NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA
MAY 10 - 11, 2017

Resolution No. 7: Department of Veterans Affairs Health-Care Provider of the Year Award
Origin: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission
Submitted By: Finance Commission

WHEREAS, As noted in The American Legion Outline of Authorization, the purpose of the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission is to formulate and recommend to the National Executive Committee of The American Legion policies, plans and programs on direct assistance, outreach and support for veterans and their families with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) claims and benefits, health care, memorial affairs and women veterans programs to ensure that they receive the highest quality of care from the VA for their injuries and illnesses incurred from their military service; and

WHEREAS, Health-care providers in the VA health-care system have a primary duty to apply President Lincoln's charge "to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow, and his orphan…"; and

WHEREAS, Health-care providers in the VA health-care system also have the privilege of serving the best patients in the world, America's veterans and service members; and

WHEREAS, A high number of health-care providers suffer from physical and/or mental burnout, a medical condition defined by symptoms of emotional exhaustion, lack of accomplishment and cynicism; and

WHEREAS, The burnout syndrome affects workers in many fields, particularly those whose work involves intense interaction with people; and

WHEREAS, The burnout syndrome also affects other health-care providers besides physicians, including nurses, nurse practitioners and physicians assistants; and

WHEREAS, Other reasons for high levels of burnout include: excessive workload, clerical burden and inefficiency in the practice environment, a loss of control over work, problems with work-life integration, and erosion of meaning in work; and

WHEREAS, Burnout results in a poorer veteran patient experience and satisfaction, an increase in medical errors and higher turnover which affects access, particularly in the known critical shortage disciplines of mental health and primary care; and

WHEREAS, Based on a 2016 VA Survey, sixty-five percent of VA medical facilities do not have a veterans service organization/veteran programs to recognize any clinical health-care provider; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 10-11, 2017, That The American Legion create and establish an award to be known as the "VA Health-care Provider of the Year Award," to recognize one outstanding health-care provider in the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health-care system; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the award have the following specifications:

1. **The award shall be in the form of an 11" X 14" walnut shadow box plaque with metal etched inscribed plate not exceeding the cost of $300, adjusted as needed for inflation; and**
2. **It shall be awarded by the national commander with the advice and consent of the National Executive Committee annually at the Commander's Call during Washington Conference; and**
3. **Nominations for such awards may be made by any member of The American Legion in good standing filed with the Internal Affairs Commission under such procedures established by the commission as are necessary and consistent with the effective administration of such an award; and, be it further**

RESOLVED, That The American Legion will provide the award recipient with one roundtrip coach airfare or vehicle mileage in accordance with its employee mileage reimbursement rates, staff per diem for up to three days, and lodging for up to two nights in accordance with travel and housing policies of The American Legion for the individual recipient to receive the award at the Washington Conference, to exclude any incidental expenses or any expenses incurred by guests accompanying the award recipient; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion will provide notification and feedback to the VA under secretary for health, the winning health-care provider's VA medical center director and chief of staff; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the award recipient will be invited to attend The American Legion annual Washington Conference to receive the award.