NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA
MAY 7 – 8, 2014

Resolution No. 20: Place Polar Bear Monument on National Register of Historic Places
Origin: Register Resolution No. 2703 (MI) DEC
Submitted by: Internal Affairs Commission

WHEREAS, The Polar Bear Monument, also known as The Polar Bear, is the only memorial in the nation of the American North Russian Expeditionary Force in 1918-1919; and

WHEREAS, The monument was created by the renowned French sculptor Leon Hermont and was carved from a solid block of white Georgia marble; and

WHEREAS, There are 56 men of the American North Russian Expeditionary Force interred around the monument; and

WHEREAS, The Polar Bear Monument was designated an Historic Site by the State of Michigan on May 30, 1988; and

WHEREAS, The Polar Bear Monument is a memorial for the 5,500 U.S. servicemembers who served in the American North Russian Expeditionary Force; and

WHEREAS, In February, 1919, when The American Legion was planning its first meeting in Paris, France, the American North Russian Expeditionary Forces were still fighting for their lives in North Russia; and

WHEREAS, Many of the men who served with the American North Russian Expeditionary Force after coming home joined The American Legion posts all across the country and many in Michigan; and

WHEREAS, Some of the men who served in the American North Expeditionary Force had American Legion posts named after them for their bravery and sacrifice they gave for their country; and

WHEREAS, On May 30, 1930, more than 10,000 people, including top military personnel and countless city, state and governmental dignitaries, witnessed the internment of 41 men from the 339th Infantry and the 310th Engineers who were finally laid to rest around The Polar Bear Monument in White Chapel Memorial Park Cemetery at 621 W Long Lake Rd, Troy, MI; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 7-8, 2014, That the National Organization supports the Department of Michigan in their efforts to place The Polar Bear Monument on the National Register of Historic Places, without financial obligation on behalf of the National Organization, as a lasting tribute to the bravery, courage, commitment, service, and sacrifice exhibited by the members of the American North Russian Expeditionary Force.