NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
October 14-15, 2020
Virtual

Resolution No. 14: Post 9/11 Transfer of Educational Benefits
Origin: Register Resolution No. 2772 (CA) Department Executive Committee
Submitted by: Veterans Employment & Education Commission

WHEREAS, Our servicemembers and our veterans have risked their lives to protect our freedom, and their families who collaterally sacrificed, deserve every possible resource to ensure their lasting physical, mental and educational well-being as more than 2,770,000 of our troops have deployed overseas since September 11, 2001; and

WHEREAS, In the military operations after the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, over 959,701 reservists have been involuntarily and/or were voluntarily placed on active duty according to the Congressional Research Service; and

WHEREAS, The Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act, also known as the "Forever GI Bill," was signed into law on August 17, 2017, and it brought significant changes to veterans education benefits; and

WHEREAS, The Forever GI Bill states, that as of August 1, 2018, veterans who transferred entitlement to a dependent can now designate a new dependent if the original dependent dies, and if the veteran dies, a dependent who received transferred entitlement can now designate a new eligible dependent of the veteran to transfer any of the dependent's remaining entitlement; and

WHEREAS, The Forever GI Bill states that even though a veteran may be eligible for Post-9/11 GI Bill, they must also be a current member of the armed forces (active duty or selected reserve, officer or enlisted) on or after August 1, 2009; and

WHEREAS, The Forever GI Bill did not address the transfer of educational benefits for veterans that served after 9/11 but were separated before August 1, 2009, because those veterans did not transfer their educational benefits; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled virtually on October 14-15, 2020, That The American Legion urges Congress to pass legislation that must allow the hundreds of thousands of veterans that served after September 11, 2001, but were separated before August 1, 2009 to transfer their educational benefits.