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

Resolution No. 31: Expressing Support for the Ideals and Goals of Citizenship Day
Origin: Americanism Commission
Submitted by: Americanism Commission

WHEREAS, "I Am An American Day" originated in 1940 when Congress passed a joint resolution authorizing and requesting the President to issue an annual proclamation for the public recognition of all who had attained the status of American citizenship, either by coming of age or by naturalization; and

WHEREAS, In 1952 Congress replaced I Am An American Day with the annual observance of "Citizenship Day" on September 17 to retain the original purpose of recognizing those who have become U.S. citizens and to also commemorate the creation and signing of the Constitution of the United States in 1787; and

WHEREAS, Citizenship Day continues to be observed annually on September 17; and

WHEREAS, Citizenship Day is an appropriate opportunity to take pride in being a United States citizen and to appreciate the rights, freedoms, and responsibilities inherent in United States citizenship; and

WHEREAS, Through Title 36, Section 106 of the United States Code, civil and educational authorities of states, counties, cities and towns are urged to make plans for the proper observance and for the complete instruction of citizens in their responsibilities and opportunities as United States citizens and as citizens of their communities; and

WHEREAS, Through Title 36, Section 106 of the United States Code, all people of the United States are invited to observe Citizenship Day in schools, churches, and other suitable places; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion established a collaboration with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services known as "Citizenship Outreach" (also referred to as "Task Force On New Americans") to assist legal immigrants seeking the path to naturalized U.S. citizenship by hosting citizenship orientations sessions and classes in U.S. civics, government and English; and

WHEREAS, Citizenship Day is an excellent occasion to support and expand citizenship orientation sessions and classes sponsored by local American Legion posts across the nation; 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 supports the ideals and goals of Citizenship Day; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion calls on government authorities, schools, students and all local community organizations to observe Citizenship Day with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion urges American Legion posts to support local collaboration in "Citizenship Outreach," an initiative with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services to assist legal immigrants seeking the path to naturalized U.S. citizenship.