

"With over six months of canceled Vietnam missions, there were nine recoveries, nine excavations that were accomplished by these Vietnamese teams," McKeague said,

expressing his gratitude for the Vietnamese government. Another team has been able to travel to Cambodia, and after completing a 14-day quarantine, they began operations two weeks ago. Additionally, six teams deployed last week to Vietnam, and after quarantining and testing for COVID, they will begin their operations.

"We're very encouraged again by countries starting to open up their borders to us and allow us entry with which to conduct this important mission," said McKeague.

Efforts to recover 15 servicemembers whose deaths span four different wars have been progressing with China. A virtual conference held in January with the Chinese Army archival department showed promise. "Despite the challenges that we do have with China, we can discuss these 15 cases from a strategic perspective," he said. "We also talked about the potential for a joint investigation with our Chinese counterparts."

Most notably is the completion of DPAA's most successful disinterment project. In 2015, the mission began to disinter and identify the 388 unknowns from the USS Oklahoma, which sank on Dec. 7, 1941, during the attack on Pearl Harbor. "I'm pleased to report that as of today, we have identified and returned to their families, 313 of these sailors and Marines. For these families — not knowing for over 70 years where their loved one was — these 313 families now have answers."

The American Legion has long advocated for the return of remains from the Korean Peninsula. It is dedicated to a full accounting of the U.S. military classified as missing in action or prisoners of war. About 5,300 of the 7,600 of those missing from the Korean War are believed to be in North Korean territory. Unfortunately, following the most significant single turnover of remains in 2018 and the first since 2007, North Korea's communication has ceased. Of the 55 cases of remains repatriated in 2018, 70 sets of remains of U.S. servicemembers have been identified, and the U.S. returned the remains of 80 additional people to our South Korean partners.

"Please let me say thank you to the Legion for your steadfast support to our MIAs," said McKeague. "You continue to have the impact, and your engagements with members of Congress and advocating the POW/MIA mission to Congress has made a difference."
The American Legion's advocacy has paid off, he said. This year, Congress award DPAA an additional $25 million in funding, which McKeague said goes toward increasing operations, both in the field and in the laboratory.

"You all know that when America sent its sons and daughters off to combat, we have that moral imperative, that sacred obligation to do everything we can to bring them home, to ensure they do come home."

IV. Mrs. Fern Sumpter Winbush of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) welcoming remarks

The American Legion is one of the largest and oldest Veterans' service organizations in the country and has been an essential advocate for the past conflict accounting mission. Your consistent messages of support resonate across our government, and for that, we are incredibly grateful. I sincerely appreciate the American Legion for ensuring this humanitarian effort, so essential to us and most importantly, to the families of our fallen, remains a priority for our Nation, even as we come together in this virtual environment.
Covid-19 presented challenges for how DPAA operates, communicates, and conducts its mission. However, as many of you know, it did not completely shut us down, as you heard described by our Director today; even as we recalled our teams, preparations continued for eventual re-entry into a planned field and disinterment locations. As restrictions lessened or as exceptions to the policy were granted, we were ready.
Thanks, American Legion, for your longstanding and unwavering support, and I look forward to us reuniting in person shortly! Thank you.

V. Joint Panelist Webinar Discussion with National Security and Veteran Employment and Education Division Guest Speakers – Securing the Industrial Base: Economic Security is a Matter of 21st Century National Security

Moderator: John Berry, President, The American & Australia Association; Former U.S. Ambassador to Australia

Panel Speakers:

- **Brad Markell**, Executive Director, AFL-CIO Industrial Union Council, AFL-CIO Working for America Institute
- **Thomas Pickering**, Vice Chairman, Hills, and Company. Former Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs, former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, Russia, India, Israel, and Jordan.
- **Joshua Walker, Ph.D.**, President & CEO, Japan Society
- **Richard Passarelli,** Utility Workers Union of America (UWUA), National Director of Veterans Affairs

Moderator John Berry started the discussion by asking panelists for their thoughts on strengthening national security. Concerning this, he mentioned two executive orders that President Biden signed on buying American products and securing America's supply chain; both executive orders call for a 100-day study and a one-year review for all agencies to build the resilience of U.S. supply chains that will protect the United States from facing shortages of critical products.

Thomas Pickering opened as the first panelist to address Berry's question. "R&D (research and development) is at the heart of our technological development," Pickering said. "And our technological development is the heart of providing us with the goods and services that are very, very important in our strategic economy. How do we support the warfighter, how do we support our national security objectives, whether in space, in the air, on the land, or the sea? These are all valuable and significant imports. We need to stay on top of the development of that part of our economy. It is in that sense precious and imperative that we have in effect a government-private sector partnership that works there, in many cases informally, but in most cases complementary. Our competition in this area is excellent, and it is increasing. "And both China and the European Union are also major spenders on the question of research and development. We need to be acutely conscious of that competition. And acutely concerned in my humble view about the necessity to remain on top and stay there in terms of those essential technologies."

Brad Markell added that "the United States in many areas still has the best R&D in the world. And our competitive advantage concerning our defense posture, concerning our industrial competitiveness, can key off that R&D – batteries for grid security and electric vehicles. We have the best research; we can make sure that we create jobs here through the right policies. We can't make everything here, but I think we need to tighten up quite a bit how we're thinking about the make-buy decisions, where we want to work with our allies, how do we make sure that we have the technology." It's working with our allies, and the private sector that Dr. Joshua Walker believes is needed to succeed in securing our economic security.

"When I look at Asia, it's clear that the U.S. and China are on a collision course," Walker said. "And here's the bottom line, we can't win this competition with just government … it's going to take the private sector. When I think about the largest area of competition, it's not necessarily in the military domain. It's going to be internet hacking; it's going to be used in a way that our tech companies are going to have to step up.

"As we build back stronger and as we think about our economic security, how are we preparing for the next pandemic. This pandemic has made it brutally clear that we can't do this with just one person … I believe that we need to bring in our Japanese, our other counterparts across Europe and Asia if we are going to be able to succeed in securing our economic security."

Walker provided a positive example of working with our allies.

The Japan Society "is an American organization that tries to focus on how countries like the U.S. and Japan that had such a troubled past can now be allies," Walker said. His grandfathers from both sides of his family fought in World War II, and now "a story that we cannot forget is how in 75 years my grandfathers could go from mortal enemies of the Japanese to my parents who serve as Southern Baptist missionaries there, to their grandson and son being the president of the Japan Society."

The national security issue behind organized labor is a statistic that Richard Passarelli shared during the discussion. He said that around 50 percent of the membership in organized labor across the country will be eligible for retirement between seven and ten years from now. Passarelli said they are working on programs, "to capture that intrinsic value (that will be lost from those retiring) to be able to pass this on so we can focus on infrastructure, the grid, the cybersecurity teams that we have."

To help fill the gap that will be faced in organized labor, Passarelli said licensing and credentialing is vital to UWUA, "getting credit for veterans who are serving in a capacity to date in the military, and transitioning those skillsets directly into what our employer needs are. Another big part is trying to find what those gaps are within the industry so we can work on filling those gaps and work with our partners at the Department of Defense to hone those skills when folks are transitioning out to get veterans employed in these companies."

Strength in the 21st Century

Another question posed by Berry was how the United States remains strong while retaining leadership in the 21st century. Passarelli said it would be through investing in research and development. He provided the example that California is moving toward no fossil fuel within the next couple of years. "Those jobs that we believe will be lost due to fossil fuels going away…we believe that research and development in the American people is one of the keys for us trying to change what would be doom and gloom of losing jobs, especially in the organized labor side of the house for renewable energies, into positives by pouring a lot of money, time and effort into research and development on hydro, solar, wind energy projects," he said.

Walker said the question is, "how do we turn technology into an asset for us. How do we address the issues that matter to the American people? How do we make sure we have good jobs? How do we make sure those jobs continue to occur in America if those jobs are being transformed by technology to equip our workforce? We have to make sure that everybody is trained to be able to compete in a world in which a lot of other countries have gotten ahead start on us."

Energy Security and Cyber Security

The ability to remain strong ties in with maintaining our energy security and possible cyber-attacks on our grid or health-care system is vital.

Markell took on the energy security topic. "The energy independence that we have achieved over the past 12 years is itself due to an R&D and tech investment made by the government," he said. "We need to figure out how to use that fossil resource that we have that is less polluting, in a way that leads to hydrogen, leads to carbon capture. And in the end, energy is a big strategic deal. We have to secure our energy supply and our energy future as we reduce our emissions. Because if we don't reduce our emissions, then we all have serious problems … the military has done an outstanding job with laying out what the potential threat is from climate change in terms of our security posture."

For cyber-security, Passarelli said it's working with utility employers and encouraging them to utilize military veterans. "We believe we have the brightest military folks that are transitioning out to date that will make a major impact on grid security."

Passarelli said "UWUA is also working with veteran-owned businesses focused on cybersecurity. But a problem that we are running into is that while supply chains for utility companies across the country are prevalent, our veterans that are trying to get into those supply chains to bid for some of that work have a lot of obstacles in front of them." UWUA is working on this obstacle by creating education components for veteran and service-disabled veteran-owned businesses to access the supply chain in bidding for some of those contracts.

Security of the United States

Berry concluded the panel discussion with the panelists' thoughts on the best base for the United States' security. "A strong economy, a strong technical advantage, and understanding our position of leadership in the world," Markell said. "We are going to have to pay a lot of attention to really understanding where the competition is, where the technology is, and how we're investing – investment in R&D, economic strength is the key to the whole thing."

Walker added that, "We are an immigrant nation that embraces that greatness, not just on behalf of ourselves but for that next generation to come. I think that we have to make ourselves stronger together while remaining true to our core. I believe you can't do that without having a strong economy, and you can't do that without leading in innovation…we need to invest in ourselves. We need to look and find that inner strength."

Closing Remarks: both Commission Chairmen thanked the distinguished panel for their pertinent and interesting discussions and reminded Commission members to push this information down to their Departments.

- **Daniel Seehafer**, Chairman, National Veterans Employment & Education Commission
- **Steven Brennan**, Chairman, National Security Commission

Report: National Security Commission
Steven A. Brennan, Maryland, Chairman

The National Security (NS) Commission (along with our seven committees and council) met at the "Virtual" 61st Annual Washington Conference on Monday March 1, and Thursday, March 4, 2021; details of the conference are provided in the Advanced Report.

The NS Commission itself met virtually via Zoom on Thursday 15 April, 2021 to discuss the proposed resolutions for presentation to the National Executive Committee (NEC) Spring Meeting. This Commission meeting was also the highlight to a six month study our seven committees conducted - by reviewing 220 resolutions between the years 1941 and 2015 and recommending to the Commission which resolutions should be marked as accomplished, obsolete or superseded.

Resolutions: Eight resolutions were reviewed (to include the commission resolution to rescind 98 prior resolutions). Four resolutions were submitted to the Resolutions Subcommittee of the NEC for consideration; The American Legion Spirit of Service Award; Oppose Deportation of Non-Citizen Immigrant Veterans; Oppose Deportation Of Immediate Family Members Of Non-Citizen Immigrant Veterans; Rescinding Obsolete Resolutions Dealing with National Security. The remaining four resolutions were placed on Addendum A.

Law Enforcement Officer of the Year and Firefighter of the Year & Spirit of Service Award Program:

On Jan 20, 2021, because we weren't able to provide these awards during last year's National Convention, we flew all the 2020 winners to Washington D.C of the: Spirit of Service Awards as well as the National Law Enforcement Officer of the Year and Firefighter of the Year. This was timed for these outstanding individuals to be here for the President's Inauguration. During the virtual Washington Conference our Law and Order & Homeland Security Committee Chairman George W. Wehrli, Florida, appointed an awards selection subcommittee for the 2021 Law Enforcement Officer of the Year and Firefighter of the Year Awards program. The subcommittee selected the five Regional Law Enforcement Officer of the Year winners and the five Regional Firefighter of the Year winners.

The 2021 American Legion Regional Law Enforcement Officer Winners are:

- New England — Lucas White NH
- Southern — Charles Conyers SC
- Central — David Hines VA
- Western — Larry Morgan CO
- Midwest — Daniel Martin NE

The 2021 American Legion Regional Fire Fighter Winners of 2021 are:

- New England — Robert Nagle PA
- Southern — Thomas Malone TN
- Central — Michael Steele MD
- Western — No entry
- Midwest — Peter Boizer SD

The 2021 National Law Enforcement Officer and the National Firefighter of the year were selected from the regional winners and will be announced at the National Convention.

Our National Security Division Staff is currently working with our Armed Forces for nominations for the 2021 Spirit of Service Awards, which will be presented at the National Convention.

CURRENT THREAT ENVIRONMENT

China

China will press Taiwan to reunify with the mainland as part of Beijing's across-the-board effort to secure its status as a global power, an annual intelligence report on threats facing the U.S. says.

Beijing also is seeking at least to double its nuclear weapons stockpile during the next decade and will continue pursuing overseas military bases, the report says.

China's Communist Party, the report says, "will continue its whole-of-government efforts to spread China's influence, undercut that of the United States, drive wedges between Washington and its allies and partners, and foster new international norms that favor the authoritarian Chinese system."

The unclassified report by the Office of the Director of National Intelligence portrays China as the No. 1 national threat facing the U.S., finding that Beijing is a "near-peer competitor" to the U.S. that threatens its leadership in an array of emerging technologies and has leveraged successes curtailing the coronavirus to promote its style of governance to the world.

Russia

Russia continues to modernize and invest across the full range of military capability, including new aircraft, submarines, armor, counter-space, and air defense systems, while also modernizing conventional and nuclear strike capabilities. These investments and activities are specifically designed to limit our power projection capability and undermine the credibility of U.S. alliances, especially NATO.

Recent tensions between Russia and Ukraine have escalated. Few Western analysts believe the Kremlin is planning an invasion of eastern Ukraine, given the likely backlash at home and abroad. But with a large-scale Russian troop buildup on land and sea on Ukraine's doorstep, the view is spreading among officials and vast swathes of the Ukrainian public that Moscow is signaling more bluntly than ever before that it is prepared to enter the conflict openly. Moreover, they speculate over other possibilities, including Russia's possible recognition or annexation of the separatist-held territories in eastern Ukraine. The U.S. and NATO have responded by increasing the number of troops deployed to installations through Poland and held frequent joint exercises with rotating forces. The U.S. already has roughly 4,000 troops in Poland. In addition to an armored brigade on rotation, foot soldiers guard Poland's border with the Russian enclave of Kaliningrad, and a U.S. Air Force detachment operates in Lask.

Afghanistan

President Biden announced the withdrawal of all American troops from Afghanistan over the coming months, U.S. officials said, completing the military exit by the 20th anniversary of Sept. 11, 2001, attacks that drew the United States into its longest war and officially ending the, "Forever War." However, keeping thousands of U.S. forces in the country beyond the May 1 exit deadline that the Trump administration negotiated last year has prompted the Taliban to renew attacks on U.S. and NATO personnel if foreign troops are not out by the deadline. This move has immediate concerns amongst lawmakers, who feel a small residual force should remain in place as a determent to prevent the resurgent of ISIS or Al-Qaeda forces—taking a page from Iraq after all U.S. Forces withdrew in 2014.

North Korea

North Korea sees its nuclear program as essential to regime survival, serving to deter a U.S.-led invasion. Decades of denuclearization talks, economic sanctions, and diplomacy have done little to slow Pyongyang's advance to becoming a self-declared nuclear state.

One of the world's most impoverished and most isolated countries, North Korea has managed to stay high on Washington's list of foreign-policy priorities for years. It spends more on its military, as a ratio of the gross domestic product than any other of the 170 countries tracked by the U.S. State Department. The U.S. Army in July said North Korea may now have 20 to 60 nuclear bombs and the ability to manufacture six new bombs each year. In October, then-U.S. Defense Secretary Mark Esper said North Korea's nuclear and ballistic missile programs remain, "a serious threat to the security and stability of the region and the world."

Pyongyang has yet to show it can reliably strike the U.S. with a nuclear weapon. That requires developing a warhead that can survive the enormous pressure and heat of re-entering the atmosphere. And in its tests, the North has launched ICBMs at a steep angle—in part to keep them from splashing down in U.S. territorial waters—which leaves doubts about whether the technology could traverse an actual flight, with its flatter trajectory.

Iran

Iran also continues to project malign influence and threaten freedom of navigation in the Middle East. They are also modernizing their space, cyber, missile, and conventional maritime capabilities, which pose a direct threat to our Allies and our interests in the region. More recently, Iran has started enriching its uranium supply to 60 percent purity — the closest the country has ever come to the level needed for a weapon. President Hassan Rouhani of Iran has gone further, boasting that his scientists could easily enrich uranium to 90 percent purity weapons-grade fuel.

The American Legion's Position: The National Security Commission has Resolution No. 175: Oppose Iran Nuclear Deal. We urge Congress not to lift any sanctions in connection with the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. The United States must be prepared to exercise all options, including military action, in the interest of preventing Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon.

READINESS

The Department of Defense (DOD) faces a strategic choice: whether to focus on modernization for high-tech conflicts with China and Russia or expand forces and improve readiness to meet a superpower's commitments for ongoing conflicts and crisis response. In their FY 2021 budgets, the services all complain that they are too small for the demands being put on them and hedge toward expanding forces and readiness.

While 2020 brought its own set of challenges with COVID-19, the Department of Defense (DoD) played a central role in developing vaccines through Operation Warp Speed. DoD augmented civilian hospitals, mobilizing National Guard personnel to provide

logistical support and providing rapid contracting capabilities to tap into the civilian economy.

While the effects of sequestration have subsided, many branches look to bolster technology and upgrade weapon systems to make a more combat-effective fighting force capable of facing global challenges that can arise.

The Marine Corps is shifting away from large land operations in Iraq and Afghanistan to a more agile force in the sea. This has been seen in UDPs (Unite Deployment Programs), and MEUs (Marine Expeditionary Unit) increases in operation tempos throughout the Indo Pacific and Europe.

The new administration emphasized readiness in its FY 2021 and FY 2022 budgets. Nevertheless, readiness data are conflicting. Like Army rotations to Combat Training Centers, service flying hours, and Navy ship steaming days, some metrics have recovered from post-2013 lows, but others, like Navy and Marine Corps aircraft availability, remain depressed.

High readiness is desirable in forces and equipment; however, readiness is also very expensive and highly perishable --- it must be renewed constantly. In the new DOD strategy developed for 2021 and beyond, the services hope to pursue all three goals—expand forces, improve readiness, and increase modernization, but the fiscal future is highly uncertain. They will likely have to make difficult trade-offs.

Military recruiting was hit particularly hard since the COVID-19 pandemic. Recruiters relied on face-to-face interactions with potential recruits for years. Recruiters have also relied on heavily trafficked locations such as malls, schools, and sporting events that have all been shut down for the better part of 2020. In response, recruiters have pivoted to more modern, digital approaches that were typically viewed as secondary to face-to-face efforts (phone, social media, and outreach).

Reports indicate that Army enlistments fell to about half of their typical levels during the early stages of the pandemic, though they have moved back up to about 80% of mission targets in June. Still, the armed services have expressed optimism in their ability to meet year-end recruiting goals.

The Marine Corps noted that it was ahead of schedule on contracts before the pandemic and adjusted sufficiently to the new environment to be on track to achieve its annual recruiting mission. The Navy has tapped into a reserve of prior recruits waiting in the Delayed Entry Program to keep up with shipping requirements and expects to meet its year-end goals.

MILITARY AND VETERAN QUALITY OF LIFE

Military Family Housing

Several hearings took place earlier this year to discuss the state of housing for military families. A survey from the Military Family Advisory Network was released just before the first hearing that reported more than half of military families surveyed about their privatized housing reporting a negative experience with problems ranging from mold, vermin, and lead paint.

The staff has participated in several meetings and conference calls with senior defense officials to receive updates on how DoD addresses this issue. At this point, rush works orders have been fulfilled on life emergency repairs. Commanders have been mandated to get involved and have held town halls at all installations to address issues. Customer service has been addressed where families should have a more accurate date when their maintenance repairs are made. We will continue to track this issue closely as our service members and their families deserve to live in safe and affordable housing.

Defense Health

The staff has attended bi-monthly meetings with senior defense officials from the Defense Health Agency to discuss Tricare changes that have been implemented since 2020, ushering in fee changes for almost all beneficiaries, a new plan name, a new regional map, and new regional contractors. The plan would have also closed about 50 MTFs and moved

approximately 200,000 patients from getting care based on using their TRICARE insurance to get assistance from private providers.

Impacts for All Users

After a tumultuous year of pauses and reconsiderations, military hospitals and clinics are still on track to move under the management of the Defense Health Agency (DHA) by the end of the year. How that will affect patients of those facilities may change from the original plan, though, after the military's centralized medical administrator was forced to rethink what role private healthcare providers can play in the plan after COVID-19

"We are absolutely on track to meet our timelines, and that's our expectation with us," Dr. Brian Lein, DHA assistant director for healthcare administration, told Federal News Network. The transition includes 721 MTFs and 174,000 healthcare personnel, including active-duty service members, civilian employees, and contractors, which provide care to 9.5 million TRICARE beneficiaries. The facilities are clustered into 21 large markets that encompass about two-thirds of patient interactions. The rest are in 16 small market regions or stand-alone hospitals and clinics (think rural areas with a sizeable military presence).

Congress initiated the transition in the 2017 defense authorization bill to better integrate healthcare instead of continuing the decentralized system of each military service overseeing its MTFs."What we found in our review is that many of these facilities do not have the type of patient caseload, volume, acuity that we need for our providers to be proficient in what they do downrange," Thomas McCaffery said in early 2020 when he was the assistant secretary of Defense for Health Affairs. "And so by limiting the scope of services, that will allow us to take some of those providers and place them at other MTFs that do have that direct match for their readiness requirements."

TRICARE Prescription Drug Categories

- Generic formulary drugs: These drugs are widely available. You have the lowest out-of-pocket costs for these drugs.
- Brand-name formulary drugs: These drugs are generally available to you. Plus, they offer you the second-lowest copayment.
- Non-formulary drugs These drugs may have limited availability. You have higher copayments for these drugs. Also, there's generally an alternative formulary drug that you can get. It's often more cost-effective and equally or more clinically practical.
- If you choose to purchase a non-covered drug, you'll pay 100% of the drug's cost. These drugs are either not clinically effective or as cost-effective as other drugs offered. They may also pose a significant safety risk that may outweigh any potential clinical benefit.

Military Treatment Facility Pharmacy Copayment Changes

- Beneficiaries can still fill their prescriptions for $0 copay at MTF pharmacies.

The American Legion's Position: The National Security Commission has Resolution No. 102: Oppose Tricare Fee Increases which states that the American Legion is strongly opposed to hikes in premiums and enrollment fees paid by enrollees in TRICARE. The American Legion urges Congress to decisively reject these unjust proposed increases in the military retirees' TRICARE enrollment fee, deductibles, or premiums.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

One of the essential parts of the work of the National Security Division is the preparation and presentation of congressional testimony and letters of support on issues of national security and the quality of life of service members. Since January 2021, the National Security Division has submitted one (1) letter of support.

On April 7th, staff submitted a letter of support to Representative Barbara Lee (CA) to express support for H.R.256. This bill would repeal the Authorization for the Use of

Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 2002. Our servicemembers have accomplished their original objectives in Iraq, a dangerous regime was removed, and the Authorization for the war should end. This is supported by Resolution No. 22: Addressing the 'Forever War'.

NATIONAL SECURITY LEGISLATIVE BILL TRACKER

Bill #	Topic
S 70	**A bill to amend title 32, United States Code, to authorize cybersecurity operations and missions to protect critical infrastructure by members of the National Guard connected with training or other duty.**
HR 475	**A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, improve dependent coverage under the TRICARE Young Adult Program, and for other purposes.**
HR 464	**A bill to realign the Federal Government's nuclear forensics and attribution activities from the Department of Homeland Security to the National Nuclear Security Administration.**
S21	**A bill to extend the period of the temporary authority to extend contracts and leases under the ARMS Initiative.**
HR 624	**A bill to prohibit the use of Federal funds to close or realign the Marine Corps Recruit Depot located at Parris Island, South Carolina.**
S 130	**A bill to extend to the Mayor of the District of Columbia the same authority over the National Guard of the District of Columbia as the Governors of the several States exercise over the National Guard of those States concerning the administration of the National Guard and its use to respond to natural disasters and other civil disturbances, and for other purposes.**
HR 1183	**A bill to establish a military family immigration advisory committee, and for other purposes.**
HR 1182	**A bill to provide benefits for non-citizen members of the Armed Forces and other purposes.**
HR 1088	**A bill to direct the Secretary of Defense to implement specific recommendations regarding screening individuals who seek to enlist in the Armed Forces.**
HR 1938	**A bill to amend title 37, United States Code, to ensure that a member of a reserve component of a uniformed service, who performs active service for more than 30 consecutive days under multiple calls or orders to active service that specify periods of 30 days or less, is paid the same basic allowance for housing as a similarly situated member of a reserve component called or ordered to active service for a period of more than 30 days.**
S 781	**A bill to provide for the continuation of paid parental leave for members of the Armed Services in the event of the death of the child.**
H.R.256	**To repeal the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 2002**
HR 350	**A bill to authorize dedicated domestic terrorism offices within the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Justice, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation to analyze and monitor domestic terrorist activity and require the Federal Government to take steps to prevent domestic terrorism.**
HR 117	**A bill to authorize dedicated domestic terrorism offices within the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Justice, and**

	the Federal Bureau of Investigation to analyze and monitor domestic terrorist activity and require the Federal Government to take steps to prevent domestic terrorism.
HR 598	**Georgia Support Act, to support Georgia's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity, and for other purposes.**

Conclusion:

Our next priority for the NS Commission and our seven Committees is to review all resolutions from 2016 until 2021 and mark the resolutions that are accomplished, obsolete or superseded (as we did for 1941 until 2015). We then plan to work harder on accomplishing what the current and pertinent resolutions state. We also plan to work closer with our 350 "National Security Council" members by briefing them more often on what the commission and our committees are doing – hoping this will get the council members to keep their Departments better informed on National Security issues. Finally – I would like to thank our National Commander, our National Officers, Past National Commanders, the National Executive Committee and the staff at both the Washington and Indianapolis offices for their outstanding support and cooperation.

ADDENDUM A

Hold for Further Study

Register Resolution No. 2796 (CT) (2020 DEC): **Support for First Responders And Law Enforcement Agencies**

Register Resolution No. 2805 (IA) (2020 DEC): **Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention and Awareness**

Received and Recorded

Register Resolution No. 2770 (CA) (2020 Dept. Conv.): **Oppose the Exclusion of Transgender Americans from the Military**

Register Resolution No. 2797 (AK) (2020 DEC): **Support for Taiwan Strait Dialogue**

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Commander, motion to receive and file the report of the National Security Commission with the exception of three resolutions and one addendum. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second to receive and file the report of the National Security Commission with the exception of three resolutions and one addendum. Any discussion? Any objections? Hearing none, seeing none, motion carries, unanimous consent.

Resolution No. 19: Oppose Deportation of Non-Citizen Immigrant Veterans
Origin: Resolution No. 20 (TX) 2019 National Convention
Submitted by: National Security Commission

WHEREAS, The American Legion whole-heartedly supports the recruitment of our all-volunteer force and supports the recruitment of qualified men and women that have legal status in our country; and

WHEREAS, Non-citizen immigrants in the United States that have legal status living in the United States are eligible for military recruitment if they meet the necessary qualifications; and

WHEREAS, Numerous non-citizen immigrants from many different countries of origin have served proudly in the United States military and received many military honors in our wars to include the Medal of Honor, and some have paid the ultimate sacrifice giving their lives in service of our country; and

WHEREAS, Numerous non-citizen immigrants have either separated or retired and received honorable discharges to become United States citizens, while others have not yet completed their citizenship process; and

WHEREAS, Some of these military veteran immigrant patriots, after their honorable service, who have not completed the citizenship process, but have committed a non-felony, are under the threat of deportation, or have been deported; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion proudly supports all our military veterans who have served honorably under the motto that leaves no fellow veteran behind; now, therefore, be it,

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled virtually on May 5-6, 2021, That The American Legion supports proposed legislation allowing a military veteran immigrant patriot who either separated or retired and was honorably discharged not be deported for any non-felony, or if they were deported for a non-felony, that they are allowed to return to the United States; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That non-citizen immigrant veterans should be permitted to complete the process, as if they were still in the military toward lawful permanent residence and citizenship.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN BOLAND: Resolution Number 19 has the approval of the National Security Commission and your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second to adopt Resolution Number 19. Any discussion? Any objections? Hearing none, seeing none, motion carries, unanimous consent, Resolution one-nine.

Resolution No. 20: Oppose Deportation Of Immediate Family Members Of Non-Citizen Immigrant Veterans
Origin: National Security Commission
Submitted by: National Security Commission

WHEREAS, The American Legion whole-heartedly supports the recruitment of our all-volunteer force and supports the recruitment of qualified men and women that have legal status in our country; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion supports the immediate family members of non-citizen immigrant veterans and servicemembers that have permanent legal status living in the United States that meet the necessary qualifications; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion proudly supports military families and all of our military veterans that have served honorably under the motto that leaves no fellow veteran behind; now, therefore, be it,

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled virtually on May 5-6, 2021, That The American Legion supports legislation opposing the deportation of immediate family members of non-citizen immigrant veterans who served honorably, provided those family members have not committed a felony; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That family members of non-citizen immigrant veterans and servicemembers should be allowed the opportunity to apply for Parole in Place and Deferred Action while in removal proceedings; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the pathway to lawful permanent residence and citizenship for family members of non-citizen immigrant veterans and servicemembers should be strengthened.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN BOLAND: Resolution Number 20 has the approval of the National Security Commission and your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second to adopt Resolution 20. Any discussion? Any objections? Hearing none, seeing none, motion carries, unanimous consent, Resolution two-zero.

Resolution No. 21: 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 actions of the National Executive Committee"; and

WHEREAS, The National Security Commission 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 virtually on May 5-6, 2021, That the following national security resolutions are hereby rescinded by reason of being obsolete; the accomplishment of purpose; being superseded by later resolutions; conflicting with later resolutions; being duplicated by later resolutions; having no value because of later changes in the program; and for other reasons.

No.	Year	Meeting	Title	Action
8	1941	Special	Term For Holding Commissions	Accomplished
16	1941	Special	Commendation Of National Defense Agencies	Accomplished
65	1942	Spring	American Legion And Civilian Defense Authorized Uniforms And Insignia	Obsolete
71	1942	Spring	Merchant Marine	Obsolete
35	1943	Spring	Undiminished War Effort	Accomplished
37	1943	Spring	4-F Draft Classification	Obsolete
38	1943	Spring	Wearing The Arm Bands	Superseded
45	1943	Spring	Protection Of Liberty Bell	Obsolete
4	1945	Spring	Films Of German Horror Camps Be Shown In America	Accomplished
9	1945	Spring	Postwar Search Of Pacific Islands For Missing	Accomplished
82	1947	Fall	Acceptance Of Offers Of Assistance Which Contribute To National Defense Program Of The American Legion	Accomplished
838	1947	Convention	Postpone Action On Civil Aeronautics Board Ruling 292.1	Obsolete
643	1949	Convention	American Legion Plan For Civil Defense	Accomplished
43	1949	Spring	Appointment Of An Assistant Director To National Security Director	Duplicated
252	1956	Convention	Appropriate Symbol Be Awarded Legionnaires Who Contribute Blood To Its Blood Bank	Accomplished
560	1958	Convention	Commend And Support President Eisenhower's Decision Sending United States Armed Forces Into Lebanon	Accomplished
642	1958	Convention	Blood Donor Emblems	Accomplished
608	1960	Convention	Commends Puerto Rico On Dramatic Development Of Responsible Government And Democratic Principles	Accomplished
121	1961	Convention	Commendation For Lt. Cmdr, Alan B. Shepard, Jr., USN And Capt. Virgil "Gus" Grissom, USAF As United States Astronauts	Accomplished

303	**1962**	**Convention**	**Commend The President Of The United States For Action In His Firm Stand On Cuba, And Petition For The Expansion Of Psychological Warfare Activities Of The United States In This Area**	**Obsolete**
652	**1962**	**Convention**	**Commendation For Commanders Scott Carpenter And Walter Shirra USN**	**Accomplished**
27	**1962**	**Spring**	**Commend Lt. Col John H. Glenn, Jr For Being The First American To Achieve Orbital Flight**	**Accomplished**
128	**1965**	**Convention**	**Commending General Curtis E. Lemay, Retiring Air Force Chief Of Staff**	**Accomplished**
382	**1965**	**Convention**	**Commending American Astronauts Lt. Colonels James A. Mcdivitt And Edward H. White, II Of The USAF**	**Accomplished**
545	**1966**	**Convention**	**Commending U.S. Armed Forces Personnel In Vietnam**	**Accomplished**
4	**1966**	**Spring**	**Commending General Lewis B. Hershey, Director Of Selective Service System**	**Accomplished**
335	**1967**	**Convention**	**Asylum Of United States Draft Dodgers In Canada**	**Obsolete**
560	**1967**	**Convention**	**Designation Of Week Of December 7 As American Legion Blood Donor Week**	**Superseded**
26	**1967**	**Spring**	**Commending Students Of Auburn University For Donation Of Blood To The Armed Forces**	**Accomplished**
93	**1968**	**Convention**	**Endorsement of Selective Service Director Hershey's Action Telling Draft Boards To Cancel Or Deny Deferments To College Or University Students Engaging In Illegal Demonstrations Which Interfere With Draft Or Military Recruiting**	**Obsolete**
263	**1968**	**Convention**	**USS Pueblo Incident**	**Obsolete**
441	**1968**	**Convention**	**Vietnam**	**Obsolete**
23	**1969**	**Convention**	**Apollo 11 Moon Mission U.S. Astronauts (Armstrong, Aldrin And Collins)**	**Accomplished**
367	**1969**	**Convention**	**Commending Apollo 8 Astronauts On 1968 Christmas Eve Observance**	**Accomplished**
372	**1969**	**Convention**	**Reaffirm Support Of The United States Armed Forces**	**Accomplished**
170	**1970**	**Convention**	**Vietnam Service Medal**	**Accomplished**
507	**1969**	**Convention**	**Law And Order**	**Superseded**
128	**1971**	**Convention**	**Patch For American Legion Blood Donor Chairman**	**Obsolete**
300	**1971**	**Convention**	**Law And Order**	**Accomplished**
547	**1984**	**Convention**	**Department Pow/Mia Committee**	**Obsolete**
356	**1986**	**Convention**	**Department Pow/Mia Committees**	**Superseded**
414	**1988**	**Convention**	**Freedom Of The Seas**	**Superseded**
139	**1989**	**Convention**	**Opec Cartel Practices**	**Accomplished**
3	**1990**	**Spring**	**Organization Of Department Merchant Marine Committee**	**Obsolete**
232	**1991**	**Convention**	**Pearl Harbor Commemorative Ceremony**	**Obsolete**
290	**1991**	**Convention**	**Congratulations On Defeating Aggression In Kuwait**	**Accomplished**

399	1992	Convention	Haiti	Obsolete
64	1993	Convention	Japanese Compensation To American Pows	Obsolete
255	1993	Convention	Convention Support For Vietnam Assistance For The Handicapped	Accomplished
258	1993	Convention	National Law Officer Of The Year	Superseded
170	1994	Convention	Combating Violent Crime In America	Superseded
10	1996	Convention	Vocational Assistance Commission For Retired Servicemen, Republic Of China	Accomplished
69	1997	Convention	Salute To General John M. Shalikashvili, The Chairman Joint Chiefs Of Staff	Accomplished
16	1998	Spring	United States Government Review Of Expanding Eligibility Dates For Vietnam Service Medal	Accomplished
20	2000	Spring	Oppose Pardon For Spy Jonathan Jay Pollard	Obsolete
22	2000	Fall	The USS John W. Finn	Accomplished
139	2001	Convention	Exoneration Of Captain Mcvay, USS Indianapolis	Obsolete
13	2001	Spring	United States Army Rangers And Black Berets	Accomplished
76	2002	Convention	Fire Fighter Of The Year Award Programs	Superseded
197	2002	Convention	The USS American Legion	Superseded
77	2003	Convention	Use Of Overseas On-Base Facilities By Military Retires	Superseded
115	2003	Convention	Support And Appreciation For The Armed Forces And Their Families	Superseded
167	2004	Convention	Department Fire Fighter Of The Year Awards	Superseded
172	2004	Convention	Support For The Jones Maritime Act And Related Cabotage Laws	Accomplished
178	2004	Convention	The American Legion Policy On The Use Of Depleted Uranium	Superseded
238	2004	Convention	DD214s For Activated Guardsmen And Reservists	Superseded
434	2004	Convention	The American Legion Role In Homeland Security	Superseded
435	2004	Convention	The Pentagon Channel	Accomplished
14	2005	Fall	Support Medal Of Honor For Sgt Henry Johnson	Accomplished
65	2005	Convention	Support For Blood Banks	Superseded
120	2005	Convention	Deployment Of B-1 Bombers	Obsolete
366	2006	Convention	Key Military Issues Involving State and Local Governments	Accomplished
18	2007	Spring	Baker's Creek Marker At Arlington National Cemetery	Accomplished
20	2008	Convention	Unilateral Action For Vietnam Pow/Mia	Accomplished
21	2008	Convention	Use Of Us Navy Vessel For Underwater Accounting	Accomplished
22	2008	Convention	Renew Korean War Pow/Mia Discussions	Obsolete
113	2008	Convention	Status Of Forces Agreement	Superseded
162	2008	Convention	The American Legion's United Nations Policy	Obsolete
41	2009	Convention	Support For Armed Forces Blood Donor Program And Blood Drives	Superseded
60	2009	Convention	Reconsideration Of Closing Guantanamo Bay Detention Facility	Obsolete

69	**2010**	**Convention**	**Policy Regarding Support Of Republic Of Korea**	**Obsolete**
223	**2010**	**Convention**	**Support For Blood Banks**	**Superseded**
27	**2011**	**Fall**	**Repatriation Of The United States Army Sergeant Bowe Bergdahl**	**Obsolete**
33	**2012**	**Fall**	**Develop Joint Department Of Defense/Department Of Veterans Affairs Rehabilitation Capability**	**Accomplished**
8	**2012**	**Convention**	**Taiwan Straits Dialogue**	**Superseded**
14	**2012**	**Convention**	**Airport Courtesy For Military Personnel In Uniform**	**Superseded**
20	**2012**	**Convention**	**Grant Access To All U.S. Military Facilities To Military Retirees And Their Dependents**	**Superseded**
32	**2012**	**Convention**	**Support For U.S. Blood Banks**	**Superseded**
28	**2013**	**Convention**	**Commend Arlington Cemetery Managers And Staff**	**Accomplished**
59	**2013**	**Convention**	**Security Of Overseas Embassies**	**Accomplished**
2	**2012**	**Convention**	**Taiwan Straits Dialogue**	**Superseded**
60	**2014**	**Convention**	**Taiwan Defense Arms Sales**	**Obsolete**
96	**2014**	**Convention**	**Support For U.S. Blood Banks**	**Superseded**
16	**2015**	**Spring**	**Commendation For Amis Des Veterans Of Normandy, France**	**Accomplished**

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN BOLAND: Resolution Number 21 has the approval of the National Security Commission and your Subcommittee on Resolutions, and I move for its adoption. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second to adopt Resolution 21. Any discussion? Any objections? Hearing none, seeing none, motion carries, unanimous consent, Resolution two-one.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Commander, attached to the report is Addendum A. I move that the actions of the National Security Commission become the actions of the National Executive Committee. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: It's been moved and seconded that the actions of the National Security Commission become the actions of the National Executive Committee. Any discussion? Any objections? Hearing none, seeing none, motion carries, unanimous consent. At this point the chair recognizes Vincent J. Troiola, New York, chairman of the Legislative Committee, for the purposes of a report.

Oral Report: Legislative Commission
Vincent J. Troiola, New York, Chairman

Commander Oxford, past national commanders, members of the National Executive Committee, Adjutant Wheeler, and guests, good morning. 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 that were approved at this NEC. The American Legion's legislative program is in accordance with Rule 8-b of the rules of the National Executive Committee.

My fellow Legionnaires, since the 2020 fall NEC, Congress has been in turmoil following the 2020 elections, the storming of the U.S. Capitol, and the continuing COVID-19 pandemic. Despite these difficulties, The American Legion has continued forging ahead to ensure that veterans' voices are heard in Congress. Congress heard those voices clearly during our highly successful virtual Washington Conference and the commander's testimony.

Among our victories since those meetings were: Number One, S. 785, the Commander John Scott Hannon Veterans Mental Health Care Improvement Act of 2019 was signed

into law. This bill was the most comprehensive piece of legislation ever to address veterans suicide and will provide veterans with increased access to mental health-care services and programs.

Number Two: H.R. 6395, the Fiscal Year 2021 National Defense Authorization Act, added Parkinson's, bladder cancer, and hypothyroidism to the list of presumptive conditions for Agent Orange exposure.

Key provisions of the Deborah Sampson Act were passed during the 116th Congress through a variety of legislative vehicles. These provisions will significantly reduce Department of Veterans Affairs barriers to care for women veterans, and expand services to address reintegration, homelessness, and newborn care.

The Protect the GI Bill Act was successfully passed into law through H.R. 7105 and ensures that schools receiving GI Bill funding, inform prospective students of the cost of attendance, how much their benefits cover, student outcomes, and more.

The successful passage of American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 finally closed the 90/10 loophole, which will ensure that veterans receive better quality education and improve student outcome for institutions approved for the use of VA education benefits.

As you can see, The American Legion has been highly successful on a variety of key issues, many of which have been years, and even decades, in the making. But there is always more to be done. We anticipate that women vets, suicide prevention, the Higher Education Act, minority veterans, and toxic exposures will remain key topics of interest.

The bill which has the most interest being generated now is S. 927, the TEAM Act of 2021, which was recently reintroduced. This legislation would potentially be the most comprehensive toxic exposure and burn pits bill if enacted. We will continue to push hard to ensure passage of this critical legislation. We are prepared well for the 117th Congress and have hit the ground running. I fully believe that we will make the next Congress even more successful than the last.

Commander Oxford and members of the NEC, on behalf of the Legislative Commission, I want to thank you for your outstanding leadership and for entrusting me with the leadership of this commission. It has been my privilege and honor to serve The American Legion as your legislative chairman. This completes my report. Thank you.

Advance Report: Legislative Commission
Vincent J. Troiola, New York, Chairman

This report summarizes the commission and congressional actions since the 2020 Fall NEC Meetings on issues of particular concern to The American Legion. The report is arranged by program areas.

Recent Congressional Developments

Since the 2020 Fall NEC, Congress has been in turmoil following the contested elections, the storming of the U.S. Capitol, and the continuing COVID-19 pandemic. The 2020 elections decided control of both chambers. In the House of Representatives, the Democratic Party retained their majority (albeit reduced from the 116th Congress).

In the Senate, the Republican Party briefly held the majority at the beginning of the term. On January 20, 2021, three new Democratic senators (Jon Ossoff and Raphael Warnock of Georgia and Alex Padilla of California) were sworn in, resulting in 50 seats held by Republicans, 48 seats held by Democrats, and two held by independents who caucus with the Democrats. Effectively, this created a 50–50 split, which had not occurred since the 107th Congress in 2001. With Vice President Kamala Harris serving as the tie breaker in her constitutional role as Senate President, Democrats have control of the Senate, and thereby have full control of Congress for the first time since the 111th Congress ended in 2011.

There has been a flurry of activity as Democrats in Congress move quickly to use their control of the administration and Congress to pass big legislative packages such as the $1.9 trillion COVID relief bill which was passed into law and the proposed $2.3 trillion

infrastructure package. They have used the budget reconciliation process which allows them to bypass the filibuster and pass major legislation with a simple majority rather than the 60 votes needed under normal circumstances.

WASHINGTON CONFERENCE

Due to safety precautions amidst the coronavirus pandemic, American Legion National Commander James W. "Bill" Oxford determined that the 2021 Washington Conference would be conducted virtually. Despite these setbacks, National Commander Oxford was able to testify virtually to a joint session of the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees on March 4. In his testimony he highlighted what The American Legion's legislative priorities would be for the 117th Congress.

As part of Washington Conference, the National Legislative Division also launched a digital advocacy campaign using the VoterVoice platform. Focused at The American Legion Family, it asked them to share with their Members of Congress The American Legion's Legislative Agenda and the time and date of the Commander's Testimony.

The National Legislative Commission met virtually on March 1, 2021. One hundred seventy four (174) attendees were present. Legislative Commission Chairman James Troiola (NY), chaired the meeting. National Legislative Council Chairman E.C. Toppin (NC) presented his report on Council activities.

While this year's Washington Conference was virtual, the Legislative Commission and Council did not let the pandemic affect our ability to impress upon Congress the urgent needs of our nation's veterans, servicemembers and their families.

Congress has suspended in-person meetings, but Legionnaires were provided with a number of digital platforms to use to advocate under current conditions. Also, the Legion website hosted a new, more robust Washington Conference webpage which included a number of resources for guidance on how to engage lawmakers, such as a recorded Know Before You Go presentation, a Hill Visit Toolkit, the 2021 legislative agenda and more.

Legislative staff reported on the status of current legislation impacting on issues critical to The American Legion. Major discussion topics included: addressing toxic exposure and burn pits, improving healthcare for women veterans, addressing the Forever War, citizenship for honorable service, and more.

Finally, Chairman Troiola presented the "Legislative Council Member of the Year Award" to Department of California Council Vice Chairman Mike Brimer for his excellent work this past year.

The Legislative Division thanks everyone who attended the virtual Washington Conference and used the new and innovative ways to meet with their respective Members of Congress during the pandemic.

VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION

The American Legion has produced five letters of support, testified one time before Congress, and submitted two statement for the records on topics surrounding veterans' healthcare. The majority of the letters of support were directed to members of Congress who sought The American Legion's support and input before introducing the legislation. The Legislative Division has been aggressively pursuing various legislative matters to ensure that veteran's healthcare needs are met across several policy areas. Toxic Exposures, Mental Health, and Women Veterans issue have been the focuses of effort.

Mental Health and suicide prevention continue to be a priority for both The American Legion and Congress. To this end, The American Legion focused its efforts on S. 785, the *Commander John Scott Hannon Veterans Mental Health Care Improvement Act of 2019*. This key legislation was signed into law by President Trump late in 2020. This bill was the most comprehensive piece of legislation ever to address veteran suicide and will provide veterans with increased access to mental health-care services and programs. The American Legion submitted a letter of support on November 12, 2020 for the *PFC Joseph P. Dwyer*

Peer Support Program Act, which would launch a pilot program that would create local peer-to-peer mental health programs.

Legislation related to toxic exposures, such as expanding presumptive conditions for Agent Orange exposure or burn pits, continues to gain momentum on Capitol Hill. The American Legion submitted a letter of support for S.927, the *TEAM Act of 2021,* which was recently introduced. This legislation would potentially be the most comprehensive toxic exposure and burn pits bill if enacted. H.R. 6395, The *Fiscal Year 2021 National Defense Authorization Act* (NDAA), added Parkinsonism, bladder cancer and hypothyroidism to the list of presumptive conditions for Agent Orange exposure.

Key provisions of the *Deborah Sampson Act* were passed during the 116th Congress through a variety of legislative vehicles, including H.R.7105, the *Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020*, and S. 785, the *Commander John Scott Hannon Veterans Mental Health Care Improvement Act of 2019*. These provisions will significantly reduce Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) barriers to care for women veterans and expand services to address reintegration, homelessness and newborn care.

November 12, 2020, staff submitted a letter of support to Congressman Phil Roe to express support for H.R. 7469, the *Modernizing Veterans' Healthcare Eligibility Act*. This bill would create a bipartisan commission to assess veterans' eligibility for care within the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and make recommendations for how to revise and simplify it for the first time since 1996.

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATION

Since October 2020, The Legislative Division has submitted two letters of support for legislation that falls under Veterans Employment and Education and VE&E has testified once before Congress.

On October 13th, 2020 staff submitted a letter of support to Senator Tim Scott to express support for the *Building Credit Access for Veterans Act* draft legislation. This bill aims to help that by allowing lenders to use alternative data for approval and formalize the processes to serve our nation's heroes better.

On April 7th, 2021, staff submitted a letter of support to Senator Brian Schatz to express support the *Veterans Educational Assistance Transparency and Accountability Improvement Act of 2021*. This bill aims to improve the G.I. Bill Comparison Tool by requiring VA to include even more pertinent information to help weed out bad actors. The bill also authorizes VA to restore educational benefits to those who utilized their entitlement at an institution that is subject to civil enforcement action.

The *Protect the GI Bill Act* was successfully passed into law through *H.R. 7105* and ensures that schools receiving GI Bill funding inform prospective students of the cost of attendance, how much their benefits cover, student outcomes, and more. The bill also empowers State Approving Agencies (SAAs) to flag or suspend new enrollments to schools that violate these requirements. The successful passage of *American Rescue Plan Act of 2021* finally closed the 90/10 loophole which will ensure that veterans receive better quality education and improves student outcomes for institutions approved for use of VA education benefits.

NATIONAL SECURITY

Since the Fall of 2020, The American Legion has submitted three letters of support regarding national security-related topics in conjunction with the National Security Division.

On October 26, 2020 staff submitted a letter of support to Secretary Robert Wilkie to express support for H.R. 3826 - *Veterans 2nd Amendment Protection Act* and H.R. 3450. These bills would have prevent veterans from losing their Second Amendment right

because of a disability rating or receiving help managing their VA benefits without due process.

On November 17, 2020, staff submitted a letter to the defense appropriations committee to urge that they retain in the final Fiscal Year 2021 Department of Defense Appropriations bill, the House provision to repeal the 2002 Authorization for Use of Military Force against Iraq (2002 Iraq AUMF) (PL 107–243). This provision is included in H.R. 7617 as Section 9028. This continued into the 117th Congress and on April 7th, 2021, staff submitted a letter of support to Representative Barbara Lee to express support for H.R.256 which would repeal the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 2002.

The American Legion continues to support legislation to grant citizenship for honorable service. The American Legion is continuing to work with a variety of offices to ensure the process of naturalization through military service is completed before discharge. This would ensure that immigrant veterans would not be at risk of being deported.

AMERICANISM

The American Legion is looking for potential sponsors to introduce legislation to amend the United States Flag Code and modify it to reflect current, accepted patriotic practices. The American Legion passed Resolution No. 19: *Flag Code Amendment* in 2016 to codify these patriotic practices.

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The American Legion is currently working with Senator Joni Ernst to pass S.544 which would require VA to establish a "Buddy Check Week." Staff submitted a letter of support for the bill last Congress on October 26, 2020. The bill would require VA to work directly with VSO's on programming and educational tools to help reach veterans in a crisis and provide for additional resources for the Veterans Crisis Line during the designated Buddy Check Week. In May of 2019, The American Legion passed Resolution No. 18: *Buddy Check-* to require Legion-wide Buddy Check Week, and we look forward to advocating for VA to adopt a similar program.

This concludes The American Legion National Legislative Commission's Report to the National Executive Committee.

Report: Legislative Commission
James Troiola, New York, Chairman

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bill to prohibit the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from transmitting certain information to the Department of Justice for use by the national instant criminal background check system. These bills would have prevent veterans from losing their Second Amendment right because of a disability rating or receiving help managing their VA benefits without due process.

On April 7th, 2021, staff submitted a letter of support to Representative Barbara Lee to express support for H.R.256 which would repeal the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 2002. On March 25, 2021, the House Foreign Affairs Committee reported H.R.256 out of committee. Staff is working with House members to bring the bill to a floor vote as soon as possible.

The American Legion continues to support legislation to grant citizenship for honorable service. The American Legion is continuing to work with a variety of offices to ensure the process of naturalization through military service is completed before discharge. This would ensure that immigrant veterans would not be at risk of being deported.

AMERICANISM

The American Legion is looking for potential sponsors to introduce legislation to amend the United States Flag Code and modify it to reflect current, accepted patriotic practices. The American Legion passed Resolution No. 19: *Flag Code Amendment* in 2016 to codify these patriotic practices.

Flag Desecration Amendment bills for the 117th Congress will be introduced by Rep. Steve Womack (AR) and Senator Steve Daines on Flag Day 2021.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

The American Legion is currently working with Senator Joni Ernst to pass S.544 which would require VA to establish a "Buddy Check Week." Staff submitted a letter of support for the bill last Congress on October 26, 2020. The bill would require VA to work directly with VSO's on programming and educational tools to help reach veterans in a crisis and provide for additional resources for the Veterans Crisis Line during the designated Buddy Check Week. In May of 2019, The American Legion passed Resolution No. 18: *Buddy Check*- to require Legion-wide Buddy Check Week, and we look forward to advocating for VA to adopt a similar program.

On April 29, 2021, staff sent a request to every congressional office urging the member of Congress to cosponsor and support S. 535 and H.R. 1115, the *Global War on Terrorism Memorial Location Act*. These bills authorizes the establishment of a National Global War on Terrorism Memorial in the area of the National Mall. As of April 29, 2021, the Senate bill has 14 cosponsors and the House bill 114.

This concludes The American Legion National Legislative Commission's Report to the National Executive Committee.

ADDENDUM I
REPORT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION

The 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 117th Congress.

The following resolutions passed at the Spring National Executive Committee Meeting, May 5-6, 2021 are added to the Legislative Agenda:

VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION

Resolution No. 14: Quality Assurance for Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Contracted Compensation and Pension (C&P) Examinations

Resolution No. 15: Recognizing Presumptive Conditions for Toxic Exposure at Karshi-Khanabad (K2) Base in Uzbekistan
Resolution No. 16: Reproductive Assistance and Pregnancy Counseling
Resolution No. 18: Veteran Military Sexual Trauma (MST) Claims Training

NATIONAL SECURITY
Resolution No. 19: Oppose Deportation of Non-Citizen Immigrant Veterans
Resolution No. 20: Oppose Deportation Of Immediate Family Members Of Non-Citizen Immigrant Veterans

The following resolutions which were passed at previous meetings and conventions remain on the Legislative Agenda:

AMERICANISM

2016	Fall	19	Flag Code Amendment
2016	Convention	301	Eliminate Damages and Attorney Fees in Establishment Clause Lawsuits
2016	Convention	303	Constitutional Amendment to Protect the Flag of the United States
2018	Convention	111	English Language Be Declared as the Official United States Language

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

2016	Fall	11	Support and Defend Veteran and Military Memorials
2017	Spring	16	National Global War on Terrorism Memorial
2017	Fall	11	National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass for Honorably Discharged Veterans
2018	Convention	50	Increase Income Tax Deduction for Volunteer Mileage
2018	Convention	86	Award Congressional Gold Medal to the 23rd Headquarters Special Troops and the 3133rd Signal Service Company
2018	Convention	110	Support Congressional Gold Medal for Signal Corps Female Telephone Operators of WWI
2018	Fall	1	Unrecognized Armed Hostilities Recognition
2019	Convention	57	Coin Commemoration of the 75th Anniversary of the End of World War II
2020	Fall	17	Support for Review of Minority Awards of Medal of Honor WWI and Subsequent Wars/Conflicts

NATIONAL SECURITY

2016	Convention	225	Fully Fund NASA
2016	Convention	29	Commercial Shipbuilding For Defense
2016	Convention	33	Rare Earth Elements
2016	Convention	96	Support Full Funding And Resourcing For The U.S. Navy And Marine Corps
2016	Convention	219	Support Full Funding For The Department Of The Army Budget
2018	Convention	35	National Defense Budget
2016	Convention	45	Policy On The Arctic Region
2016	Convention	90	South China Sea Island Building
2018	Convention	117	Japan Arms Sales

2019	Spring	9	Support For The Federated States Of Micronesia, The Republic Of The Marshall Islands, And Republic Of Palau
2019	Convention	41	Protection Of The POW/MIA Flag
2016	Convention	23	Support For The Department Of Homeland Security And Coast Guard
2016	Convention	24	Illegal Immigration Policy
2016	Convention	32	Support Domestic Energy Production
2016	Convention	91	Cybersecurity And Identity Theft
2016	Convention	173	Secure National Borders Against Illegal Drugs
2016	Convention	85	Support For Military Quality Of Life Standards
2016	Convention	93	Codify Burial Eligibility For Arlington National Cemetery
2016	Convention	94	Earned Military Benefits
2016	Convention	102	Oppose Tricare Fee Increases
2016	Convention	107	Support Armed Services Retirement Homes
2016	Convention	200	Extended Care Health Option (ECHO)
2018	Spring	10	Expedited Citizenship Applications For Deported Veterans
2018	Convention	98	Continuation Of Military Death Benefits During Government Shutdown
2018	Fall	15	Expedited Citizenship Through Military Service
2019	Fall	18	Funding Of The Department Of Defense STARBASE Program
2020	Fall	22	Addressing the "Forever War"

VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION

2016	Fall	22	Surviving Families Benefits
2016	Fall	23	Add Agent Orange Component To Code Of Federal Regulations 4.16
2016	Fall	24	Improve Special Monthly Compensation (K) Award
2016	Convention	1	Department Of Veterans Affairs Quadrennial Plan For Budget
2016	Convention	2	Reinstate Enrollment Of Priority Group 8g Veterans Into The Department Of Veterans Affairs' Patient Enrollment System
2016	Convention	6	Department Of Veterans Affairs Construction Programs
2016	Convention	8	Department Of Veterans Affairs Preservation Of National Historic Properties
2016	Convention	11	Medical Marijuana Research
2016	Convention	35	Agent Orange
2016	Convention	41	State Veterans Home Funding For Construction Grants
2016	Convention	43	Department Of Veterans Affairs Child Care Program
2016	Convention	44	Department Of Veterans Affairs Rural Healthcare Program
2016	Convention	51	WWII Veterans Hospital And Medical Entitlements
2016	Convention	52	Department Of Veterans Affairs Means Test
2016	Convention	53	Veterans Discounts On Federally Funded Public Transportation
2016	Convention	55	Radiation Exposure
2016	Convention	62	Veterans Transportation System And Benefits Travel

2016	Convention	64	Department Of Veterans Affairs Beneficiary Travel Program
2016	Convention	83	Virtual Lifetime Electronic Record
2016	Convention	117	Disability And Death Pension Program
2016	Convention	131	Recognize Operations In Lebanon (1958), Grenada (1983), And Panama (1989-1990) As Periods Of War For Department Of Veterans Affairs Pension Purposes
2016	Convention	163	Legislation To Provide Reporting, Tracking, And Actions Dealing With Sexual Assaults At Department Of Veterans Affairs Facilities
2016	Convention	181	National Cemetery Administration
2016	Convention	182	Non-Department Of Veterans Affairs Emergency Care
2016	Convention	183	Presumptive Conditions For Former Prisoners Of War
2016	Convention	185	State Veteran Home Per Diem Reimbursement
2016	Convention	186	Department Of Veterans Affairs Dental Care
2016	Convention	187	Department Of Veterans Affairs Disability Compensation
2016	Convention	188	Department Of Veterans Affairs' Role In National Emergency Preparedness
2016	Convention	238	Suicide Prevention For American Veterans Act
2016	Convention	245	Extend Eligibility For National Cemetery Administration Medallion
2016	Convention	246	Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans
2016	Convention	259	Extend Caregiver Benefits To Include Veterans Before September 11, 2001
2016	Convention	268	Urn Markers Provided By The National Cemetery Administration
2016	Convention	362	Congressional Budget Office Scoring On Department Of Veterans Affairs Leasing
2016	Convention	363	Consolidation Of Department Of Veterans Affairs Care In The Community Program
2016	Convention	367	Include Korean War Veterans In Priority Group 6 For Department Of Veterans Affairs Health Care
2016	Convention	372	Oppose Closing Or Privatization Of Department Of Veterans Affairs Health Care System
2016	Convention	375	Prosecution Of VA Employees Engaged In Fraudulent Practices In The Department Of Veterans Affairs
2016	Convention	377	Support For Veteran Quality Of Life
2016	Convention	378	United States Census To Include Veterans Information
2016	Convention	379	Veteran Caretaker Stipend
2016	Convention	380	Exempt Funds Related To Interment Services At Cemeteries From Any Future Sequestration
2017	Spring	23	Department Of Veterans Affairs Provide Mental Health Services For Veterans With Other Than Honorable And General Discharges
2017	Spring	27	Amend Title 38, United States Code, To Clarify The Treatment Of A Veteran As Adjudicated Mentally Incompetent For Certain Purposes
2017	Convention	14	Extend Allotted Time For Claims Review By Service Officers

2017	Convention	16	Department Of Veterans Affairs Automobile Allowance Program
2017	Convention	47	Research Into Hearing Loss Due To Loud Or Constant Noise Exposure In The Military
2017	Convention	74	Air Carrier Access
2017	Convention	75	Department Of Veterans Affairs Rural Health Care Program
2017	Convention	76	Veterans Emergency Room Or Urgent Care Facility Relief
2018	Spring	18	Furnish Hospital Care And Medical Services To Veterans And Family Members Who Were Stationed At Military Installations At Which The Veterans And Dependents Were Exposed To Per- And Polyfluoroalkyl Substances
2018	Spring	19	Helping Veterans Exposed To Burn Pits
2018	Convention	11	Agent Orange And Kidney Disease
2018	Convention	49	Exempt Certain Income From VA Pension Rate Determination
2018	Convention	53	Means Test For Married Veterans
2018	Convention	58	Compensation For Veterans Requiring Hearing Aids For Service Connected Hearing Loss
2018	Convention	59	Automatic Waiver For Over-Payment Of $300
2018	Convention	64	Department Of Veterans Affairs Dental Care For Ratings Of 50% Or More
2018	Convention	74	Amend The Eligibility Requirements And Extend The Eligibility Time Period For Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance
2018	Convention	79	Improve Special Monthly Compensation (K) Award
2018	Convention	85	Designate Prisoner Of War, Purple Heart And Medal Of Honor Recipients As Priority Group 1 Veterans
2018	Convention	93	Agent Orange
2018	Convention	115	Outdoor And Adaptive Sports Programs For Veterans
2019	Convention	11	Environmental Exposures At Fort McClellan
2019	Convention	32	Veterans Burial/Plot Allowance Payment
2019	Convention	52	Antidepressant Harms Analysis
2019	Convention	58	Department Of Veterans Affairs Accreditation Of Individual Claims Agents
2019	Convention	59	Establish Green Alert System Interagency Group Or Committee For Veterans In Crisis
2019	Fall	11	Abolish Premium For Delayed Enrollment In Medicare Part B For Veterans Eligible For Medical Benefits From The Department Of Veterans Affairs
2019	Convention	18	Payment For Emergency Transportation To A Department Of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility
2020	Fall	3	Accuracy in Reporting Survivor Benefits and COVID-10
2020	Fall	8	Department of Veterans Affairs Revise the Definition of "Vietnam Era"
2020	Fall	11	Mare Island Cemetery

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION

2019	Fall	13	Tracking of Veteran Unemployment in all U.S. Territories

2019	Fall	14	Reauthorize and Fund the U.S. Small Business Administration's Patriot Express Loan
2019	Fall	15	Support Greater GI Bill Outcomes by Closing 90-10 Loophole
2019	Convention	54	GI Bill Eligibility for Reserve and National Guard Service
2019	Convention	55	Mandatory use of the Veterans First Contracting Program
2019	Spring	13	Support Robust Enforcement of the Military Lending Act
2018	Fall	21	Support Reasonable Set-Aside of Federal Procurements and Contracts
2018	Fall	22	Expanding Post-9/11 GI Bill for Student Loan Repayments
2018	Fall	23	Close the GI Bill Flight School Loophole
2018	Fall	24	Support Funding and Changes to the Department of Veterans Affairs Grant and Per Diem Program
2018	Fall	26	Eliminate GI Bill Transferability Maximum Year Caps
2018	Convention	100	Accountability of the Department of Defense's Transition Assistance Program (TAP)
2018	Convention	101	Support for Continuation of Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program
2018	Convention	102	Expansion of the Department of Defense's Transition Assistance Program (TAP) to include Ancillary Programs and Services
2018	Convention	103	Support and Expand Department of Defense Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program
2018	Convention	104	GI Bill Fairness for Activated National Guard Servicemembers
2018	Convention	105	Support and Expand Warrior Transition Advancement Course (WARTAC)
2018	Spring	11	Support Veteran and Reserve Servicemember Financial Protections
2018	Spring	12	Accountability and Enhancements of Transition Assistance Program; Outcomes and Delivery for Today's Digital Transitioning Servicemembers
2017	Fall	20	Support of An Acting Operator for Deployed Servicemember's Small Business
2017	Convention	26	Support Effort of the Small Business Administration's Office of Veterans Business Development and Veterans Business Outreach Centers
2017	Convention	81	Military Spouse Employment
2017	Convention	82	Preserve Veteran and Servicemember Rights to Gainful Employment and Borrower Defense Protections
2017	Convention	83	Protect Veteran and Servicemember Rights to Fair Consumer Arbitration
2017	Convention	84	Support and Strengthen the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA)

2017	Convention	85	Support Employment and Reemployment Rights of National Guard and Reservists Returning from Deployment
2017	Spring	21	Support State and National Funding for Troops to Teachers Program
2016	Fall	20	Oppose Efforts to Downgrade Low-Level Wage Positions within the Department of Veterans Affairs
2016	Convention	58	Support Legislation that Prohibits Discrimination against Veterans in Federal Contracts
2016	Convention	60	Support Full Funding of Local Veterans Employment Representatives and Disabled Veterans Outreach Program Specialist (DVOPS) Positions
2016	Convention	68	Support the Increased Funding of Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program Specialist and Local Veterans' Employment Representative Programs
2016	Convention	70	Improve Transition Assistance Program
2016	Convention	71	Oppose Department of Labor's Veterans' Employment and Training Service Hiring of Non-Veterans
2016	Convention	73	Oppose the Transfer of Veterans' Employment and Training Service to the Department of Veterans Affairs
2016	Convention	75	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
2016	Convention	76	Support Improvements in the Reporting Programs available to and Administered by Veterans' Employment and Training Service
2016	Convention	77	Support for the Military Transition Program
2016	Convention	80	Support Legislation that would return Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program Specialist and Local Veterans' Employment Representative Funding to a Staffing Grant
2016	Convention	81	Transition Assistance Program Employment Workshops for National Guard and Reserve Members
2016	Convention	149	Support "Buy American" Policy at the Department of Veterans Affairs to Create Jobs and Opportunities for Veterans
2016	Convention	150	Expanding Post 9/11 GI Bill for Entrepreneurship
2016	Convention	151	Status of Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Business after the Death of the Veteran Owner
2016	Convention	153	Support Effort of the Small Business Administration's (SBA) Office of Veterans Business Development
2016	Convention	155	Support Verification Improvements for Veterans' Business
2016	Convention	156	Veterans Entrepreneur Training Program
2016	Convention	170	Oppose the Department of Labor's Restructuring of Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program Specialist and Local Veterans Employment Representative Roles

2016	Convention	254	Raise on VA Home Loans for Two Legally Married Eligible Veterans
2016	Convention	274	Support Employment Services for Spouses of Servicemembers Killed in the Line of Duty
2016	Convention	311	Federal and State Incentive for Employers to use Veterans' Preference
2016	Convention	313	Support Elimination Funding Fees for Government Guaranteed Loans
2016	Convention	314	Support Elimination of The VA Home Loan Funding Fee
2016	Convention	316	Support Employment of Veterans in the Public and Private Workforce
2016	Convention	317	Enforcing Veterans' Preference Hiring Practices in Federal Civil Service
2016	Convention	318	Ensuring the Quality of Servicemember and Veteran Student's
2016	Convention	319	Expanding Veterans Employment and Homeless Services within The Department of Veterans Affairs
2016	Convention	327	Support further Assessment and Evaluation of Institutions of Higher Learning to Enable Veterans to make Informed Education Choices
2016	Convention	328	GI Bill Medical Transferability Rights
2016	Convention	329	Support Home Loan Guaranty Program
2016	Convention	330	Homeless Veterans Assistance
2016	Convention	331	Support Housing Preference for Low-Income Veterans in The Department of Housing and Urban Development
2016	Convention	332	Support Funding for The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and Veterans Affairs (VA) Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) Homeless Program
2016	Convention	333	Support Increase in Reporting Fees for Educational Institutions
2016	Convention	334	Support Legislation to Increase Telework (Telecommuting) Opportunities for Service-Disabled Veterans and Military Spouses
2016	Convention	335	Support Major Enhancements for The Montgomery GI Bill
2016	Convention	336	Support Legislation that would Change The 12-Year Delimiting Date for Eligibility to Chapter 31 Benefits (VA's Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Program)
2016	Convention	339	Support the Rollover of Ira Account Penalty of Tax Liability of a Permanent and Total 100 Percent Service-Disabled Veteran with Individual Unemployability
2016	Convention	340	Support Permanent Authorization for the Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) Program
2016	Convention	341	Support Recognition of Military and Pay when Calculating Starting Federal Civilian Salaries
2016	Convention	344	Support Federal Legislation that Protects the Employment of Veterans in the U. S. Postal Service Mail Processing Facilities that are Slated for Closure
2016	Convention	346	Support an Investigation of Hiring Practices in the Federal Government

2016	Convention	348	Support Legislation that Bolsters the Hiring of Veterans in the Private Sectors
2016	Convention	349	Support Legislation to improve the Post-9/11 GI Bill
2016	Convention	351	Support Tax Credit for certain Employers
2016	Convention	352	Transitional Housing Allotments for returning Combat Veterans
2016	Convention	353	Support a Veteran-Centric Website for Employment
2016	Convention	354	Work Opportunity Tax Credit Program
2016	Convention	355	Veterans Employment Initiative
2016	Convention	356	Veterans Home Loans
2016	Convention	357	Support Veterans Housing Repair and Modification for Pilot Program
2016	Convention	358	Support Veterans' Preference in Public Employment
2020	Fall	13	"Buy American" Policy within the Federal Government to Create Opportunities for Veterans
2020	Fall	14	Post 9/11 Transfer of Educational Benefits

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Commander, motion to receive and file the report of the Legislative Commission with the exception of one addendum. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and second to receive and file the report of the Legislative Commission with the exception of one addendum. Any discussion? Any objections? Hearing none, seeing none, motion carries, unanimous consent.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Pursuant to Rule 8-b of the National Executive Committee, I move the resolutions on Addendum I with legislative intent be ratified for distribution as part of the legislative program through the 117th Congress. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second pursuant to Rule 8-b of the NEC, the resolutions of Addendum I with legislative intent be ratified for distribution as part of the legislative program through the 117th Congress. Any discussion? Any objections? Hearing none, seeing none, motion carries, unanimous consent. Do we have resolutions, motions, or petitions to receive?

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Mr. Commander, there are no resolutions, motions, or petitions to receive.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Do we have unfinished business from the previous day or resolutions laying over from the previous day?

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Mr. Commander, there is no unfinished business from the previous day or resolutions lying over from the previous day.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Are there any motions from the floor to remove members of standing or special commissions, committees, boards, or subcommittees of the NEC? Hearing none, we'll move to the next order of business.

I recognize the chairman of the Subcommittee on Resolutions for the confirmation of interim appointments and removal of members of standing or special commissions, committees, boards, or subcommittees of the NEC.

Appointments and Removal of Members of Standing and Special Commissions, Committees, Boards, or Subcommittees of the NEC

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Mr. Commander, may I address the national adjutant?

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: You may.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Mr. Adjutant, do you certify that the list of interim appointments and removal of members of standing or special commissions, committees, boards, or subcommittees of the NEC is a true and correct list?

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: I so certify.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Thank you, Mr. Adjutant. Commander, I move that the list of the interim appointments and the removal of members of standing or special commissions, committees, boards, or subcommittees of the NEC be approved without being read. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second that the list of appointments and removal of members of standing or special commissions, committees, boards, or subcommittees of the NEC be approved. Any discussion? Any objections? Hearing none, seeing none, motion carries, unanimous consent.

Confirmation of Interim Appointments
National Executive Committee Meeting
Indianapolis, Indiana
May 5, 2021

Georgiann Callaway (Illinois), Americanism Commission, Consultant (Replaces Eugene Thompson – deceased)

Michael C. Donnelly (North Carolina), Americanism Commission, 2021 Member (Replaces Louis S. Cook – resigned)

Melissa J. Serafini (Pennsylvania), Committee on Children & Youth, 2023 Member (Replaces Kimberly A. Gwyn – resigned)

Tracie Walls (District of Columbia), Americanism Council, Member (Replaces George Hart – resigned)

Gina Owens (Indiana), Americanism Council, Member (Replaces Larry Dent – resigned)

Billy J. Hill (Maryland), Americanism Council, Member (Replaces Franklin A. Fraley – resigned)

Richard Cross (Minnesota), Americanism Council, Member (Replaces Wayne Gilbertson – resigned)

Lawrence L. Behling (New York), Americanism Council, Member (Replaces Mario Caristaldi – National Security Council – declined appointment)

Dean A. Erck (New York), Americanism Council, Member (Replaces Robert A. Johnston, Sr. – National Security Council – deceased)

David S. Reel, (North Carolina), Americanism Council, Member (Replaces Michael C. Donnelly – resigned)

Dale Edward Todd (North Carolina), Americanism Council, Member (Replaces Francine Long – resigned)

Gretchen Klingler (Ohio), Americanism Council, Member (Replaces James W. Campbell – declined appointment)

Debra L. Williams (Pennsylvania), Americanism Council, Member (Replaces Charles J. Weber, Jr. – resigned)

Alan C. Lennox (California), Finance Commission, 2021 Member [Replaces Paul A. Evenson (SD) – resigned]

Alan C. Lennox (California), American Legion Charities, Member [Replaces Paul A. Evenson (SD) – resigned]

Gaither M. Keener, Jr. (North Carolina), National Emergency Fund Trust, Chairman (new appointment)

Carl E. Levi (Tennessee), National Emergency Fund Trust, Vice Chairman (new appointment)

Paul A. Evenson (South Dakota), National Emergency Fund Trust, Member (new appointment)

Denise H. Rohan (Wisconsin), Veterans and Children Foundation Steering Committee, Chairman (new appointment)

Wesley H. Schermann, Jr. (California), Veterans and Children Foundation Steering Committee, Member (new appointment)

Paul O. Sanford (Kansas), Veterans and Children Foundation Steering Committee, Member (new appointment)

Lisa McPhee (Massachusetts), Veterans and Children Foundation Steering Committee, Member (new appointment)

Thomas E. Lee, III (Virginia), Veterans and Children Foundation Steering Committee, Member (new appointment)

Robert B. Sussan (Florida), American Legion Riders Advisory Committee, Consultant [Replaces Michael Sobczak (CA) – resigned]

Daniel J. Maniery (Vermont), Constitution & By-Laws Committee, 2021 Member (Replaces Linda Perham – resigned)

George C. Lussier, Jr. (Virginia), IT Oversight Committee, Member [Replaces James M. Rohan (WI) – resigned]

Thomas John Cerniglia (North Carolina), National Convention Resolutions Assignment Committee, 2021 Member (Replaces W. Wayne Peedin – resigned)

Gerald Maxwell (Alabama), National Convention Resolutions Assignment Committee, 2022 Member (Replaces James W. Snow, Jr. – declined appointment)

Paul A. Evenson (South Dakota), Marketing Commission, Chairman [Replaces James M. Rohan (WI) – resigned]

James M. Rohan (Wisconsin), Marketing Commission, Consultant (new appointment)

John D. Baker (NJ), Marketing Commission Advisory Board, Member [Replaces Dale D. Chapman (VA) – resigned]

Paul A. Evenson (South Dakota), Marketing Commission Executive Committee, Chairman [Replaces James M. Rohan (WI) – resigned]

Brian Markwell (Vermont), Foreign Relations Committee, 2021 Member (Replaces Doc Simon – resigned)

Joseph A. Schmidt (Colorado), Foreign Relations Committee, 2021 Member (Replaces Harry L. Fisher – resigned)

Mark Cloutier (Vermont), Law & Order and Homeland Security Committee, 2021 Member (Replaces Brian Markwell – resigned)

Erin J. Magee (Pennsylvania), Law & Order and Homeland Security Committee, 2022 Member (Replaces James R. Chapman – deceased)

Robert E. Jerdan (Massachusetts), Military Benefits & Quality of Life Committee, 2022 Member (Replaces Paul E. Romanelli - resigned)

Leroy McKenzie (Maine), National Security Council, Member (Replaces William J. Cossette, Jr. – resigned)

Scott M. Conner (Massachusetts), National Security Council, Member (Replaces Edward D. Bezio, Sr. – deceased)

Albert E. Jackson (Missouri), National Security Council, Member (Replaces Dick Sanford – cancelled membership)

Wayne Mihelich (North Carolina), National Security Council, Member (Replaces Thomas John Cerniglia – resigned)

Kimberly A. Gwyn (Pennsylvania), National Security Council, Member (Replaces Melissa J. Serafini – resigned)

William G. Yarborough, Jr. (Virginia), National Security Council, Member (Replaces William T. Blanchard – resigned)

James Talaska (Illinois), Health Administration Committee, 2023 Member (Replaces John T. Nebgen – resigned)

Jeremy Wolfsteller (Minnesota), Veterans Benefits Committee, 2022 Member (Replaces Bill Brockberg – resigned)

David K. Cook (Ohio), Veterans Benefits Committee, 2022 Member (Replaces Eddie D. Mohler – resigned)

Paul E. Romanelli (Massachusetts), Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Council, Member (Replaces Scott J. Gauthier – deceased)

Jennifer Havlick (Minnesota), Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Council, Member (Replaces Jeremy Wolfsteller – resigned)

Robert D. Schmitt (Ohio), Veterans Education, Other Benefits & Homelessness Committee, National Commander's Representative (Replaces Gary L. Baxter – resigned)

Malcolm R. Cherry (Kentucky), Veterans Employment & Education Council, Member (Replaces Mark W. Kennedy – cancelled membership)

Robert Kraemer (Kentucky), Veterans Employment & Education Council, Member (Replaces Peter Trzop – resigned)

Ken LaVoy (Ohio), Veterans Employment & Education Council, Member (Replaces James F. Volgares – resigned)

Miscellaneous Business and Technical Motions

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: The chair recognizes the chairman of the Subcommittee on Resolutions for miscellaneous business and technical motions.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Commander, I'd like to make a technical motion and move that the national adjutant be instructed to review the minutes of the NEC meeting and to make any and all corrections, and without changing the intent of the NEC meeting, to proceed to edit and distribute these minutes. ...*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second that the national adjutant be instructed to review and edit the minutes without changing the intent, and that he be authorized to distribute the minutes of this meeting. Any discussion? Any objections? Hearing done, seeing none, motion carries, unanimous consent.

Confirmation and Cancellation of Posts and/or Squadron Charters

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Mr. Commander, may I address the national adjutant?

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: So granted.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Mr. Adjutant, do you certify the list of cancellation of post and squadron charters is a true and correct list, and everything has been done to try to revitalize these posts?

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: Mr. Commander, the list is correct as far as it goes, but there are three additions to the list. The Department of Alaska Post 8, the John W. Jones post, has been cancelled. Arkansas, Post 78, Claude Bradley, has been cancelled. Colorado, Post 2009, Grand Valley Veterans, will merge with the Robbins-McMullen Post 0037. That makes a complete report of the cancellations of American Legion posts and squadrons.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Commander, I move the list be approved without being read. ….*Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second to approve the list of cancellations of posts and/or squadron charters plus the additions listed by the national adjutant without being read. Any further discussion? Any objections? Hearing none, seeing none, motion is carried, unanimous consent.

Post Charters of the American Legion Presented to the National Executive Committee for Cancellation May 5, 2021

On October 15, 2020, at the Fall meetings in Indianapolis, Indiana the National Executive Committee approved the cancellation of one hundred three (103) 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:

Ninety-five (95) Posts have been submitted and recommended for cancellation consideration during the 2021 Spring National Executive Committee virtual meetings in Indianapolis, IN, May 5-6, 2021.

**** See Merging Post Information Below**

DEPARTMENT	POST #	NAME	LOCATION
ALASKA	0008	John W. Jones	Cordova
ARKANSAS	0078	Claude Bradley	Fordyce
CALIFORNIA	0420	Mission Viejo	Mission Viejo
COLORADO	**2009***	Grand Valley Veterans (*to merge with Robbins--McMullen Post 0037*)	Grand Junction
CONNECTICUT	**0049***	Garvin O'Connell (*to merge with Herbert G. Klebes Post 0126*)	Canaan
FRANCE	0005	Riviera	Nice, FR
ILLINOIS	0046	Huerter-Wilmette (*to merge with Morton Grove Post 0134*)	Wilmette
	0119*	Frank H. Nagel, Jr. (*to merge with Lake In The Hills Post 1231*)	Fox River Grove
	0123	Leroy A. McCullough	Homer Glen
	0327*	Lloyd Knowlton *(to merge Harold E. Russell Post 0938)*	DePue
	0372	Naval	Chicago
	0627	Theodore Roosevelt	Chicago
	0664	Noel Robinson, Inc.	Hurst
	0710*	Tobias Bilyeu *(to merge with Alhambra Post 1147)*	New Douglas
	0796	Coal City	Coal City
	1041	Bone Gap	Bone Gap
	1146	Hartsburg	Hartsburg
INDIANA	0004	New Indianapolis	Indianapolis
	0014	Glen Owens	Peru
	0026	Paul Coble	Indianapolis
	0078	Casimer Pulaski	East Chicago
	0153	McILlvaine-Kothe	Indianapolis
	0259	Warren	Williamsport
	0274	Harry Howell	Lynn
	0293	Odon	Odon
	0311	I.N.V.E.T.	Indiaapolis
	0367	American Slovak	Gary
	0374	Eli Lilly	Indianapolis
	0394	Quigle-Palin	Newtown
	0429	Amboy	Amboy
	0439	Colfax	Colfax
	0565	James D. Faulkner	Sellersburg
MAINE	0152	Cape Elizabeth	Cape Elizabeth
	0203	Weld	Weld

	0212	Adrian G. McCarron	Portland
	0215	Merrill-McDonald Memorial	Casco
MARYLAND	0126	My Maryland Post	Forestville
MASSACHUSETTS	0263	Charles M. Streeter	Brimfield
	0454*	Whip City Memorial (*to merge with Westfield Post 0124*)	Westfield
MICHIGAN	0236	Joseph W. Guyton	Evart
MINNESOTA	0218	And-Quist	Coleraine
	0245	Nelson-Jackson	Tower Soudan
	0327	Poppe-Smuk-Appelget	Marble
	0439	Twin City Ford	St. Paul
	0458	William H. Robbins	Boy River
	0558	Mark Christian	Duluth
	0606	Attucks-Brooks	St. Paul
	0610	JFB	Tintah
	0638	Westport	Westport
MONTANA	0101	Forgotten Warriors	Missoula
NEBRASKA	0281	William Egle, Inc.	Stratton
	0372*	Kenneth P. Lewin (*to merge with John Rooney Post 0055*)	Thurston
NEW YORK	0180	Flower City	Rochester
	0423	Far Rockaway	Far Rockaway
	1031	Francis A. Lombardo	Buffalo
	1182	Monroe County Law Enforcement	Rochester
	1330*	Stevens-Connor (*to merge with Ely-Fagan Post 1151*)	Rush
	1991	Kerry P. Hein	Rocky Point
NORTH CAROLINA	0166	Hester-Crews	Oxford
	0196	John McClain, Inc.	Highpoint
	0295	Murphy-Willis, Inc.	Davis
	0448	Livengood-Peeler-Wood, Inc	Granite Quarry
	0449	Wagram Community	Wagram
NORTH DAKOTA	0220	Louis Maixner	Hamberg
	0241*	John Herdt (*to merge with Gunlickson-Erlien Post 0292*)	Max
	0304	Frank Luke	Minot AFB
OHIO	0133	Stover-Harrod	Cairo
	0197	South Amherst	South Amherst
	0808	University of Akron	University of Akron
SOUTH CAROLINA	0206	Upstate	Spartanburg

	0201	Rufus H. Foster, Sr.	Gaffney
SOUTH DAKOTA	**0081***	Erickson-Olson *(to merge with Higgins-Jesson, Inc. Post 0088)*	Toronto
	0272	Walter West	Pollock
TENNESSEE	**0016***	Bob Brown *(to merge with Rutherform County Post 0141)*	Murfreesboro
	0069*	University, Inc. *(to merge with Dresden, Inc. Post 0094)*	Martin
	0211*	Edward Hall *(to merge with Lucien Berry, Inc. Post 0115)*	Dickson
TEXAS	0016	Jernigan-Turner	Wolfe City
UTAH	0045	Jensen-Colby	Richfield
	0101	Ballard-Grant	Nibley
	0104	Gunnison Guard Mount	Gunnison
	0141	Camp W.G. Williams	Camp W.G. Willims
	0711	Ivins	Ivins
	2007	Memorial	Syracuse
VERMONT	0004	Wallace-McNulty-Hoyle	Proctorsville
	0038	Manchester	Manchester
	0078*	Earl Brock. *(to merge with Bradford Post 0020)*	Newbury
VIRGINIA	1919	Cyberpost	Richmond
WASHINGTON	0004	Robert Ellis	Kennewick
	0020	Captain Green, Inc.	Prosser
	0080	Leo K. McCormack	Republic
	0190	Eugene D. Kirby, Inc.	Lind
WISCONSIN	**0086***	Bodin-Finstad-Guski,Inc. *(to merge with Kelly-Johnson Inc. Post 0090)*	Washburn
	0174	Cuff-Patricki, Inc.	Hawkins
	0289	Martin F. Johnson, Mapleton, Inc.	Mapleton
	0418*	John L. and David L. Banks, Inc. (*to merge with Richard I. Bong Post 0435*)	Superior

SAL Charters of the American Legion Presented to
The National Executive Committee for Cancellation
May 5, 2021

On October 15, 2020, at the "virtual" Fall meetings in Indianapolis, Indiana the National Executive Committee approved the cancellation of twenty-six (26) Squadrons.

One hundred seventy-six (176) Squadrons have been submitted and recommended for cancellation consideration during the 2020 Fall National Executive Committee "virtual" meetings in Indianapolis, IN, May 5-6, 2021.

****See Merging Squadron Information Below**

DETACHMENT	SQDN #	NAME		LOCATION
CALIFORNIA	0001	San Francisco	*(squadron only)*	San Francisco

	0006	San Diego	*(squadron only)*	San Diego
	0022	Lodi	*(squadron only)*	Lodi
	0024	Frank Luke	*(squadron only)*	Blythe
	0035	Reedley	*(squadron only)*	Reedley
	0037	Wilkins	*(squadron only)*	San Rafael
	0051	Whittier	*(squadron only)*	Whittier
	0074	Modesto	*(squadron only)*	Modesto
	0081	Gonzales	*(squadron only)*	Gonzales
	0100	Lemoore	*(squadron only)*	Lemoore
	0105	Redwood City	*(squadron only)*	Redwood City
	0037	Wilkins	*(squadron only)*	San Rafael
	0051	Whittier	*(squadron only)*	Whittier
	0074	Modesto	*(squadron only)*	Modesto
	0081	Gonzales	*(squadron only)*	Gonzales
	0100	Lemoore	*(squadron only)*	Lemoore
	0105	Redwood City	*(squadron only)*	Redwood City
	0037	Wilkins	*(squadron only)*	San Rafael
	0051	Whittier	*(squadron only)*	Whittier
	0074	Modesto	*(squadron only)*	Modesto
	0081	Gonzales	*(squadron only)*	Gonzales
	0100	Lemoore	*(squadron only)*	Lemoore
	0105	Redwood City	*(squadron only)*	Redwood City
	0128	Lindsay	*(squadron only)*	Lindsay
	0131	Santa Ana	*(squadron only)*	Santa Ana
	0138	Bradley – Keffer	*(squadron only)*	Holtville
	0142	Fullerton	*(squadron only)*	Fullerton
	0150	Burbank	*(squadron only)*	Burbank
	0162	Eagle Lake	*(squadron only)*	Eagle Lake
	0182	Reams	*(squadron only)*	Suisun City
	0193	Van Nuys	*(squadron only)*	Van Nuys
	0206	Highland Park	*(squadron only)*	Los Angeles
	0261	El Monte	*(squadron only)*	El Monte
	0276	Eagle Rock	*(squadron only)*	Eagle Rock
	0313	Twin Cities	*(squadron only)*	Larkspur
	0335	South Gate	*(squadron only)*	South Gate
	0339	Ventura	*(squadron only)*	Ventura
	0377	Sunland – Tujunga	*(squadron only)*	Tujunga
	0384	Cathay	*(squadron only)*	San Francisco
	0397	Monterey Park	*(squadron only)*	Monterey Park
	0409	San Bruno	*(squadron only)*	San Bruno
	0441	Samuel Burney	*(squadron only)*	Burney
	0457	Glacier	*(squadron only)*	Big Pine
	0484	Simi Valley	*(squadron only)*	Simi Valley
	0494	Rainbow Warriors	*(squadron only)*	Garberville
	0502	Moorpark	*(squadron only)*	Moorpark
	0520	Sun Valley	*(squadron only)*	Sun Valley
	0594	George Van Vleet, Jr.	*(squadron only)*	Fresno
	0603	Manuel L. Quezon	*(squadron only)*	Vallejo
	0783	Stanton	*(squadron only)*	Stanton
	0801	Billie J. Dale	*(squadron only)*	Bombay Beach
	0862	Saddleback Valley	*(squadron only)*	Saddleback Valley
CONNECTICUT	0006	Eddy-Glover	*(squadron only)*	Cromwell
	0011	Harry W. Congdon	*(squadron only)*	Bridgeport

	0021	Leo J. L'Homme	*(squadron only)*	Danielson
	0034	Milford	*(squadron only)*	Milford
	0040	Barry-Poulter	*(squadron only)*	Windsor
	0043	Tuttle-Burns	*(squadron only)*	Winsted
	0050	Gordon-Viselli	*(squadron only)*	Ansonia
	0054	Donald A. Bigelow	*(squadron only)*	Colchester
	0073	Shaw-Sinon	*(squadron only)*	Wallingford
	0074	George Alfred Smith *(squadron only)*		Fairfield
	0076	Murray-Reynolds	*(squadron only)*	North Haven
	0083	Corcoran-Sundquist	*(squadron only)*	Branford
	0089	Harry R. Bartlett	*(squadron only)*	East Haven
	0105	Carlson Sjovall	*(squadron only)*	Cromwell
	1771	Denino-Shelto	*(squadron only)*	Hartford
ILLINOIS	0046*	Huerter-Wilmette *(to merge with Morton Grove Sqdn 0134)*		Wilmette
	0103	Crang-Bennett	*(squadron only)*	Clinton
	0168	Kerr-Mize	*(squadron only)*	Pana
	0486	Dwight	*(squadron only)*	Dwight
	0499	Speicher	*(squadron only)*	Gilman
INDIANA	0004	New Indianapolis		Indianapolis
	0014	Glen Owens		Peru
	0078	Casimer Pulaski		East Chicago
	0259	Warren		Williamsport
	0367	American Slovak		Gary
	0439	Colfax		Colfax
KANSAS	0007	Arthur N. Weir	*(squadron only)*	Horton
	0015	Leslie J. Campbell	*(squadron only)*	Iola
	0022	James William Miesse	*(squadron only)*	Marion
	0041	Tonganoxie	*(squadron only)*	Tonganoxie
	0048	Fuller-Thompson	*(squadron only)*	Garnett
	0103	Marvin C. Stephenson *(squadron only)*		Greensburg
	0111	Argentine	*(squadron only)*	Kansas City
	0189	Leonard Whitehil	*(squadron only)*	Augusta
	0197	Moore	*(squadron only)*	Wakeeney
	0216	Armstrong-Moyer	*(squadron only)*	Centralia
	0260	BlackJack	*(squadron only)*	St. George
	0323	Harold "Skinny" Spatz	*(squadron only)*	Lebo
	0411	Lansing Memorial	*(squadron only)*	Lansing
MARYLAND	0126	My Maryland Post		Forestville
MICHIGAN	0001	Charles A. Learned-David M. Vincent	*(squadron only)*	Detroit
	0005	Ironwood	*(squadron only)*	Ironwood
	0011	Geroux	*(squadron only)*	Wakefield
	0012	Capital City	*(squadron only)*	Lansing
	0017	Alfred Branchini	*(squadron only)*	Iron River

	0026	Larue Messenger	*(squadron only)*	Niles
	0046	Erwin Prieskorn	*(squadron only)*	Ann Arbor
	0054	General George A. Custer	*(squadron only)*	Battle Creek
	0055	Patrick Leo Hanlon	*(squadron only)*	Albion
	0062	Thomas F. Grant	*(squadron only)*	St. Ignace
	0082	Cloverland	*(squadron only)*	Escanaba
	0089	Oscar Briggs	*(squadron only)*	Allegan
	0098	Harry K. Kunzie	*(squadron only)*	Big Rapids
	0116	Hannahville Potawatomi	*(squadron only)*	Hannahville
	0139	Reese	*(squadron only)*	Reese
	0144	William S. McGlue	*(squadron only)*	L'Anse
	0156	Stout-Nesbit	*(squadron only)*	Montgomery
	0164	Conrad-Wager-Keene *(squadron only)*		Millington
	0171	Gladwin County	*(squadron only)*	Gladwin
	0176	Peiper-Hull-Sparks	*(squadron only)*	Clinton
	0191	Elliott R. Smith	*(squadron only)*	Lambertville
	0207	Portage	*(squadron only)*	Portage
	0230	Clyde Johnston	*(squadron only)*	Mohawk
	0271	Redford Township-Tansey-Weil	*(squadron only)*	Redford
	0292	Byron Center	*(squadron only)*	Byron Center
	0340	Floriano-Stecker-Kelly	*(squadron only)*	Hermansville
	0348	Arthur Randall	*(squadron only)*	Mio
	0415	Austin-Moore	*(squadron only)*	Hartland
	0444	Foucault-Funke	*(squadron only)*	Baraga
	0457	North Branch	*(squadron only)*	North Branch
	0458	John N. Cottrell	*(squadron only)*	Gaylord
	0479	Almont	*(squadron only)*	Almont
	0480	Robert E. Beebe-Clayton M. Sherwood	*(squadron only)*	Kalkaska
	0502	Huffman-Hammond-Rando	*(squadron only)*	Elsie
MINNESOTA	0606	Attucks-Brooks		St. Paul
NEBRASKA	0002	Kenneth A. Curtis	*(squadron only)*	Tecumseh
	0008	Adam Schellinger	*(squadron only)*	Nebraska City
	0066	Martin-Horn	*(squadron only)*	Holdrege
	0121	Jay Wormwood	*(squadron only)*	Scribner
	0125	Kregger	*(squadron only)*	David City
	0148	Claire Fryer	*(squadron only)*	Plainview
	0151	Fred Philbrick	*(squadron only)*	Fullerton
	0221	Frederick-Steidley	*(squadron only)*	Adams
	0253	Spobow	*(squadron only)*	Cortland
	0262	Yutan	*(squadron only)*	Yutan
	0271	Hilton-Flaming	*(squadron only)*	Madrid
	0272	Burke-Towne	*(squadron only)*	Maywood
	0297	Shelton	*(squadron only)*	Shelton
	0353	Henry A. Newman	*(squadron only)*	Louisville
NEW YORK	0180	Flower City		Rochester

	0423	Far Rockaway		Far Rockaway
	1031	Francis A. Lombardo		Buffalo
OHIO	0046	Liberty	*(squadron only)*	Bellevue
SOUTH DAKOTA	0007	William F. Reaves	*(squadron only)*	Huron
	0018	Coacher-Goetsch	*(squadron only)*	Mitchell
	0106	Roberts-O'Shea	*(squadron only)*	Faith
	0118	Urban-Hanson	*(squadron only)*	Hartford
	0130	Drips	*(squadron only)*	Kimball
	0135	Ralph Leui	*(squadron only)*	Gettysburg
	0174	Brethorst-Burma	*(squadron only)*	Lennox
	0262	Harold Feser	*(squadron only)*	Claremont
	0319	Two Rivers	*(squadron only)*	North Sioux City
UTAH	0045	Jensen-Colby		Richfield
	0104	Gunnison Guard Mount		Gunnison
VERMONT	0064	Donald McMahon	*(squadron only)*	Stowe
	0080	Brighton	*(squadron only)*	Island Pond
WASHINGTON	0004	Robert Ellis		Kennewick
WISCONSIN	0087	Eubanks-Arneson	*(squadron only)*	Rice lake
	0095	Rutledge-Boviall-Schauf-Madison *(squadron only)*		Delavan
	0129	Andrew Blackhawk	*(squadron only)*	Black River Falls
	0133	Earl Guilligan	*(squadron only)*	Camp Douglas
	0136	Cretton-Tutas	*(squadron only)*	Niagara
	0138	William A. Jacobson-Errett B. Olson	*(squadron only)*	Virooua
	0155	Syverson-Funk	*(squadron only)*	Westby
	0201	Grassman-Sowle-Larsen-Senz	*(squadron only)*	Tomah
	0210	Getchel-Nelson	*(squadron only)*	Waupun
	0222	Campbellsport Memorial	*(squadron only)*	Campbellsport
	0233	Humphrey-Wilsey	*(squadron only)*	Waterloo
	0252	Fisher-Lechnir-Wall	*(squadron only)*	Eastman
	0273	Snider-Richardson	(*squadron only)*	Grand Marsh
	0302	Eick-Sankey	*(squadron only)*	Oconto Falls
	0316	York-Kolar	*(squadron only)*	Sheldon
	0330	Matson-Miller	*(squadron only)*	Wilson
	0331	North Shore	*(squadron only)*	Shorewood
	0358	Otto H. Kops	(*squadron only)*	Unity
	0399	MagnusAnderson	*(squadron only)*	Okauchee
	0417	Homer Hall, Jr.	*(squadron only)*	French Island
	0436	Urban Klister	*(squadron only)*	Wrightstown
	0439	Neil S. Lewison	*(squadron only)*	Melrose
	0457	Howard J. Schroeder	*(squadron only)*	Thiensville
	0459	Hopland-Moen	*(squadron only)*	Eleva
	0467	Bredlow-Ewing	*(squadron only)*	Ontario
	0472	Bell and Behrens	*(squadron only)*	Milwaukee

0505	Gold Star	*(squadron only)*	Milwaukee
0508	Hanson-Stark-Leith-Paeth	*(squadron only)*	Wilton
0529	David Valdes	*(squadron only)*	Milwaukee

Confirmation of Dates of Future Meetings

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Commander, may I again address the national adjutant in regards to the confirmation of dates for future meetings?

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: You may.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Mr. Adjutant, are there dates of future meetings that require approval of the National Executive Committee?

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WHEELER: Mr. Commander, the dates are accurate as distributed.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Mr. Commander, without the list being read, I move that they be approved and printed in digest form. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second to approve the dates of future meetings without being read. They will be published in the digest. Any discussion? Any objections? Hearing none, seeing none, motion carries, unanimous consent.

Previously Approved by NEC

2021 FALL MEETINGS	
Commissions and Committees	October 4-5
Commanders and Adjutants Conference	October 4-5
National Executive Committee	October 6-7
2022 WASHINGTON CONFERENCE	February 27-March 2
2022 SPRING MEETINGS	
Commissions and Committees	May 2-3
National Executive Committee	May 4-5
2022 FALL MEETINGS	
Commissions and Committees	October 10-11
Commanders and Adjutants Conference	October 10-11
National Executive Committee	October 12-13
2023 WASHINGTON CONFERENCE	February 26 - March 1
2023 SPRING MEETINGS	
Commissions and Committees	May 8-9
National Executive Committee	May 10-11
2023 FALL MEETINGS	
Commissions and Committees	October 9-10
Commanders and Adjutants Conference	October 9-10
National Executive Committee	October 11-12
2024 WASHINGTON CONFERENCE	February 24-28
2024 SPRING MEETINGS	
Commissions and Committees	May 6-7
National Executive Committee	May 8-9

2024 FALL MEETINGS

Commissions and Committees	October 7-8
Commanders and Adjutants Conference	October 7-8
National Executive Committee	October 9-10

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Chair recognizes William W. Kile of West Virginia, chairman of the Resolutions Subcommittee, for the purposes of a final report.

Final Report of the Subcommittee on Resolutions
William W. Kile, West Virginia, Chairman

Mr. Commander, your Subcommittee on Resolutions has considered all resolutions that have come before the committee. I would like to stress the importance to the 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 archive.legion.org.

I would like to take this time to thank the members of the committee who have done an outstanding job and who have attended every session and participated in the discussion of these resolutions. My thanks go to my vice chairman, Dennis Boland from Florida; Thomas Florez of Colorado; Lloyd Woods of Maine, Robert Skinner of Idaho; William Barbknecht of Minnesota; and Dan Wiley from Kansas. I thank you very much for your dedicated service.

Appreciation is also extended to Howard Trace and his staff who served our committee. I also want to thank the document center, directors and chairmen of the commissions and committees on their work in order to bring these reports and resolutions to you. During our deliberations, we spoke with a number of chairmen who have been very helpful to us in explaining questions we had about resolutions.

Mr. Commander, it is a pleasure to serve as chairman of your Subcommittee on Resolutions. We would like to thank the National Executive Committee in their reporting of the various resolutions. You have been most cooperative. Mr. Commander, I move that this report be received and filed. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second to receive and file the report of the Subcommittee on Resolutions. Any discussion? Any objections? Hearing none, seeing none, motion carries, unanimous consent. I'd like to make a few closing remarks.

Closing Remarks
James W. Oxford, North Carolina, National Commander

First of all, let me thank you for allowing me to serve as your national commander, it is a tremendous honor. But as we come to the end of this NEC meeting, I know there are many of you who are disappointed that we didn't do this event live. And we all heard all we want to and need to about the coronavirus. But when the decision was made some months ago about this meeting, it was the right thing to do.

We can't forgot about the things we've missed, the sacrifices, the things we didn't get to do. They include our oratorical contest, baseball games, other children and youth events missed or cancelled because of the pandemic. But I'd like to tell you how proud I am of the things we did do: the food drives, PPE collection and distribution, blood drives, drive-through meals, transportation to medical appointments, grocery and prescription delivery, our Buddy Checks. The list goes on and on.

But The American Legion is still here, still on the job, still here, still doing what we do because it's who we are. That's veterans strengthening America. We can and we did adapt and overcome. We might have slowed down, but we never gave up. We've learned many lessons: Zoom teleconferences, online events, conference calls. This virtual stuff really works and we can still do our job.

Before COVID I thought we had a great opportunity to meet and exceed our membership goal, but obviously the pandemic hurt us. And this year we're still behind our goal, but we can't give up. We've still got to make membership a priority and continue to recruit and retain and invite.

We've got a great team across the country of Legionnaires, Auxiliary, Sons, and Riders. I'd like to take just a moment and say a special thanks to every member of our team for their efforts and contributions to our team goals.

Just a couple of other special things. If you haven't had your COVID vaccine, please get one. If you haven't signed up to get involved with our second annual Hundred Miles for Hope Challenge, it's a great way to get outside, get some exercise, get healthier, and support our Veterans & Children's Foundation. Please think about doing that.

We're working hard on getting back to normal, and there is a bright light at the end of the tunnel. And last of all, be safe, stay well, and I'll see everybody in Phoenix. *(Applause)*

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KILE: Commander, I move that your closing remarks be received and filed. *...Second.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: We have a motion and a second to receive and file the comments of the national commander. Any discussion? Any objections? Hearing none, seeing none, motion carries, unanimous consent. Please stand and uncover. I'd like to call on national chaplain Edward L. Harris for the benediction.

Benediction
Edward L. Harris, Indiana, National Chaplain

Dear God, we have met, we have been taught, and in being taught, we have learned. Help us to share this learning with our American Legion world, to make it a better place for all of our comrades. This too we ask in Your name. Amen.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Please recover. With the colors of our nation in place, hand salute: One, two. I now declare this meeting of the NEC adjourned.

...At 11:43 a.m., Thursday, May 6, 2021, the National Executive Committee meeting of The American Legion was adjourned. Sine die.

ABBREVIATIONS

A

ACE ..... acceptable clinical evidence
ADJ ..... adjutant
AFB ..... Air Force Base
AFL ..... American Federation of Labor
ALA ..... American Legion Auxiliary
ALB ..... American Legion Baseball
ALR ..... American Legion Riders
ALS ..... Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis
ALWS ..... American Legion World Series
ANAVICUS ..... Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans in Canada United States
ANC ..... Arlington National Cemetery
ASD(R) ..... Assistant Secretary of Defense for Readiness
AV ..... audiovisual

B

B&M ..... Bergmann and Moore
BVA ..... Board of Veteran Appeals

C

C&P ..... compensation and pension
C&Y ..... Children and Youth
CDC ..... Centers for Disease Control
CEO ..... chief executive officer
CFR ..... Code of Federal Regulations
CIO ..... chief information officer
CNSC ..... Citizenship and Naturalization Subcommittee
COVID-19 ..... coronavirus disease 2019
COYE ..... Committee on Youth Education
CPR ..... consolidated post report, Court Program Report
CSM ..... command sergeant major
CSR ..... Consolidated Squadron Report
CWF ..... Child Welfare Foundation
CY ..... calendar year

D

DASD FE&T ..... Deputy Assistant Secretrary of Defense (Force Education & Training
DEC ..... Department Executive Committee
DHA ..... Defense Health Agency
DMS ..... Direct Membership Solicitation
DOC ..... Department of Commerce
DOD ..... Department of Defense
DOL ..... Department of Labor
DPAA ..... Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency
DVOP ..... Disabled Veterans Outreach Program

E

EDT ..... eastern daylight time
EMT ..... emergency medical technician
ESOY ..... Eagle Scout of the Year

F

FCC ..... Federal Communications Commission
FY ..... fiscal year

G

GAO ..... Government Accountability Office

H

HQ ..... headquarters
HR ..... House Resolution
HVAC ..... heating, ventilation, and air conditioning

I

ICBM ..... intercontinental ballistic missile
IRS ..... Internal Revenue Service
ISIS ..... Islanic State of Iraq and the Levant
IT ..... information technology

K

K2 ..... Karshi-Khanabad

L

LCSW ..... licensed clinical social worker
LEGION Act ..... Lets Get Everyone Involved in Opportunities for National Service Act
LTG ..... lieutenant general
LVER ..... Local Veterans Employment Representative

M

M&PA ..... Membership and Post Activities
MDE ..... Medical Disability Examination
MG ..... major general
MIA ..... missing in action
MISSION ..... Managing Internal Systems and Strengthening Integrated Networks Act
MLB ..... Major League Baseball
MMIS ..... Membership Management Information System
MST ..... military sexual trauma
MTF ..... military treatment facility

N

NADHAL ..... National Association of Department Historians of The American Legion
NALC ..... National American Legion College
NASA ..... National Aeronautics and Space Adminitration
NASCAR ..... National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing
NATO ..... North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NCA ..... National Cemetery Administration
NCAA ..... National Collegiate Athletic Association
NCC ..... National Conference Center
NCMAF ..... National Conference on Ministry to the Armed Forces
NCO ..... non-commissioned officer
NEC ..... National Executive Committee
NEF ..... National Emergency Fund

NPRC .....National Personnel Records Center
NS ..... National Security
NTT .....Nippon Telegraph and Telephone

O

OCW ..... Operation Comfort Warriors
OIG .....Office of Inspector General

P

PAP .....Post Assistance Program
PDCC ..... Past Department Commanders Club
PFC ..... private first class
PNC .....past national commander
PNCP .....Past National Commander Panel
POW ..... prisoner of war
PPE ..... personal protective equipment
PPP ..... Paycheck Protection Program
PTSD .....Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder
PUFL ..... Paid Up For Life

R

R&D .....research and development
RFP .....request for proposal
ROAR .....Regional Office Action Review

S

SAL ..... Sons of The American Legion
SDR .....Squadron Data Report
SOP ..... standard operating procedure
SPP ..... States Partnership Program
STEM ..... science, technology, engineering and matematics
SWS .....System Worth Saving

T

TAC ..... Trophies, Awards and Ceremonials
TAL ..... The American Legion
TBI .....Traumatic Brain Injury
TEAM .....Toxic Exposure in the American Military Act
TFA ..... Temporary Financial Assistance

U

USAA .....United Services Automobile Association
USAF .....United States Air Force
USD P&R ..... Under Secretary for Defense for Personnel and Readiness
USDA .....United States Department of Agriculture
USN .....United States Navy
UWUA .....Utility Workers Union of America

V

VA .....Department of Veterans Affairs
VA&R .....Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation
VAMC ..... VA Medical Center

VARO ..... VA Regional Office
VBA ..... Veterans Benefit Administration
VCF ..... The American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation
VE&E ..... Veterans Employment and Education
VETS ..... Veterans Employment and Training Service
VHA ..... Veterans Health Administration
VISN ..... Veterans Integrated Service Network
VSO ..... Veteran Service Organization

W

WWI ..... World War I
WWII ..... World War II

Y

YASC ..... Youth Activities Subcommittee
YCLE ..... Youth Cadet Law Enforcement
YRRP ..... Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program
YTD ..... year to date

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