NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
October 16-17, 2019
Indianapolis, Indiana

Resolution No. 18: Funding of the Department of Defense STARBASE Program
Origin: Register Resolution No. 2765 (MI) Department Executive Committee
Submitted by: National Security Commission

WHEREAS, The American Legion has a proud tradition of supporting our nation's youth; and

WHEREAS, The organization was founded on the principle in 1919, when Children & Youth was declared one of the Legion's Four Pillars; and

WHEREAS, The national Americanism Commission's Children & Youth Committee is the center of the Legion's youth-support efforts; and

WHEREAS, The national Children & Youth Committee meets annually to formulate, recommend and implement plans, programs and activities designed to assure care and protection for the children of veterans, improve conditions for all children and youth with due concern for maintaining the integrity of the family home, prevent social and physical ills of children and youth where possible, utilizing services of and cooperating with sound organizations and agencies for children and youth, and maintain a balanced program that provides for their physical, emotional, intellectual and spiritual needs; and

WHEREAS, STARBASE is a Department of Defense (DoD) funded educational enrichment program designed for fifth grade students, with 66 academies in 33 states and territories co-located on military installations in FY 2018; and

WHEREAS, The purpose of the program is to create excitement and interest in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) subjects and encourage students to prepare for careers which require those skills; and

WHEREAS, The program provides opportunities for students to explore real world scenarios using computer aided design (CAD), robotics, the engineering design process (EDP), mathematics and chemistry, while stressing the "soft subjects" of teamwork, communication, and goal setting; and

WHEREAS, STARBASE 2.0 is conducted in middle schools that have students who previously attended STARBASE as fifth graders, to maintain student interest in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, and practice teamwork and problem solving skills, with 78 programs in 22 states; and

WHEREAS, Beginning in FY 1993, over 1.2 million students have participated in the STARBASE program, with 93,133 participating in FY 2018 alone; and

WHEREAS, The United States Congress has funded the STARBASE Program, beginning in FY 1993, as part of the DoD budget; and

WHEREAS, Annual funding of this program has not always been included in presidential budgets, being left up to the legislative portion of the budget process, to the detriment and uncertainty of local STARBASE Academies; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 16-17, 2019, That The American Legion supports consistent and adequate funding of the DoD STARBASE Program within the Department of Defense budget.