NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA
OCTOBER 9-10, 2002

Resolution No. 13: Selective Service Registration and State Drivers' License Applications
Submitted by: National Security
Origin: 2002 NC Resolution No. 175 (ID)

WHEREAS, Federal law requires virtually all male U.S. citizens, as well as immigrant men residing in the U.S., to register with the Selective Service System (SSS) when reaching 18; and

WHEREAS, Despite publicity efforts, many men are unaware of this important civic obligation and legal requirement, and registration compliance has been eroding about one percent per year since 1991; at the end of 2000, an estimated 88 percent of U.S. men, 18 through 25 years old, were registered with the SSS; and

WHEREAS, Men who fail to register with Selective Service are not eligible for certain Federal programs and benefits that the Congress and 28 state and territorial legislatures have linked to registration to include student loans and grants for college, most government jobs and job training; and

WHEREAS, Immigrant men in the U.S. who fail to register when they are 18, but not 26 or over, may be denied U.S. citizenship by the INS; and

WHEREAS, It is generally believed that a key to solving the SSS registration compliance problem in a State is to link SSS registration with the process of applying for drivers' licenses or state identification cards: Females are not required to register with the SSS under current law, and men 26 years old and older are too old to register; and

WHEREAS, Twenty-five states, 2 territories and the District of Columbia have enacted drivers' license laws supporting SSS registration; bills have been introduced in 5 States and two territories; and there are 20 states with no draft bills and they include Arkansas, Arizona, California, Connecticut, Iowa, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota, Nebraska, New Jersey, New Mexico, Nevada, Oregon, Vermont, Washington and Wyoming; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, October 9-10, 2002, That The American Legion urges those twenty states which have not as yet drafted state laws linking drivers' license applications to Selective Service System registration for young men between the ages of 18 and 25 be encouraged to do so in order to increase registration compliance.