NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
May 8-9, 2019
Indianapolis, Indiana

Resolution No. 15: Commendation for Statues of Liberation in Normandy
Origin: 100th Anniversary Observance Committee
Submitted by: Internal Affairs Commission

WHEREAS, The American Legion upholds a sacred duty to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the Great Wars, as stated in the Preamble to The American Legion Constitution; and

WHEREAS, Operation Democracy of Locust Valley, N.Y., Amis des Veterans Americains (Friends of American Veterans) of Normandy, France, and some local American Legion posts in the United States have expressed support for a plan to erect two statues in Ste. Mere-Eglise, Normandy, France, one in honor of Brig. Gen. Theodore Roosevelt Jr., and the other to immortalize Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower in June 2020; and

WHEREAS, Brig. Gen. Roosevelt Jr. is widely regarded as the driving force behind the formation of The American Legion and can be depicted as such on the statue in Ste. Mere-Eglise, center of Normandy invasion commemoration events since 1945; and

WHEREAS, Brig. Gen. Roosevelt Jr. was first laid to rest in Ste. Mere-Eglise and now lies eternally among his fallen comrades at the Normandy American Cemetery near Omaha Beach, and received the Medal of Honor for his actions on June 6, 1944, coming ashore in the first wave of the D-Day invasion, before dying of a heart attack five weeks later; and

WHEREAS, Gen. Eisenhower was a life member of The American Legion post in Abilene, Kan., and received the national organization's Distinguished Service Medal in 1945, for his victorious leadership in World War II; and

WHEREAS, This project is termed "Statues of Liberation" to express the historical U.S. military identity as liberators of the oppressed, as the French were in 1944 after four years of German occupation, which amplifies the honorable nature of U.S. military service and can do so for generations to come, through this initiative; and

WHEREAS, The two statues may include American Legion references and/or emblem usage in the pedestals, if reviewed by the national judge advocate and approved by the national adjutant, according to policy and constitutional protocol; and

WHEREAS, No financial commitment from The American Legion National Headquarters is requested at this time, but may be requested in the future, while some posts have indicated financial support for the project if a national resolution is passed commending it; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 8-9, 2019, That The American Legion commends the "Statues of Liberation" project in Ste. Mere-Eglise, Normandy, France, to install life-sized or larger statues of American Legion founding leader Brig. Gen. Theodore Roosevelt Jr. and Supreme Allied Commander-Europe and former U.S. President Gen. Dwight Eisenhower, and may promote the project through media channels for those who wish to support it; and

RESOLVED, That the two statues may include American Legion references and/or emblem usage if reviewed by the national judge advocate and approved by the national adjutant, according to policy and constitutional protocol; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That although this support does not currently commit any additional financial support from the national organization, posts may contribute if they wish.