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

Resolution No. 29: Commending Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)
Origin: Committee on Children & Youth
Submitted by: Americanism Commission

WHEREAS, The American Legion has long been an advocate of adequate social and protective services for children; and

WHEREAS, According to the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, there are three million alleged cases of child abuse and neglect reported annually, with nearly one million of these substantiated and/or indicated as victims of maltreatment; and

WHEREAS, In 1976, a Seattle judge conceived the idea of using trained volunteers to speak for the best interests of abused and neglected children in court, thereby providing the court with sufficient information and helping to ensure that the children live in safe and loving environments; and

WHEREAS, Due to the success of the initial program, judges across the nation began utilizing citizen advocates, and in 1990, the U.S. Congress encouraged the expansion of the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program with the passage of the Victims of Child Abuse Act; and

WHEREAS, There are currently 933 CASA programs operating across this country, with more than 60,000 men and women serving as volunteer advocates for children; and

WHEREAS, Over 200,000 children are helped annually through CASA's work; and

WHEREAS, Over one-half million abused and neglected American children are currently in need of safe, permanent homes, while there are only enough CASA volunteers to represent one-third of these children; and

WHEREAS, The Committee on Children & Youth has reviewed this resolution and recommends its approval; 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 American Legion commends Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) programs and their mission and aims to help and represent at-risk children; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the Americanism Commission's Committee on Children & Youth send a copy of this resolution to National Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) as an expression of The American Legion's congratulations and continuing admiration.