NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA
OCTOBER 17 – 18, 2012

Resolution No. 48: Diversity and a Veteran is a Veteran (21st Century)
Origin: Internal Affairs Commission
Submitted by: Internal Affairs Commission

WHEREAS, The National Commander's 21st Century Ad Hoc Committee met and reported to the National Executive Committee, October 15-16, 1997, its findings and recommendations and six resolutions were approved by the National Executive Committee in May 1998; and

WHEREAS, The National Commander's 2006 Ad Hoc Committee on Membership Retention, which met July 5 and 6 and July 24 and 25, 2006 recommended all six resolutions be reaffirmed because of their importance on the membership program of The American Legion for the future; and

WHEREAS, That Resolution No. 27, dated May 6, 1998, subject as above, was reaffirmed by the 2006 Fall National Executive Committee as Resolution No. 27, dated October 18-19, 2006; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion, founded in 1919, as a fraternal veterans' organization based upon firm comradeship born out of war service, and dedication to equitable treatment for all veterans, particularly the disabled, their widows, and their orphans; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion affirmed its continued commitment and support to all our comrades, their children, their widows and orphans and the generations to come during the Minneapolis Convention, September 6-8, 1994; and

WHEREAS, A veteran is a veteran, regardless of race, religion, gender, creed or age and is eligible to belong to The American Legion as long as he or she meets the prescribed eligibility requirement; and

WHEREAS, American Legion posts are made up of war time veterans from all walks of life, who gave of themselves, sacrificed so much and asked for so little in return to become eligible to be a member of The American Legion; and

WHEREAS, It is the responsibility of elected and appointed officials at all levels of The American Legion to ensure that our governing document, the National Constitution and By-Laws is strictly enforced and adhered to; and

WHEREAS, By virtue of membership in The American Legion, members are entitled to certain benefits including access to any American Legion post; and

WHEREAS, Due to the importance of this resolution in the foundation of our membership plans for the future, Resolution #27 (NEC, October 2006) should be rescinded and replaced by this resolution to keep all six of the original 21st Century resolutions together; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 17-18, 2012, That The American Legion strongly recommends that every level of The American Legion (departments, districts, counties and posts) review its Constitution and By-Laws and those of superior bodies within the organization to ensure it is in compliance with the rules that govern this organization; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a veteran is a veteran, regardless of race, religion, gender, creed, age, or war era, and is eligible to belong to The American Legion as long as he or she meets the prescribed eligibility requirements; and, be it further

RESOLVED, Departments, districts, counties and posts dedicated to the programs of The American Legion are urged not to take unwarranted actions that may lead to barriers that hamper the growth, support of programs and active community involvement that may adversely affect the growth of The American Legion; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That we operate with a common focus, derived from cooperation and fraternal relationships developed from working together at all levels of the organization, for the sole intent and purpose of carrying out the duties and responsibilities commonly shared at each level of The American Legion; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That Resolution No. 27, of the National Executive Committee, October, 2006, titled, "Diversity and a Veteran is a Veteran" (21st Century) is hereby superseded and rescinded.