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

Resolution No. 24: Commending The Joe Foss Institute
Origin: Committee on Youth Education
Submitted by: Americanism Commission

WHEREAS, Two of the four pillars of The American Legion are Children & Youth and Americanism; and

WHEREAS, The Joe Foss Institute lists its five values as freedom, patriotism, integrity, service, and character, and targets its programs at military veterans, students, and teachers; and

WHEREAS, The Joe Foss Institute is a nonprofit organization in the United States that aims to promote an appreciation among students for the American tradition of liberty, the country's military history, and patriotic values; and

WHEREAS, The Joe Foss Institute was founded in 2001 by Medal of Honor recipient General Joseph J. Foss and his wife Donna Foss, and throughout his high profile career, General Foss always made time to visit classrooms and speak with the students – America's future leaders; and

WHEREAS, His goal was to ensure the children understand America's freedoms and the importance of public service, integrity and patriotism; and

WHEREAS, Since its founding in 2001, the Joe Foss Institute has served nearly 1.5 million students through in-classroom presentations, educational materials and scholarships; and

WHEREAS, The Joe Foss Institute was created to carry on that vision by offering free educational programs and curriculum for schools and youth groups nationwide; and

WHEREAS, The Joe Foss Institute offers free educational programs for teachers around the country, and currently, the Joe Foss Institute offers three primary programs; Veterans Inspiring Patriotism, "You are America" Civics Series and the Joe Foss Institute Scholarship Program; and

WHEREAS, The National Executive Committee of The American Legion in Indianapolis, Indiana on October 10-11, 1984, approved Resolution No. 32 titled "Urging the U.S. Department of Education to Develop a Comprehensive Outline of Instruction Covering the Rights and Responsibilities of a Loyal Patriotic U.S. Citizen" that calls for successful completion of a final comprehensive examination regarding citizenship responsibilities for graduation from high school; and

WHEREAS, The Joe Foss Institute is actively working with 20 states who do not currently have a Civics Educational Initiative, an initiative that, as a condition of graduation, seeks to require high school seniors to pass a citizenship test based upon 100 basic facts of U.S. history and civics taken from the United States Citizenship Civics Test – the test all immigrants applying for U.S. citizenship must pass; 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 Joe Foss Institute for their mission of helping educate and promulgate information to military veterans, students and teachers about the American tradition of liberty, our country's military history and patriotic values, and for championing implementation of a United States citizenship civics test in high schools as a condition of graduation; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Americanism Commission's Committee on Youth Education send a copy of this resolution to the Joe Foss Institute as an expression of The American Legion's congratulations and admiration; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, This commendation is done at no cost to The American Legion and withholds all grants of authority to use The American Legion's name and/or trademark without specific authority, except in fair-use reporting of this resolution.