Americanism Position Paper

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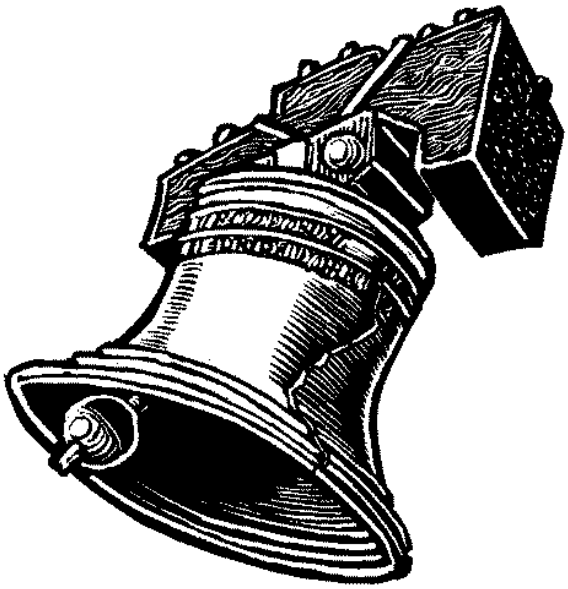
A Summary of Selected

AMERICAN LEGION AMERICANISM RESOLUTIONS



THE NATIONAL AMERICANISM COMMISSION
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MAY 2012

INTRODUCTION

This summary of active and pertinent Americanism resolutions is intended to provide an easy reference regarding many of the programs and positions of The American Legion. It contains resolutions that became mandates of The American Legion after first being considered and adopted by the National Americanism Commission and subsequent adoption by either The American Legion's National Convention or The American Legion's National Executive Committee.

This publication is intended to focus only on selected resolutions, specifically, those subjects with public and organizational interest. Only a brief summation of intent is included when referencing certain resolutions, particularly where technical or exact wording is not essential to the full understanding of the policy. Resolutions of a more technical nature are included with the text of the resolving clause or position statement printed verbatim.

Annual resolutions, sometimes referred to as "housekeeping" resolutions, are not included in this summary. These include resolutions awarding contracts, annual sites and dates of events and activities, and matters of a routine and administrative nature.

Resolutions adopted at National Conventions are shown with a "Nat'l Conv" as the point of origin. Those adopted by the National Executive Committee are shown as "NEC." The month and year of the resolution's adoption are noted on each description.

The complete text of an Americanism resolution is available from the Americanism and Children & Youth Division, The American Legion, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, Indiana 46206; e-mail: acy@legion.org.

JOSEPH E. CAOUETTE, Chairman
National Americanism Commission

SECTION 1 -- GENERAL SUBJECTS

EXPLANATION: *This section includes resolutions on a variety of subjects not related to specific program and interest areas. Some resolutions are included because of their historical significance.*

FORMING A COMMISSION OF AMERICANISM

Summary: Recommends the establishment of a National Americanism Commission whose duty should be the realization of 100 percent Americanism through the conduct of a constructive educational program designed to: 1) combat all anti-American tendencies, activities, and propaganda; 2) work for the education of immigrants, prospective American citizens, and alien residents in the principles of Americanism; 3) inculcate the ideals of Americanism in the citizen population that the interest of all the people is above those of any special interest or so-called class or section of the people; 4) spread throughout the people of the nation information as to the real nature and principles of American government; and 5) foster the teaching of Americanism in all schools. (No number, Nat'l Conv, Mar 1919)

(Historical resolution – no longer active)

The objectives of the commission as outlined in the resolution have been amended through the years to include the encouraging of community service activities by posts and their members and to sponsor and conduct citizenship training activities for youth.

AMERICANISM COMMISSION ESTABLISHED

Summary: Authorizes the National Commander to appoint a 15-member National Americanism Commission – five for one year, five for two years, five for three years – and the National Americanism Commission is ordered to be a permanent body under the general jurisdiction of the National Executive Committee. The Commission is authorized to appoint a National Director of Americanism. The Director may employ such other assistants as are necessary. The National Commander is authorized to appoint a Commission member as Chairman for one year only. The Commission shall handle only duties pertaining to Americanism and be under the general authority of the National Executive Committee and housed at the National Headquarters in Indianapolis, Indiana.
(No number, Nat'l Conv Sep 1920)

(Historical resolution – no longer active)

The authorization for the present commission was re-stated in an October 1947 NEC meeting and was amended by NEC action in October 1962 in Las Vegas, Nevada, with the passage of Resolution No. 1.

JURY DUTY

Summary: Encourages posts and departments to cooperate with the Courts in their communities to educate and encourage persons called to serve on jury duty. (No number, NEC, Jan 1928)

OPPOSE GOVERNMENT ENCROACHMENT UPON PRIVATE BUSINESS

Res. 57 makes reference to efforts by some to replace the traditional free enterprise system in the United States with a system of socialism in which the government would own, operate and control all forms of production, manufacturing and distribution.

"Resolved, That The American Legion declares it is unequivocally opposed to any form of socialism or government encroachment and participation in private business; and be it further

Resolved, That The American Legion direct a long term program of education for all citizens, pointing out the evils of government encroachment upon private business." (Res. 57, NEC, Oct 1956)

ANNUAL AWARDS IN CITIZENSHIP AND AMERICANISM

"Resolved, That all departments, districts, counties and posts of The American Legion are authorized and urged to initiate annual award programs to outstanding young men and women who have achieved superior success within their club or organization for the year and where such programs include emphasis upon high quality and standards of citizenship and true Americanism." (Res. 14, NEC, Oct 1958)

SUPPORT RADIO FREE EUROPE

"Resolved, That The American Legion pledges to continue its support of the Radio Free Europe Fund." (Res. 466, Nat'l Conv, Oct 1960)

DEFINITION OF AMERICANISM

"Resolved, That the definition of Americanism now recognized and utilized by The American Legion be amended to include the following definition of Americanism given by the Special Committee on Un-American Activities in House Report No. 2, dated January 3, 1939 (First Session, 76th Congress)

In order to determine what activities and propaganda are un-American, we must first define Americanism. No scientific definition will be attempted, but we will undertake to set forth in simple and understandable language what some of the chief principles of Americanism are. In the first place, Americanism is the recognition of the truth that the inherent and fundamental rights of man are derived from God, and not from governments, societies, dictators, kings or majorities. This basic principle of Americanism is of Independence, where our immortal forefathers said that all men are created equal and that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, chief among which are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. From this declaration and well established interpretations that have been put upon it from the beginning of the Republic down to the present moment, it is clear that Americanism recognizes the existence of a God and the all-important fact that the fundamental rights of man are derived from God and not from any other source.

Among these inalienable rights which are the gift of man from his Creator are: (1) Freedom to worship; (2) Freedom to work in such occupation as the experience, training, and qualifications of a man may enable him to secure and hold; (6) Freedom to enjoy the fruits of his work, which means the protection of property rights; (7) the right to pursue his happiness with the necessary implication that he does not harm or injure others in the pursuit of this happiness. Upon this basic principle, the whole structure of the American government was constructed. The system of checks and balances in the Constitution was wisely conceived and ingeniously constructed to provide every possible guaranty that every citizen of the United States would enjoy and retain his God-given rights.

First, the Federal Government was specifically enjoined from exercising any power that was not expressly or by necessary implication granted to it in the Constitution. Second, such powers as the

Federal Government was authorized to wield were wisely distributed between the three great Departments, the executive, the legislative and the judicial. The essence of Americanism is therefore, class, religious and racial tolerance.

It should be emphasized in the strongest language possible that the maintenance of these three forms of tolerance is essential to the preservation of Americanism. They constitute the three great pillars upon which our Constitutional Republic rests, and if any one of these pillars is destroyed, the whole structure of the American system of government will crumble to the earth. Therefore, the man who advocates class hatred is plainly un-American even if he professes racial and religious tolerance. The converse of the proposition is equally true. It is un-American to hate one's neighbor who has more of this world's material goods as it is to hate him because he was born into another race or worships God according to a different faith.

The American Government was established to guarantee the enjoyment of these fundamental rights. It, therefore, follows that in America, the government is the servant of the people. The rights of the people are protected through laws and their strict enforcement. For this reason, law and order are essential to the preservation of Americanism while lawlessness and violence are distinctly un-American.

Americanism means the recognition of the God-given rights of man and the protection of those rights under the Constitution through the instrumentality of an independent Congress, an untrammeled judiciary, and a fair and impartial executive operating under the American system of checks and balances. Americanism likewise means the protection of an unorganized majority from an organized minority as well as the protection of a helpless minority from and in consideration of a helpless minority from and inconsiderate and thoughtless majority.

The characteristic which distinguishes our Republic from the dictatorships of the world is not majority rule, but the treatment of minorities. Dictatorships muster huge majorities at the polls, through intimidation and high-powered government propaganda, but these majorities are used for ruthless tyranny over minorities. The majority rule of the American form of government is distinguished by its recognition of certain rights of minorities which majorities cannot alienate.

All of these definitions of Americanism are based upon the Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution." (Res. 105, Nat'l Conv, Oct 1962)

CREATION OF NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL AND NATIONAL AMERICANISM COUNCIL

Summary: The American Legion abolished the membership of the National Security Training Committee and it became the National Security Council. The National Americanism Council was also created with a purpose to propagate an interest in and a furtherance of the principles of Americanism as advocated by The American Legion and to serve as a medium of disseminating an understanding of these principles throughout the nation using the agencies of the departments and posts of The American Legion and its affiliated bodies; and in association with other patriotic organizations of like mind. The Council shall consist of a Chairman, such Vice Chairmen as may be required, and such general members as may be appointed by the National Commander. At its Fall Meeting each year, the National Executive Committee shall appoint, upon nomination by the National Commander, the Chairman and the Vice Chairmen of the Council to serve in such capacity for one year. The Council shall not form an Executive Section nor shall it be called into general meeting at National expense. The Chairman of the National Americanism Council is an ex-officio member of the National Americanism Commission. (Res. 62 and Res 3., NEC, May 1962)

UPHOLDING THE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS OF OTHERS

"Resolved, That The American Legion urge all public officials to uphold the rights of all people to peaceably pursue their daily tasks and activities without interference from such persons, groups and organizations which claim the protection of the Constitution but by their obstruction, disorderly conduct and abusive pursuits abridge the Constitutional rights of others." (Res. 27, NEC, Oct 1970)

GOLD STAR MOTHERS DAY

"Resolved, That the last Sunday in September, now known as Gold Star Mothers Day, be recognized to commemorate the mothers of those who made the supreme sacrifice while in the Armed Forces of the United States." (Res. 29, NEC, Oct 1970)

Gold Star Mothers Day was established by Congress, SJR 115 on June 21, 1936 (49 Stat. 1895 as amended). It has become tradition that the President issue an annual proclamation to commemorate the day and the sacrifices made by the Gold Star Mothers.

CIVIL RIGHTS PROTECTION

"Resolved, That The American Legion reaffirms its long standing support of all law enforcement agencies at local, state and federal levels in their mission to protect and preserve the civil rights and property of all our population regardless of race, creed, color, sex or national origin." (Res. 25, NEC, Oct 1994)

OPPOSE LEGALIZATION OF GAMBLING ON MAJOR SPORTING EVENTS

"Resolved, That The American Legion support the Commissioner of Baseball in his efforts to prevent legalization of gambling on Major League Baseball games and directs the National Americanism Commission to diligently protect The American Legion Baseball program." (Res. 9, NEC, Oct 1972)

PROJECTING ELECTION WINNERS BEFORE POLLS CLOSE

"Resolved, That the National Organization of The American Legion urge networks to exercise voluntary self-restraint when reporting election results so as not to have undue influence on the outcome." (Res. 33, NEC, Oct 1984)

EDUCATE AMERICANS ABOUT THE HOLOCAUST

Summary: Condemns those who maintain the Holocaust is a hoax and also activities of some neo-Nazi groups who have desecrated cemeteries, homes and businesses with racist graffiti. Urges all Americans to visit the Holocaust Museum in Washington, DC and encourages the study and discussion at all levels of the educational system of the Holocaust – its meaning in the development of democracy and its values. (Res. 104, Nat'l Conv, Sep 1993)

VETERAN OF THE MONTH

"Resolved, That the "Veteran of the Month" program be adopted as an Americanism program – promoted and supported by The American Legion National Organization to honor deceased veterans." (Res. 159, Nat'l Conv, Sep 1993)

GET OUT THE VOTE

"Resolved, That The American Legion continue to support and endorse the Get Out the Vote campaign and that it encourage and recommend the active participation of all Legionnaires, individually and collectively, in said campaign within their respective communities." (Res. 2, NEC, Oct 1971)

VOTER REGISTRATION AND VOTING PROGRAM

"Resolved, That The American Legion reiterates its longstanding commitment of service to the United States of America by recognizing and promoting the truest form of Americanism and personal responsibility to our government, the act of voting on Election Day; and, be it finally

Resolved, That The American Legion, through its Get Out the Vote program, encourage its members, posts, districts and departments to fully involve themselves in the electoral process by serving as poll volunteers, poll workers, by voting and by encouraging and assisting others to register and vote." (Res. 4, NEC, Oct 2007)

OPPOSE INSTALLATION OF IWW MURAL

"Resolved, That The American Legion condemns and opposes the installation of the IWW (International Workers of the World) mural in Centralia, Washington." (Res. 140, Nat'l Conv, Sep 1997)

AUTHORIZATION TO CONDUCT NATIONAL AMERICANISM CONFERENCE

"Resolved, That The American Legion does hereby authorize the National Americanism Commission to conduct an annual Americanism Conference which combines individual program conferences previously conducted for the Department Chaplains, Department Chairmen for American Legion Baseball and the National Oratorical Contest, and representatives of the various American Legion Boys State Programs." (Res. 34, NEC, May 2000)

OPERATION RECOGNITION

"Resolved, That The American Legion encourage each department to work with appropriate agencies to recognize those WWII veterans who dropped out of high school to enlist in the U.S. Armed Forces; and be it finally

Resolved, That those WWII veterans who did not receive their high school diploma because of their selfless service in time of war be awarded their high school diplomas." (Res. 36, NEC, May 2000)

LEGION PARTICIPATION IN YOUTH PROGRAMS

"Resolved, That The American Legion reiterate the desire of the National Americanism Commission to encourage participation in youth programs by the membership of The American Legion; and be it further

Resolved, That Legionnaires at all levels be urged to serve on boards or committees whose task is to oversee programs of The American Legion; and be it finally

Resolved, That The American Legion strongly request all department commanders and members of the National Executive Committee to urge all members of all posts to participate in the youth programs of The American Legion." (Res. 31, NEC, Oct 2000)

SUPPORT THE U.S. BILL OF RIGHTS

"Resolved, That The American Legion reaffirm its commitment to and support for the Bill of Rights." (Res. 159, Nat'l Conv, Sep 1994)

CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS TAX DIVERSION

"Resolved, That The American Legion urges Congress to oppose legislation that would give conscientious objectors a voice in diverting monies from military spending." (Res. 310, Nat'l Conv, Aug-Sep 2010)

ELIMINATE DAMAGES AND ATTORNEY FEES IN ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE LAWSUITS

"Resolved, That The American Legion urge the Congress of the United States to amend the Civil Rights Attorney Fees Act of 1976, 42 U.S. Code Section 1988, the Equal access to Justice Act, 28 U.S. Code 2412, and any and all other federal statutes, to limit remedies to injunctive relief and declaratory relief only, and to rescind the authority of the courts to award attorney fees to the prevailing party in lawsuits brought under the Establishment of Religion Clause in the U.S. Constitution." (Res. 317, Nat'l Conv, Aug-Sep 2010)

JUNIOR LAW CADET PROGRAM

Transfers oversight and administration of the Junior Law Cadet Program to the National Americanism Commission.

"Resolved, That the proponency and administration of the Junior Law Cadet Program be transferred from the National Security Commission to the National Americanism Commission; and, be it finally

Resolved, That the National Americanism Commission will provide updates to the Law and Order Committee of the National Security Commission upon request." (Res.37, NEC May 2011)

RE-NAMING THE WILLIAM RANDOLPH HEARST AMERICANISM TROPHY TO THE DANIEL J. O'CONNOR AMERICANISM TROPHY

"Resolved, That the William Randolph Hearst Americanism Trophy be re-named as the "Daniel J. O'Connor Americanism Trophy" in honor of Daniel J. O'Connor; and, be it further

Resolved, That the Daniel J. O'Connor Americanism Trophy continue to be awarded annually to that department which in the judgment of the National Americanism Commission has conducted the best all-around Americanism activities; and, be it further

Resolved, That conditions for selecting the annual winner of the Daniel J. O'Connor Americanism Trophy will continue as formerly set forth for the William Randolph Hearst Trophy:

1. The National Americanism Commission shall determine the three departments achieving the greatest number of credit points based upon a review of all Consolidated Post Reports submitted to National Headquarters. A certification by the department as to the number of active posts is required.

2. The winner shall be selected from the aforementioned three departments based on the best narrative statement supporting the claim of points determined from the Consolidated Post

Report. Such narrative statement is to be no less than 200 words and not more than 500 words; and, be it finally

Resolved, That funds expended for purchase of the Daniel J. O'Connor Americanism Trophy be set at an amount not to exceed $1,000 annually." (Res No. 1 Pre-NEC August 2011)

NATIONAL YOUTH CHAMPION DELEGATION AT NATIONAL CONVENTION

"Resolved, That the National Youth Champion Delegation be defined as the George W. Rulon American Legion Baseball Player of the Year, The American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year, The American Legion Oratorical Contest Champion, The American Legion Boys Nation President, The American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Precision Champion, and The American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Sporter Champion; and, be it further

Resolved, That each member of the National Youth Champion Delegation and one adult chaperone accompanying each champion shall be invited as distinguished guests to The American Legion National Convention for a time period inclusive of the joint meeting of the National Americanism Commission and the National Commission on Children & Youth, the National Chaplain's Breakfast, the National Patriotic Memorial Service and the Opening General Session of National Convention; and, be it further

Resolved, That for each National Youth Champion and their respective adult chaperone The American Legion will provide roundtrip airfare or vehicle mileage in accordance with The American Legion travel policy, and meals and lodging for the time period noted above; and, be it further

Resolved, That The American Legion will schedule and provide entertainment for the entire National Youth Champion Delegation and each of their respective adult chaperones while guests at National Convention and the National Organization shall bear the expense of said entertainment costs; and, be it finally

Resolved, That The American Legion will not provide for any incidental expenses or expenses incurred by any additional guests accompanying a National Youth Champion and their respective adult chaperone to National Convention." (Res.7, NEC October 2011)

STAR SPANGLED BANNER

"Resolved, That The American Legion encourage and recommend the playing of the National Anthem at all sporting events and that it be performed in its original customary and traditional rendition; and, be it further

Resolved, That The American Legion urge radio and television networks and stations to desist from pre-empting with commercial advertisements the singing and playing of our National Anthem and the raising and/or lowering of our Flag; and, be it further

Resolved, That The American Legion is opposed to any changes in the words and music of the National Anthem as adopted under Public Law 823 of the 71st Congress; and, be it finally

Resolved, That The American Legion promote the establishment of March 3 of each year as a national day of observance for "The Star Spangled Banner" and that the patriotic observance of this day stress the origin of "The Star Spangled Banner."" (Res.48, NEC October 2011)

BACKGROUND SCREENING OF STAFF FOR NATIONALYOUTH PROGRAMS

With the aftermath of several recent high-profile allegations of child sexual molestation across the United States demonstrating the importance for ensuring protection of the youth participants in our programs, and to comply with insurance mandates, background screening of volunteers supporting The American Legion's youth programs and risk management policies will be implemented in 2013.

"Resolved, That The American Legion implement procedures that will require background screening of volunteers selected to staff national tournaments of American Legion Baseball, The American Legion Boys Nation, The American Legion National Oratorical Contest, The American Legion National Junior Shooting Competition, and National Boy Scout Jamborees no later than with the execution of each program in 2013; and, be it further

Resolved, That said background screenings be conducted annually prior to the start of each program; and, be it further

Resolved, That said background screenings only be conducted by the vendor authorized by the National Organization; and, be it further

Resolved, That the National Americanism Commission shall, with advice of its relevant subcommittees, the Compliance and Risk Manager of the National Organization and the National Judge Advocate, develop risk management policies consistent for protection of The American Legion and its youth program participants; and, be it finally

Resolved, That the National Commander, after review and approval of the National Judge Advocate, be and is hereby authorized and directed to execute such contract(s) as may be needed to support the execution of background screenings and the National Adjutant be and is hereby authorized and directed to attest to same." (Res.4, NEC May 2012)

BACKGROUND SCREENING PROCEDURES AND POLICIES FOR AMERICAN LEGION YOUTH PROGRAM VOLUNTEERS

The Commission encourages departments of The American Legion to institute background screening procedures for volunteers supporting youth programs conducted within their departments.

"Resolved, That departments of The American Legion are strongly urged and encouraged to establish background screening procedures and policies similar to those of the National Organization for volunteers supporting youth programs conducted within their departments." (Res.12, NEC May 2012)

NATIONAL AMERICANISM CONFERENCE

"Resolved, That the National Americanism Commission continue to conduct the annual National Americanism Conference which combines individual program conference sessions for department Chaplains, department chairmen for American Legion Baseball and the National Oratorical Contest, and representatives of the various American Legion Boys State programs; and, be it further

Resolved, That the National Americanism Commission be authorized to conduct an individual program conference session for Scouting department chairmen on a one-year test basis in the fall of

2013, expense of which not to exceed $48,000 inclusive of per diem, travel and conference equipment and materials, and give further evaluation for inclusion as a scheduled program session of the National Americanism Conference; and, be it further

Resolved, That the National Americanism Commission, with concurrence of the National Commander, be and is hereby authorized to test and give implementation to the addition of individual program conference sessions of the National Americanism Conference as may be deemed necessary to enhance program development; and, be it finally

Resolved, That Resolution No. 34 of the National Executive Committee, May 2000 titled, "Authorization To Conduct National Americanism Conference" is hereby superseded and rescinded." (Res.5, NEC May 2012)

SECTION 2 -- BASEBALL

JUNIOR BASEBALL

"Resolved, That the National Americanism Commission does hereby emphasize and call attention to the Legion post and to Legionnaires individually that the principles of good sportsmanship in connection with the activity should at all times be held paramount to the end that the greatest good may come from the activity of the Legion." (Res. 2, NEC, May 1932)

JUNIOR BASEBALL FINAL PLAYOFFS; EXTEND SEASON

"Resolved, That The American Legion Junior Baseball Committee set the date for the National American Legion final playoff as late as possible each year so as to allow a longer program for each team." (Res. 56, NEC, Oct 1956)

In 1925 The American Legion Baseball (ALB) program was originally established as "The American Legion Junior Baseball Program." The word "Junior" was subsequently dropped from the program's official name in 1961 by resolution. Later in 2005, NEC Resolution 38 established a "junior" program of American Legion Baseball for players generally 14-16 years of age. The National Organization officially recognized this junior program by developing a uniform set of eligibility and playing rules consistent with the high ideals of The American Legion Baseball program.

GRADUATE OF THE YEAR AWARD

"Resolved, That there should be established an annual national award known as The American Legion Junior Baseball Graduate of the Year Award to be awarded to the graduate of The American Legion Junior Baseball program best exemplifying the principles and purposes of American Legion Baseball; this award to be based on the Approved Rules for Annual Selection of American Legion Junior Baseball Graduate of the Year Award." (Res. 10, NEC, Nov 1957)

DR. IRVIN L. "CLICK" COWGER MEMORIAL RBI AWARD

"Resolved, That the Department of Kansas be authorized to present such an annual award honoring the memory of Dr. Cowger; and be it further

Resolved, that the recipient of the annual award will be that American Legion Baseball player who is credited with the most runs batted in by the official scorer at the respective regional tournaments and World Series." (Res. 30, NEC, May 1971)

COMMISSIONER OF BASEBALL TROPHY

"Resolved, That The American Legion accept the Commissioner of Baseball Trophy for initial presentation to the 1971 National Champions of Legion Baseball." (Res. 19, NEC, Oct 1971)

The Commissioner's Trophy is presented annually at the conclusion of the ALB World Series.

ALB AWARD FROM ADIRONDACK BAT COMPANY

The Adirondack Bat Co. was purchased by the Rawlings Company. The award, presented annually at the conclusion of the ALB World Series, is now referred to as the "Rawlings Big Stick Award."

"Resolved, That the offer of the Adirondack Bat Company to annually present its "Big Stick" award to The American Legion Baseball player in our national competition who has the highest total number of bases as determined by the official scorer of the respective national tournaments in which said player participates be accepted; and be it further

Resolved, That administrative procedures for the presentation of this award shall be worked out between officials of the Adirondack Bat Company and appropriate staff members at National Headquarters." (Res. 18, NEC, May 1972)

BOB FELLER ALB PITCHING AWARD

The Bob Feller American Legion Baseball Pitching Award is presented each year at the conclusion of the ALB National Championships.

"Resolved, That the National Americanism Commission is authorized to annually present the Bob Feller Award to The American Legion Baseball Player participating in the Regional Tournaments and World Series of American Legion Baseball who records the greatest number of strikeouts in such competition; and be it further

Resolved, That this award be initially presented at the 1978 World Series, Yakima, Washington, and that it be incorporated in the next edition of The American Legion Trophies Manual." (Res. 37, NEC, May 1978)

ALB PLAYER OF THE YEAR AWARD

George W. Rulon retired in January 1987 after 25 years of employment with The American Legion as the coordinator of American Legion Baseball.

"Resolved, That the title of the present "American Legion Baseball Player of the Year" award be changed to "The George W. Rulon American Legion Baseball Player of the Year" award; and be it further

Resolved, That such change is to become effective with the selection of the Player of the Year in the 1987 season of American Legion Baseball; and, be it finally

Resolved, That nothing in this resolution is intended to change in any manner the conditions for selection of said player not the manner in which the presentation is made as described in The American Legion Trophies Manual, dated May 15, 1986." (Res. 4, NEC, Sept 1986)

"WORLD SERIES" AUTHORIZATION LICENSE

"Resolved, That after review and approval by the National Judge Advocate, that the National Commander be directed and authorized to execute the license covering the words "World Series" for $1.00 per year with Major League Baseball Properties, Inc., and the National Adjutant is hereby authorized and directed to attest the same." (Res. 30, NEC, May 1988)

MLB Properties, Inc. claims ownership of the registered service mark "World Series." MLB Properties has extended an indefinite license to the Legion for use of the term "World Series."

THE ALB GRADUATE OF THE YEAR

"Resolved, That The American Legion reserve the right to modify the method of presenting the [Graduate of the Year] award if the intent of our National Organization and the respect due to the National Commander is not recognized by any Major League [baseball] club which declines to implement this honor by an appropriate public ceremony on the Major League playing field before baseball fans and the media, and that, in the discretion of the National Commander, a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Presidents of the National and American Leagues and the Office of the Commissioner of Baseball." (Res. 127, Nat'l Conv, Sep 1988)

Recent recipients of the Graduate of the Year Award include: Darin Erstad, Jeff Bagwell, Luis Gonzales, Todd Stottlemyre, Chipper Jones, Steve Finley, Tony Gwynn, Gregg Maddox and Roger Clemens.

ALB (REGIONAL TOURNAMENT) MINIMUM BID INCREASE

"Resolved, That the minimum bid for hosting Regional Tournaments, effective for Regional Tournaments in 1995, shall be $15,000, and be it finally

Resolved, That all bids shall be a flat rate and that the host tournament committee shall retain 100% of the revenues that exceed the $15,000 minimum." (Res. 40, NEC, May 1993)

MANDATORY EXCLUSIVE INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR ALB TEAMS

"Resolved, that, effective with the 1995 season, American Legion Baseball teams must purchase insurance from an exclusive carrier named by The American Legion in order to participate in the program of American Legion Baseball; and, be it further

Resolved, That the National Americanism Commission and the Baseball Subcommittee shall, with advisement of the National Finance Commission, determine the level of coverage consistent with adequate protection for The American Legion, the departments, sponsoring posts, the teams and its participants; and be it further

Resolved, That when such level of coverage is determined, bids will be accepted with one policy to be selected for the need in liability/accident coverage and one for the need in medical coverage; and be it finally

Resolved, That these two (2) policies shall be the sole and exclusive policies allowed and required for participation in the American Legion Baseball Program." (Res. 25, NEC, May 1994)

MANDATORY INSURANCE COVERAGE – LIABILITY AND ACCIDENT – FOR ALB TEAMS

"Resolved, That pending clarification of a sexual abuse/molestation exclusion and a corporal punishment endorsement, and subject to further negotiation, the bid for liability insurance coverage for American Legion Baseball be awarded to K&K Insurance Group, Inc., and the bid for accident insurance coverage for American Legion Baseball be awarded to Sentry Insurance Company, and be it further

Resolved, That in the event the stipulated policies are found to be less than fully conforming to the requirements sent out by The American Legion, that the National Commander, with the assistance of the National Adjutant and the National Judge Advocate shall further negotiate the terms and conditions for such coverage or select another bidder which meets the fullest possible compliance; and be it further

Resolved, That the National Commander, after review and approval of the National Judge Advocate, be and is hereby authorized and directed to execute any contract with the aforementioned companies and the National Adjutant be and is hereby authorized and directed to attest same; and be it finally

Resolved, That these two coverages from the stipulated companies shall be the sole and exclusive policies allowed and required for participation in The American Legion Baseball program effective with the 1995 season." (Res. 33, NEC, Oct 1994)

DOUBLE ELIMINATION TOURNAMENT FORMAT

"Resolved, That The American Legion Baseball Program use the double-elimination format for all national tournaments effective with the 2004 National Regional and World Series Tournaments." (Res. 40, NEC, May 2002)

USA BASEBALL – TOURNAMENT OF STARS

"Resolved, That The American Legion is authorized to continue its participation in the USA Baseball Tournament of Stars under the following conditions:

1. That participation in the Tournament of Stars by The American Legion be reviewed annually by the National Americanism Commission to determine relevance and desire for continued involvement in the activity; and
2. That participation in the Tournament of Stars shall be at no cost to The American Legion; and be it finally

Resolved, That the National Americanism Commission shall recommend 20 American Legion Baseball players, three coaches, an umpire and a tournament administrator to participate at the Tournament of Stars each year." (Res. 31, NEC, Oct 2004)

TOURNAMENT OF STARS EXPENSES

"Resolved, That The American Legion provide to American Legion Baseball coaches and team officials funding for authorized incidental expenses associated with organizing, coaching and accompanying an American Legion Baseball team in the Tournament of Stars with the amount of such funding determined annually in an amount considered prudent and specifically enumerated in each year's annual budget request." (Res. 22, NEC, Oct 2007)

CONTRIBUTION FROM MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

"Resolved, That the National Organization of The American Legion is hereby authorized to accept an annual contribution of up to $50,000 from Major League Baseball; and be it further

Resolved, That The American Legion shall use those funds to offset expenses incurred in the operation of its baseball program." (Res. 21, NEC, Oct 2007)

ESTABLISHING DATE OF AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL WORLD SERIES CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

"Resolved, That The American Legion World Series beginning in the year 2011 and all years thereafter shall be conducted on the dates established by the National Americanism Commission and will be set to best serve The American Legion Baseball Program." (Res. 31, NEC, Oct 2008)

AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL PROGRAM

"Resolved, That The American Legion is hereby authorized to assess an annual national registration fee of $50.00 per Junior and $50.00 per Senior American Legion Baseball team effective January 1, 2010; and, be it further

Resolved, That The American Legion immediately begin soliciting corporate sponsors for regional and World Series tournament levels of The American Legion Baseball program and engage the services of a professional agency at no cost to The American Legion to acquire advertising and/or sponsorship opportunities; and, be it further

Resolved, That The American Legion begin soliciting official suppliers and licensees for regional and World Series tournament levels of The American Legion Baseball program; and, be it further

Resolved, That beginning with the 2011-2012 seasons, regional tournaments of The American Legion Baseball program be sited in one location for two (2) consecutive years, based on accessibility and central location as determined by open bids using objective, weighted evaluation criteria; and, be it further

Resolved, That the minimum hosting bid for the 2011 American Legion Baseball World Series, and all years thereafter, be $100,000; and, be it finally,

Resolved, That beginning in 2011, one (1) permanent tournament site be designated to host The American Legion World Series as determined by open bids using objective, weighted evaluation criteria, with the initial bid for a four (4) year period and subsequent renewals contingent upon proper review." (Res. 9, NEC, May 2009)

AMENDMENT TO RESOLUTION NO. 9 – ALB PROGRAM

"Resolved, That the first Resolved Clause of Res. 9, NEC May 2009 is amended to read:"…That The American Legion is hereby authorized to assess an annual registration fee of $25.00 per Junior and $50.00 per Senior American Legion Baseball team effective January 1, 2010…" (Res. 16, NEC, Oct 2009)

Res. 16, NEC, Oct 2009 amended this resolution - the national registration fee for Junior American Legion Baseball teams was amended from $50 to $25.

PERMANENT TOURNAMENT SITE AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL WORLD SERIES

"Resolved, That The American Legion designates Shelby, North Carolina as the permanent site of The American Legion Baseball World Series; and, be it further

Resolved, That The American Legion enter into a four (4) year contract with the host of the permanent site, American Legion Post 82 located in Shelby, North Carolina; and, be it further

Resolved, That the permanent site of The American Legion Baseball World Series shall be reviewed annually the first three (3) years of the initial four (4) year contract, and upon receiving favorable reviews, the contract with American Legion Post 82 shall be extended annually thereafter; and, be it finally

Resolved, That the dates for The American Legion Baseball World Series tournaments of the initial four (4) year contract shall be August 12-16, 2011; August 17-21, 2012; August 16-20, 2013; and August 15-19, 2014." (Res. 32, NEC, May 2010)

ADHERENCE TO AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL RULES

"Resolved, that should a department adopt any rule that is in conflict with existing American Legion Baseball recruiting or playing rules as authorized and approved by the National Americanism Commission, which would cause the National Organization to incur increased potential financial liability and risk to its marks, that the Chairman of the National Americanism Commission shall contact the commander of the offending department by telephone, and follow-up on that same day in writing, to resolve said conflict; and, be it finally

Resolved, That if a department fails to take corrective action within one week of the date of the written notification, or such other reasonable time as is communicated to said department by the Chairman of the National Americanism Commission in his original communication to the offending department, the Chairman of the National Americanism Commission is then authorized, with concurrence of the National Commander, to remove the department from The American Legion Baseball program and prohibit the use of The American Legion name and logo by such department, such notification to be issued by the National Judge Advocate in compliance with all legal requirements, until such time as the deficiency is corrected and the National Commander approves the reinstatement of said department." (Res. 45, NEC, October 2011)

AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL ELIGIBILTY

"Resolved, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 12-13, 2011, That The American Legion Baseball Program shall restrict player eligibility to those student athletes who were enrolled as junior high or high school students during the school term immediately preceding the league season, and, be it finally

Resolved, That the National Americanism Commission shall draft, promulgate, and put into practice such rules and regulations as may be necessary and appropriate to implement the above beginning with the 2015 season." (Res. 46, NEC, October 2011)

AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENT WITH DIAMOND SPORTS CO., INC. AS SCHOLARSHIP SPONSOR OF THE AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL ALL-ACADEMIC TEAM

"Resolved, That The American Legion enter into an agreement with Diamond Sports Co., Inc., whereby the latter organization shall furnish $25,000 in scholarship funds per year to The American Legion Baseball program for three consecutive years beginning with the 2012 season; and, be it further

Resolved, That each year the National Americanism Commission shall appoint and convene an official scholarship selection committee annually at The American Legion Baseball World Series tournament in order to select nine (9) American Legion Baseball scholarship recipients:

a) An overall top academic baseball player shall be selected from all nominations submitted by American Legion departments and that player be officially designated as the "All-Academic Team Captain"; and,

b) A top academic player from each of the eight (8) American Legion Baseball regions as nominated by their respective departments shall be selected as the remaining members comprising the "All-Academic Team"; and, be it further

Resolved, That a $5,000 scholarship sponsored by Diamond Sports Co., Inc., shall be awarded annually to the All-Academic Team Captain; and, be it further

Resolved, That a $2,500 scholarship sponsored by Diamond Sports Co., Inc., shall be awarded annually to each of the eight (8) All-Academic Team members; and, be it further

Resolved, That the National Commander be and is hereby authorized to negotiate the terms and conditions of any formal agreement necessary with Diamond Sports Co., Inc.; and, be it finally

Resolved, That after review and approval by the National Judge Advocate of said agreement, the National Commander be and is hereby authorized and directed to execute said agreement and that the National Adjutant be and is hereby authorized and directed to attest to the same." (Res.8, NEC May 2012)

THE AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL JACK WILLIAMS MEMORIAL LEADERSHIP AWARD

"Resolved, That authority for the Jack Williams Memorial Leadership Award be formally re-instated; and, be it finally

Resolved, That the award continue to be presented annually to the manager and coaches of the national championship team of American Legion Baseball." (Res.42, NEC May 2012)

AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL WORLD SERIES TOURNAMENT PLAY FORMAT

"Resolved, That the National Commander is authorized, and as attested by the National Adjutant, to modify the format of play for semifinal and/or championship game(s) of The American Legion World Series tournament as necessary in order to accommodate live telecast or prime time broadcast by ESPN or any other network." (Res.44, NEC May 2012)

SECTION 3 -- BOY SCOUTS

ENDORSE THE BOY SCOUT MOVEMENT AND URGE ALL POSTS TO SPONSOR SCOUT TROOPS

First known resolution in support of Scouting by The American Legion. Established Scouting as the first youth program of The American Legion.

"Resolved, That we not only heartily endorse the Boy Scout movement, but urge all posts of the Legion to adopt Scout Troops; and further

Resolved, That we will cooperate in every way possible with the Boy Scouts of America in perpetuating and furthering their work." (Res 390, Nat'l Conv, Oct 1923)

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA (BSA)

"Resolved, That The American Legion encourage its posts to cooperate with the Boy Scouts of America in their effort to inform American Legion posts of the merits of Scouting by allowing Boy Scout officials to attend post, district and department meetings to explain the Scouting experience; and, be it further

Resolved, That The American Legion, at all levels of the organization, reiterate its support and endorsement of Scouting by cooperating with the Boy Scouts of America in continuing to provide a program to help our young people develop skills and maintain values that help ensure our nation's future." (Res. 32, NEC, Oct 1989)

AMERICAN LEGION/SCOUTING "SQUARE KNOT" AWARD

This award recognizes those individuals who have made a significant contribution to the youth of their communities through the programs of the Boys Scouts of America.

"Resolved, That The American Legion shall establish "The American Legion and Scouting Square Knot Award;" and, be it further

Resolved, That the National Americanism Commission shall establish further rules, regulations, and guidelines for the selection and award of said award; and, be it finally

Resolved, That the said award be included in the next edition of The American Legion Trophies, Awards and Ceremonials Manual." (Res. 34, NEC, May 2003)

REAFFIRMATION OF SUPPORT AND AUTHORIZATION FOR APPROPRIATION TO ASSIST BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

"Resolved, That The American Legion does gladly accept the privilege and responsibility of defending traditional American values and freedoms by reaffirming its support for the Boy Scouts of America, and by pledging to assist the Boy Scouts of America in filing an amicus brief or briefs, as may be necessary,

appropriate, legal, and approved by the National Commander so that the concerted assault on traditional American values and morality, beliefs and standards will ultimately fail; and be it further

Resolved, That the National Executive Committee does authorize The American Legion to file amicus briefs in the case of *Boy Scouts of America v Nancy Wyman,* when same is appealed to the Supreme Court of the United States, both on the question of *certiorari* and on the merits, and in such other cases as may be appropriate as determined by the National Commander; and be it further

Resolved, The American Legion does hereby appropriate the initial sum of $25,000 to fund this effort; and be it finally

Resolved, That the National Commander, after review and approval by the National Judge Advocate, is authorized and directed to execute all appropriate documents concerning this action submitted to him by the National Judge Advocate, and the National Adjutant is hereby authorized and directed to attest the same." (Res. 28, NEC, Oct 2003)

AMERICAN LEGION EAGLE SCOUT OF THE YEAR

The American Legion selects an American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year and three runners-up at its annual Spring Meeting of the National Executive Committee.

"Resolved, That The American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year eligibility requirements be amended to read: Be a registered active member of a Boy Scout troop, Varsity Scout team, or Venturing crew chartered to an American Legion post, American Legion Auxiliary unit, or Sons of the American Legion squadron OR be a registered active member of a duly chartered Boy Scout troop, Varsity Scout team, or Venturing crew, and the son or grandson of a Legionnaire or American Legion Auxiliary member AND (1) Received the Eagle Scout award; (2) Be an active member of his religious institution and have received the appropriate Boy Scout religious emblem; (3) Demonstrate practical citizenship in church, school, Scouting and community; and (4) Reached his fifteenth birthday and be enrolled in high school at the time of selection; and, be it finally

Resolved, That the said change in eligibility requirements become effective immediately." (Res. 30, NEC, Oct 2004)

THE BSA AND THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Opposition groups were successful in convincing Department of Defense officials to eliminate the Scouting program from all branches and installations of the U.S. Armed Forces.

"Resolved, That The American Legion express its steadfast opposition to Department of Defense policies that prohibit the chartering of Boy Scout units by components of the Armed Forces of the United States and prohibit the use of Department of Defense installations and facilities worldwide by the Boy Scouts of America; and be it finally

Resolved, That The American Legion use every executive, legislative and judicial avenue available to restore longstanding policies of cooperation between the Department of Defense and the Boy Scouts of America that will allow Boy Scout units the right to use DOD facilities and to authorize components of the active duty military, National Guard and reserve units to charter or sponsor Boy Scout units without fear of legal reprisal." (Res. 314, Nat'l Conv, Aug-Sep 2010)

SECTION 4 -- BOYS STATE/NATION

BOYS STATE MOVEMENT

"Resolved, By The American Legion, that we highly endorse the Boys State movement and recommend that it be made an essential part of the National Americanism program." (Res. 602, Nat'l Conv, Sep 1935)

AMENDMENT TO RESOLUTION 4, 1962 NAT'L CONVENTION AS IT PERTAINS TO BOYS STATE PROGRAM

"Resolved, That in all designations of Boys State the words "The American Legion" shall be used as a part of the official and authorized name; and be it further

Resolved, That Resolution 4 adopted at the 45th National Convention of The American Legion at Las Vegas, Nevada, October 11, 1962, be amended to include the following:

…and that all Boys State organizations using the name of The American Legion and/or its emblems be under the supervision and control of the department of The American Legion in which such Boys State organization operates." (Res. 279, Nat'l Conv, Aug 1967)

AMERICAN LEGION BOYS STATE PROGRAM

"Resolved, That in the special circumstances of a young man residing in one state who wishes to participate in a Boys State in another state, such participation shall require, in those circumstances where there is a dispute of eligibility, the expressed, written approval of the department headquarters and the Boys State governing organization of each of the departments involved." (Note: Revised Text for Clarity) (Res. 21, NEC, Oct 1977)

BOYS NATION MEMORIAL FUND SCHOLARSHIP

"Resolved, That the National Americanism Commission establish an annual scholarship award in the amount of $500 [later increased to $750 through resolution] to be awarded to the President Pro Tem of Boys Nation until such time as the Boys Nation Memorial Fund is depleted." (Res. 21, NEC, May 1983)

ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD TO AMERICAN LEGION BOYS NATION PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT

RESOLVED, That The American Legion award annual scholarships to the young men elected to the offices of American Legion Boys Nation President and Vice-President in the amount of $2,000 each; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the young men elected to the offices of American Legion Boys Nation President and Vice-President in 2008 be retroactively awarded a scholarship in the amount of $2,000 each; and, be it finally

The Boys Nation Memorial Fund Scholarship memorialized four Boys State Directors – Fred Smith (IA), Myron Way (MN), Fred Freisleben (MN) and Arlyn Hanson (AK) who were killed in an auto accident while attending a Boys State Conference in Indianapolis in 1980. The fund was depleted in 2008, but Resolution 21 (no longer active), is noted for its significance.

In 2010 the Sons of The American Legion generously offered to sponsor the Boys Nation

RESOLVED, That monies used to fund these scholarships be budgeted in accordance with existing policies and procedures of The American Legion. (Res. 3, NEC, May 2009)

AMERICAN LEGION BOYS STATE

"Resolved, That The American Legion reiterates its position as outlined in Resolution 135, National Convention, 1993, 'American Legion Boys State and American Legion Boys Nation' by reminding all posts, departments and the National Organization that when referencing American Legion Boys State and American Legion Boys Nation, that the titles of these programs include the words 'American Legion.' " (Res. 31, NEC, May 2000)

EXPRESSION OF CONCERN IN THE DECLINE OF BOYS STATE PARTICIPATION

"Resolved, That The American Legion's National Executive Committee expresses its concern about the decline in enrollment in most of the American Legion Boys State programs in recent years and strongly encourages the various departments of The American Legion to take appropriate and necessary action to increase participation in their programs." (Res. 1, NEC, Oct 2007)

President Pro Tempore scholarship, in addition to the Boys Nation Secretary of the Senate scholarship they have historically provided. Both of these scholarships are $1,000 awards.

The American Legion awards a $2,000 scholarship each to the Boys Nation President and Vice President.

SECTION 5 -- COUNTER SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES

VIGILANCE AGAINST RADICAL TEACHING

"Resolved, That The American Legion urges the patriotic citizenry of the United States, and particularly all posts of The American Legion, to maintain vigilance against the inculcation of radical doctrines into the youth of the nation." (Res. 515, Nat'l Conv, Oct 1925)

COUNTER SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

"Resolved, That the Counter-Subversive Activities Committee is merged and integrated into the National Americanism Commission. Said Committee is assigned to the National Americanism Commission for report and administrative purposes, be it further

Resolved, That all portions of the resolutions adopted by the National Executive Committee in conflict herewith shall be repealed or rescinded.

Whereas, It is the desire of the National Americanism Commission to comply with the above set forth resolution; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, By the National Executive Committee at its regular meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana, May 2,3,4, 1954, approve the above set forth desire of the National Americanism Commission that:

1. The National Americanism Commission recognizes the Chairman of the National Counter-Subversive Activities Committee as an ex-officio member of the National Americanism Commission and recommends that the Chairmanship of the National Counter-Subversive Activities Committee carry with its appointment as one of the Vice-Chairmen of the National Americanism Commission.

2. That the National Counter-Subversive Activities Committee shall be assigned to the National Americanism Commission for report and administrative purposes and that said Committee shall be authorized to study and recommend the necessary action to be taken from time to time for the purpose of resisting Un-American activities and subversive movements within the United States, its territories, and possessions.

3. That the organization of the National Americanism Commission shall remain and continue as it has heretofore been and that this shall include within the structure of the National Americanism Commission the continuation of the sub-committee on Un-American activities of said Commission as said sub-committee has heretofore existed with the same powers, duties, and functions which have heretofore been assigned to said sub-committee, at the discretion of the Chairman of the National Americanism Commission; provided, however, that the name of said sub-committee shall be changed from the Un-American Activities Sub-Committee to the National Americanism Commission to the Anti-Subversive Sub-committee of the Americanism Commission." (Res. 32, NEC, May 1954)

SCHOOL TEXTBOOK STUDY PROPOSAL TO SAFEGUARD OUR YOUTH AGAINST SUBVERSIVE MATERIAL

"Resolved, That The American Legion urge each state to check its education laws and request its individual state legislature to take adequate steps to protect the content of textbooks used by the youth of our land." (Res. 57, Nat'l Conv, Sep 1964)

OPPOSE USE OF TAX-SUPPORTED BUILDINGS FOR RAISING FUNDS TO SUPPORT UNAMERICAN ACTIVITIES

"Resolved, That The American Legion ask support of State and Federal Government agencies to deny the use of tax-supported buildings, namely public schools and colleges, for the purpose of raising funds to support activities that advocate the overthrow of our government." (Res. 15, NEC, Oct 1970)

THE AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION

"Whereas, The efforts of the American Civil Liberties Union ever since its inception apparently have defended communists and their sympathizers; and

Whereas, In several court cases the ACLU has instituted suits (1) to prohibit Christmas pageants in New Jersey Public Schools, (2) to delete the phrase "So Help Me God," from the voters oath and (3) to challenge the inclusion of prayer at public school graduation exercises; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That we deplore these actions of the American Civil Liberties Union." (Res. 303, Nat'l Conv, Aug 1976)

OPPOSE COMMENDING ANTI-VIETNAM ACTIVISTS

"Resolved, That we [The American Legion] denounce and oppose any action within the United States of America which would, in any way, expressed or implied, commend anti-Vietnam activists." (Res. 32, NEC, Oct 1986)

JANE FONDA

"Resolved, That The American Legion go on public record as opposed to accepting Ms. [Jane] Fonda's apology until she proves by her actions in a show of good faith by her aid and comfort to those who even today suffer because of the torture inflicted by the enemy brought on by her dealing with the enemy." (Res. 427, Nat'l Conv, Sep 1988)

SECTION 6 -- EDUCATION

PATRIOTISM IN ELEMENTARY & SECONDARY SCHOOLS

"Resolved, That we [The American Legion] urge the administrators of all public and private schools to implement a patriotic program including: displaying the American Flag, a portrait of George Washington, copies of the "Declaration of Independence" and "Constitution of the United States" in each classroom; general assemblies and/or classroom activities regarding patriotic holidays, their historical significance and purpose; and a daily recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance."
(Res. 321, Nat'l Conv, Sep 1984)

URGE INSTRUCTION COVERING THE RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF A LOYAL PATRIOTIC U.S. CITIZEN

"Resolved, That we [The American Legion] urge the U.S. Department of Education to consider developing a comprehensive outline of instruction covering the rights and responsibilities of loyal patriotic U.S. citizens; and, be it further

Resolved, That this outline be made available to all state and local school systems for use in grades one through twelve; and, be it further

Resolved, That successful completion of a final comprehensive examination regarding citizenship responsibilities be recommended for graduation from high school." (Res. 32, NEC, Oct 1984)

NOTE: Because of its length, Res. 31, NEC, Oct 1992, "American Legion: Policy on Education as Amended," is not included in this summary. Other resolutions offering amendments to the Policy are also excluded.

RALPH T. O'NEIL EDUCATION TROPHY

"Resolved, That the Ralph T. O'Neil Education Trophy be awarded annually to that department in the United States showing the greatest Americanism activity in the use of The American Legion School Medal Award; and, be it finally

Resolved, The winning department be determined by: (a) the number of 'American Legion School Medal Awards' recorded on the Consolidated Post Report Form; (b) the number of awards per department is then divided by the number of posts in the department; and (c) the department with the highest percentage will be declared the winner of the Ralph T. O'Neil Education Trophy."
(Res. 35, NEC, May 1992)

THE EDDIE EAGLE GUN SAFETY PROGRAM

"Resolved, That The American Legion encourage its posts and departments to introduce the [NRA] Eddie Eagle Gun Safety Program to elementary schools and law enforcement agencies in their communities." (Res. 24, NEC, May 1994)

RULES AND CONDITIONS FOR ADMINISTRATION OF THE SAMSUNG AMERICAN LEGION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

"Resolved, That The Rules and Conditions under which Samsung American Legion Scholarships are awarded and the program administered shall be:

1. Those eligible to apply for the scholarships shall be students who are direct descendants of U.S. wartime veterans who served during one or more of the periods of war officially designated as such by the United States government:

World War I	April 6, 1917 - November 11, 1918
World War II	December 7, 1941 - December 31, 1946
Korean War	June 25, 1950 - January 31, 1955
Vietnam War	February 28, 1961 - May 6, 1975
Lebanon and Grenada	August 24, 1982 - July 31, 1984
Panama	December 20, 1989 - January 31, 1990
Persian Gulf War	August 2, 1990 to cessation of hostilities as determined by the United States government.

2. The annual Samsung American Legion Scholarship applicant pool will include one representative from each American Legion Boys State program; one representative from each American Legion Auxiliary Girls State program; and one high school junior boy and one high school junior girl from the Department of Hawaii. From this pool of 'state finalists' scholarship recipients will be selected by the National Committee on Education. These scholarship recipients will be known as *Samsung American Legion Scholars.*

3. *Samsung American Legion Scholars* will have six (6) years to utilize their scholarship funds from the date of graduation from high school, excluding any time spent on active military duty or church mission. Remaining *State Finalists* will have two (2) years to utilize their scholarship funds from the date of graduation from high school, excluding any time spent on active military duty or church mission.

4. The Samsung American Legion Scholarship is for undergraduate study at an accredited U.S. college or university. The recipients must be enrolled as a full-time student to request his/her scholarship funds. The number and amount of the scholarship awards will be determined by the income derived from the Samsung American Legion Educational Scholarship Trust Fund.

5. The scholarship funds may only be used to defray necessary costs of the student's education (i.e. tuition, room & board, books & supplies, fees and equipment required by the student's particular course of study or school). A student may request any amount up to and including his/her total scholarship award at one time. The amount of the fund request cannot exceed the cost of education. Students may make only one (1) request for funds per semester or quarter.

6. Scholarship checks will be issued upon receipt of a "Request for Funds" form. It is the normal and customary procedure that the scholarship check will be a two-party check made payable to the student and school. Students who have not requested their award will receive one (1) written notice reminding them of their award and the time limits remaining to receive their award. State finalists will receive their notice prior to their last year of eligibility. Samsung American Legion Scholars will receive their notice with two years of eligibility remaining.

7. Unused scholarship funds will be returned to the scholarship trust fund for future awards.
And, be it finally

Resolved, That these Rules and Conditions shall be included on each Samsung American Legion Scholarship application." (Res. 19, NEC, Oct 2002)

PROPOSED HISTORY STANDARDS

"Resolved, That The American Legion disapproves of the standards proposed by the National Center for History in the Schools for the teaching of United States history and world history ("the proposed history standards"); and, be it finally

Resolved, That The American Legion encourages the United States Department of Education that: (A) the proposed history standards should not be released to school districts or state education boards under the pretense of constituting official national standards; (B) the National Center for History in the Schools should inform any school districts or state education boards to which the proposed history standards have been released that such standards are not official national standards; and (C) the proposed history standards should not be used as a basis for developing voluntary national content or student performance standards or for developing criteria for the certification of such standards on the subject of United States history or world history." (Res. 19, NEC, May 1996)

THE AMERICAN LEGION SEPTEMBER 11 MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

"Resolved, That The American Legion shall establish "The American Legion September 11 Memorial Scholarship" in honor of the brave men and women of the Armed Forces of the United States who died in, or resultant to, the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack on the United States; and, be it further

Resolved, Eligibility for such scholarship shall extend only to first generation direct descendants of active duty military personnel and federalized Guard and Reserve personnel killed on active duty on or after September 11, 2001; and, be it further

Resolved, That this scholarship shall be funded by moneys secured from donations received by The American Legion, whether specific to said scholarship or, at the direction of the National Executive Committee, from donations, contributions and bequests of a general nature made to The American Legion from any source, private or corporate; and, be it further

Resolved, That disbursement of scholarship funds shall not begin before 2003 and continue annually thereafter; and, be it finally

Resolved, That the National Americanism Commission shall establish further rules, regulations, and guidelines for the selection and award of said scholarship with emphasis on financial need, leadership, scholarship and citizenship." (Res. 2, NEC, Oct 2001)

VETERANS IN THE CLASSROOM

"Resolved, That the American Legion encourage departments to develop a registry of speakers from its membership to speak on their military service experiences to school groups and other youth organizations; and be it further

Resolved, That this program be referred to as "Veterans in the Classroom;" and be it finally

Resolved, That the National Americanism Commission shall administer the Veterans in the Classroom program to include the publication and distribution of instructional literature and the development of program resource materials." (Res. 33, NEC, May 2002)

CLARIFICATION OF PURPOSE, TAL SEPTEMBER 11 MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

"Resolved, That in order to facilitate fund raising efforts and better define its purpose and scope while maintaining the title of the authorized trust fund, "The American Legion September 11 Memorial Scholarship" shall be also known as the 'American Legacy Scholarship'; and, be it further

Resolved, That Resolution No. 2, of Oct. 2001, and Resolutions 13 and 20, May, 2002, are amended to reflect that "The American Legion September 11 Memorial Scholarship" shall be also known as the 'American Legacy Scholarship'; and, be it further

Resolved, That the existing trust fund from which moneys will issue for such scholarships shall remain 'The American Legion September 11 Memorial Scholarship Trust Fund'; and, be it further

Resolved, That the title 'American Legacy Scholarship' shall be used in the promotion of and fund raising for The American Legion September 11 Memorial Scholarship Trust Fund in order to alleviate confusion with other funds/scholarship programs associated with the September 11, 2001 attack on America; and, be it further

Resolved, That to provide for the expenses associated with the administration and promotion of the scholarship program/trust fund, an amount not to exceed five percent (5%) of the income earned from the trust shall be allocated annually; and, be it finally

Resolved, That the scholarship awards will be determined by the National Committee on Education." (Res. 16, NEC, May 2003)

AMEND RULES & CONDITIONS FOR ADMINISTRATION OF THE AMERICAN LEGION LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

"Resolved, That the Rules and Conditions under which The American Legion Legacy Scholarships are awarded and the program administered shall be:

1. Those eligible to apply for the scholarship shall be the child/children or legally adopted child/children or a child of a spouse by a prior marriage or dependent child as defined under Title 10 USCA by the United States Armed Services of active duty United States military and National Guard, and military reservists who were federalized and die on active duty on or after September 11, 2001.

2. Must be a high school senior or high school graduate to apply for the scholarship.

3. The American Legion Legacy Scholarship is for undergraduate study at an accredited institution of higher education within the United States, except where the recipient is from a possession of the United States, in which case he/she can select a university or college in that possession or in the United States. The recipient must be accepted or enrolled as a full-time student to receive his/her scholarship funds. The number and amount of the scholarship awards will be determined by the income derived from The American Legion September 11 Memorial Scholarship Trust.

4. The scholarship funds may only be used to defray necessary costs of the student's education (i.e. tuition, room & board, books & supplies, fees and equipment required by the student's particular course of study or school).

5. The scholarship recipient may reapply for the scholarship annually. The amount of the fund request cannot exceed the cost of education. Students may make only one (1) request for funds per semester or quarter.

6. Scholarship checks will be issued upon receipt of a "Request for Funds" form. It is the normal and customary procedure that the scholarship check will be a two-party check made payable to the student and school.

And, be it finally

Resolved, That these Rules and Conditions shall be included on each American Legion Legacy Scholarship application." (Res. 31, NEC, May 2005)

ENGLISH BE DECLARED AS THE OFFICIAL U.S. LANGUAGE

"Resolved, That The American Legion encourages legislation which would establish English as the official national language; and, be it further

Resolved, That The American Legion urges Congress to encourage and fund alternative bilingual education programs to serve, as was intended, as a short intermediate step to achieve proficiency in the English language." (Res. 303, Nat'l Conv, Aug-Sep 2010)

THE AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL EDUCATION AWARD

"Resolved, That The American Legion National Education Award be formally established as a national annual award sponsored by the National Americanism Commission and presented at each annual National Convention of The American Legion; and, be it further

Resolved, That conditions for selecting the annual recipient of The American Legion National Education Award will continue as formerly set forth by the National Committee on Education during its 1994 Spring Meeting:

1. An individual, group or organization that has promoted the education programs of The American Legion, including the promotion of "*NEED A LIFT?,"* or;
2. An individual, group or organization that has promoted education programs that correspond to the goals of The American Legion, or;
3. An individual, group or organization that has promoted or advanced education programs at the national level; and, be it further

Resolved, That the National Committee on Education will continue to select the annual recipient of The American Legion National Education Award; and, be it further

Resolved, That The American Legion will provide one roundtrip coach airfare or vehicle mileage, in accordance with its employee mileage reimbursement rates, staff per diem for two days and lodging for one night in accordance with travel policies of The American Legion for an individual recipient or a single representative of a group or organization to receive the award at National Convention; and, be it further

Resolved, That The American Legion will not provide for any incidental expenses or any expenses incurred by guests accompanying the awardee; and, be it finally

Resolved, That funds expended for purchase of The American Legion National Education Award be set at an amount not to exceed $450 annually." (Res.6, NEC October 2011)

SECTION 7 -- FLAG PROGRAMS

FRANCIS BELLAMY RECOGNIZED AS AUTHOR OF PLEDGE

"Resolved, That Francis Bellamy be recognized as the original author of "The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag." (Res. 52, NEC, May 1968)

DEFENSE AND RESPECT FOR THE UNITED STATES FLAG

"Resolved, That The American Legion go on record as fully supporting a continuance of the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States in the public schools and urging defense thereof as well as respect therefore by all our citizens." (Res. 13, NEC, Oct 1970)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

"Resolved, That we [The American Legion] spearhead a national effort to encourage and teach every citizen of the United States to recite the Pledge of Allegiance correctly; and, be it further

Resolved, That this effort shall be directed not only toward educating the attendees at all meetings of The American Legion and public gatherings at which members of The American Legion may be officiating, but also toward introducing the necessary information into the public schools and the various youth groups, so that succeeding generations of Americans will be able to correctly recite the Pledge of Allegiance in a meaningful and enlightened manner; and, be it finally

Resolved, That all levels of The American Legion shall be immediately made aware of this resolution so that every Legionnaire throughout this land may join in a spontaneous, unified and continuing effort to achieve this objective." (Res. 465, Nat'l Conv, Aug 1983)

FLAG RESPECT

"Resolved, That we [The American Legion] hereby go on record: 1) That all agencies of government dispose of tattered or worn flags in the proper manner or turn the flag over to The American Legion for proper disposal and

2) That The American Legion will accept from governmental agencies or the public, worn or untidy flags; and be it further

Resolved, That The American Legion call upon the public, especially public officials, to always honor and respect the American flag." (Res. 51, Nat'l Conv, Aug 1983)

FLAG DISPLAY

"Resolved, That The American Legion encourage a special "U.S. Flag Display" by all Americans annually to commence on June 14 and continue through July 4th; and, be it further

Resolved, That the national and department organizations, through their Americanism Committees, provide the leadership necessary to plan a program of this scope; and, be it further

Resolved, That all American Legion members be encouraged to join this 21-day salute to America and the Statue of Liberty, by displaying the U.S. Flag at their homes and to provide the leadership in each local neighborhood getting as many other citizens as possible to join us; and, be it finally

Resolved, That during this 21-day salute, all post commanders be encouraged to schedule other flag-oriented programs, i.e., special flag presentations to outside organizations, special schools of instructions on flag etiquette, retirement of post flags and flag disposal ceremonies."
(Res. 161, Nat'l Conv, Aug 1985)

CLARIFYING PROPER DISPLAY OF FLAG PATCH

"Resolved, That for American Legion uniforms, the U.S. Flag patch may be worn on either sleeve, providing the blue field must be forward; and, be it finally

Resolved, That no emblem, name or patch shall be worn above the U.S. Flag shoulder patch on the same sleeve." (Res. 38, NEC, May 1986)

OFFICIAL CITATION FOR DISPLAY OF THE FLAG

"Resolved, That we [The American Legion] encourage all American Legion posts to promote the display of the flag in their respective communities; and, be it finally

Resolved, That the National Americanism Commission be instructed to draft an official citation certificate for the display of the flag daily and distinguish those that display the flag 24 hours a day, with a spotlight, and have them available through Emblem Sales as soon as possible." (Res. 301, Nat'l Conv, Sep 1986)

FLAG DISPLAY IN CHURCHES AND DURING FUNERALS

"Resolved, That The American Legion urge the leaders of all religious denominations to recognize the flag of the United States as a symbol of religious freedom and advocate its daily display in the sanctuaries and/or church buildings of America; and, be it finally

Resolved, That church authorities be encouraged to allow the long standing practice of draping the casket of departed veterans with the flag of the United States during funeral ceremonies conducted within the church." (Res. 24, NEC, Oct 1987)

FLAG PATCH ON POSTAL UNIFORMS

"Resolved, That The American Legion deems the wearing of the flag patch on the uniforms of postal employees to be an appropriate and patriotic practice; and, be it finally

Resolved, That the National Organization of The American Legion appeal to the United States Postal Service for a change in current uniform regulations that would make the U.S. Flag patch a part of the uniform of U.S. Postal Service employees." (Res. 26, NEC, Oct 1987)

THE AMERICAN FLAG AT SPORTING EVENTS

"Resolved, That The American Legion call upon the local and national television networks covering the regular season baseball, football and basketball games to include the pre-game flag ceremony as a part of their normal sports game programming, and the network officials be urged to refrain from running local programming or commercials during the ceremony." (Res. 137, Nat'l Conv, Sep 1989)

DISTRIBUTE FLAG CODE TO U.S. OLYMPIC ATHLETES

"Resolved, That a concerted effort be made by The American Legion to disseminate information regarding the proper respect for the U.S. Flag by issuing ample quantities of the U.S. Flag Code and the brochure "Let's Be Right On Flag Etiquette" to the administrators of the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colorado with the intent that these publications be issued to incoming athletes as part of their orientation as prospective members of the U.S. Olympic team." (Res. 50, NEC, Sep 1993)

AUTHORIZATION TO CREATE CITIZENS FLAG ALLIANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

"Resolved, That the National Commander be and he is hereby authorized and directed to create the Citizens Flag Alliance Advisory Committee to comprise the following members: the National Commander; the immediate Past National Commander; the Chairmen of the NEC Liaison Committee to the Americanism, Legislative, Public Relations, and Finance Commissions; the Chairmen of the Americanism, Legislative, Public Relations and Finance Commissions; such number of Consultants as the National Commander may deem necessary and appropriate; and the National Adjutant and National Judge Advocate shall be ex officio members; and be it further

Resolved, That the National Commander shall also invite the American Legion Auxiliary to appoint representatives to the Citizens Flag Alliance Advisory Committee in such number as the National Commander may deem necessary and appropriate; and be it finally

Resolved, That the National Commander be and he is hereby authorized and directed to encourage each department of The American Legion to designate a Citizens Flag Alliance Advisory Committee in each state for the purpose of coordinating grassroots flag-protection endeavors with those undertaken by the National Citizens Flag Alliance Advisory Committee." (Res. 19, NEC, May 1994)

AUTHORIZATION TO CREATE CITIZENS FLAG ALLIANCE

"Resolved, That the National Commander be and is hereby authorized and directed to establish, acting on the advice of competent legal counsel and with the approval of the National Judge Advocate as to the form and substance of any agreements, contracts, or documents of incorporation, the 'Citizens Flag Alliance,' a nonprofit corporation to be created to raise and expend funds, and engage in lobbying in support of securing a constitutional amendment giving the Congress and the States the power to enact legislation to protect the flag of the United States; and be it further

Resolved, That the National Commander shall have the authority to appoint such American Legion representatives and officers to the Board of Directors, Executive Committee, and Advisory Committee of the "Citizens Flag Alliance" as he shall deem necessary and appropriate; and be it further

Resolved, That the National Commander be and is hereby authorized and directed to establish, acting on the advice of competent legal counsel and with the approval of the National Judge Advocate as to the form and substance of any agreements, contracts, or documents of incorporation or similar documents as required by law, additional nonprofit corporations or foundations as he shall deem necessary to fulfill the letter and spirit of this resolution; and be it finally

Resolved, That the National Commander be and is hereby authorized and directed to establish such other nonprofit entities as may be deemed necessary by competent legal counsel for the purpose of furthering this campaign." (Res. 21, NEC, May 1994)

POW/MIA FLAG

"Resolved, That The American Legion encourage all Americans to fly the POW/MIA flag until a full accounting of every POW/MIA is completed." (Res. 94, Nat'l Conv, Sep 1996)

OPPOSE POLICY OF DENYING FLAGS ON VETERANS' GRAVES IN NATIONAL CEMETERIES

"Resolved, That the placement of small American flags on individual veterans' graves in national cemeteries shall not be prohibited nor discouraged." (Res. 214, Nat'l Conv, Sep 1997)

DISPLAY OF FLAG IN SCHOOL CLASSROOMS

"Resolved, That The American Legion, at all levels, encourage and support efforts to display the flag of the United States in the nation's school classrooms." (Res. 23, NEC, Oct 2003)

OPPOSE IMPORTATION OF FOREIGN MANUFACTURED AMERICAN FLAGS

"Resolved, That The American Legion encourages its membership, the general public, and all local, state and federal government agencies to purchase and display only American manufactured flags of the United States; and, be it finally

Resolved, That The American Legion seek legislation through the U.S. Congress to prohibit the importation of foreign made flags of the United States." (Res. 309, Nat'l Conv, Aug-Sep 2010)

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO PROTECT THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES

"Resolved, That The American Legion continue to urge the Congress of the United States to propose and approve an amendment to the U.S. Constitution that would allow the Congress to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States; and, be it finally

Resolved, That The American Legion continue its efforts through affiliation with The Citizens Flag Alliance, Inc. to bring to a successful conclusion the grassroots campaign to amend the Constitution of the United States of America in order to return to the people their right to protect the flag from acts of physical desecration." (Res. 308, Nat'l Conv, Aug-Sep 2010)

SUPPORT THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

"Resolved, That The American Legion reiterate its continuing support for the Pledge of Allegiance in its current form, voicing opposition to any and all attempts to revise it beyond the version approved by Congress in 1954; and, be it further

Resolved, That The American Legion encourage the nation's schools to include the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance by teachers and students in regular school activities and events; and, be it finally

Resolved, That The American Legion, at all levels, continue its unyielding support for the Pledge of Allegiance and its provisions of national loyalty by using all means practical to inform Americans about the belief in and the reliance in God by our nation's founders in forming our democratic republic." (Res. 315, Nat'l Conv, Aug-Sep 2010)

OPPOSE FLAG CODE CHANGE – CONDUCT DURING HOISTING, LOWERING OR PASSING OF THE FLAG OR THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

"Resolved, That those sections of the U.S. Flag Code prescribing that members of the Armed Forces and veterans out of uniform may render the military salute during hoisting, lowering, or passing of the United States flag and/or during a rendition of the national anthem when the flag is displayed, causes confusion leading to breaches of flag etiquette, to include proper conduct during the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance; and, be it further

Resolved, That The American Legion encourages the Congress of the United States to repeal that portion of Title 4, Chapter 1, Section 9, United States Code permitting members of the Armed Forces and veterans out of uniform to render a military salute during hoisting, lowering, or passing of the United States flag; and, be it finally

Resolved, That The American Legion encourages the Congress of the United States to repeal that portion of Title 36, Chapter 3, Section 301, United States Code permitting members of the Armed Forces and veterans out of uniform to render a military salute during a rendition of the national anthem when the flag is displayed." (Res. 316, Nat'l Conv, Aug-Sep 2010)

FLAG CODE AMENDMENT

NOTE: Res. 29, NEC, Oct 2010 outlines the numerous changes to the U.S. Flag Code that are being sought by The American Legion. The resolution is not included in this summary because of its length.

PROPER DISPLAY, CARE AND RESPECT OF THE AMERICAN FLAG

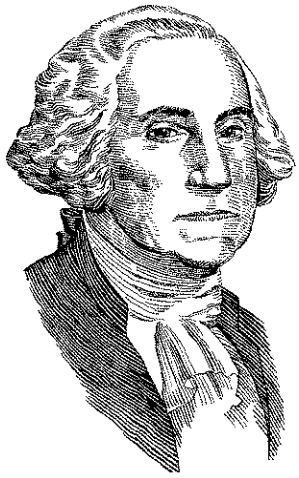
"Resolved, That The American Legion at all levels encourage its membership, the general public, and all local, state and federal government agencies to display United States flags that are fitting emblems for display; and, be it finally

Resolved, That American Legion Posts are encouraged to promote and conduct a Dignified Disposal of Unserviceable Flags Ceremony as a part of their community service efforts." (Res.38, NEC May 2011)

Encourages the display of serviceable United States flags and to encourage posts to conduct disposal of unserviceable flag ceremonies as part of their community service project.

SECTION 8 -- HOLIDAYS

DESIGNATE FEB. 12-22 AS AMERICANISM DAYS



"Resolved, That the month of February be designated as Americanism Month to be observed annually by the nation as a whole. That during such periods of rededication to Americanism, all organizations be urged to exert extraordinary efforts to apprise their members of the vitally serious nature of the Communist threat to our nation of free people under God." (Res. 163, Nat'l Conv, Oct 1960)

HONORING GEORGE WASHINGTON

"Resolved, That we [The American Legion] take the lead in restoring the honor due to the Father of our Country." (Res. 456, Nat'l Conv, Aug 1982)

NATIONAL MOMENT OF REMEMBRANCE

"Resolved, That The American Legion express its support for a National Moment of Remembrance and that it encourage all Americans to pause for a moment of silence at 3 pm (local time) on the federally observed date of Memorial Day to remember those who died in service to their country." (Res. 35, NEC, May 2000)

ARMED FORCES DAY

"Resolved, That The American Legion reiterates its continuing support of those who serve in the Armed Forces of the United States and the families that are left behind; and, be it finally

Resolved, That The American Legion encourages its posts and others to conduct and sponsor appropriate observances of 'Armed Forces Day' in their respective communities to inform all citizens of the important role of this country's armed forces and to acknowledge the service of those who serve in them." (Res. 429, Nat'l Conv, Sep 2004)

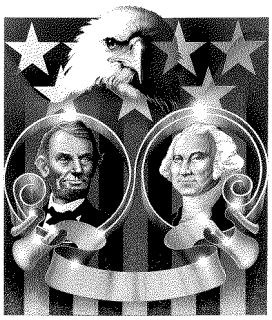
EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE IDEALS AND GOALS OF CITIZENSHIP DAY

"Resolved, That The American Legion supports the ideals and goals of Citizenship Day; and, be it further

Resolved, That The American Legion calls on government authorities, schools, students and all local community organizations to observe Citizenship Day with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs; and, be it finally

Resolved, That The American Legion urges American Legion posts to support local collaboration in "Citizenship Outreach," a program sponsored by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services to assist legal immigrants seeking the path to naturalized U.S. citizenship." (Res. 37, NEC, May 2010)

RETURN PATRIOTIC HOLIDAYS TO TRADITIONAL DATES



"Resolved, That The American Legion calls upon the Congress of the United States to restore the official observance of Lincoln's Birthday to February 12, Washington's Birthday to February 22, Memorial Day to May 30 and Columbus Day to October 12 each year; and, be it finally

"Resolved, That The American Legion urges the passage of federal legislation that would result in an annual Presidential proclamation calling on all American institutions, public and private, to toll their bells for one minute, beginning at 11:00 am on the traditional Memorial Day, May 30, in remembrance of the servicemen and women who died defending our Nation and our freedom." (Res. 304, Nat'l Conv, Aug-Sep 2010)

SECTION 9 -- IMMIGRATION

PROTEST AGAINST THE READMISSION INTO THE U.S. OF DEPORTED ALIENS

"Resolved, That The American Legion registers its protest against the re-admission into the United States of aliens who have been deported and persons whose citizenship has been revoked for proven disloyalty, whether such readmission be upon temporary visa or other means of entry into this country." (Res. 455/335, Nat'l Conv, Sep 1949)

REDUCE IMMIGRATION LEVELS

"Resolved, That The American Legion reiterate its longstanding opposition to any great influx of legal immigrants and that immigration be on a moderate and regulated scale in numbers that enable them to be readily absorbed into the culture and life stream of the United States of America." (Res. 48, NEC, May 2003)

TASK FORCE ON NEW AMERICANS

This resolution is a joint effort of The American Legion and the Office of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration.

"Resolved, That The American Legion supports the efforts of the Office of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services' Task Force on New Americans; and, be it finally

Resolved, That The American Legion encourages posts to provide instructional space and citizenship classes to legal immigrants seeking U.S. citizenship." (Res. 12, NEC, May 2008)

ENGLISH LANGUAGE BE USED IN NATURALIZATION CEREMONIES

"Resolved, That The American Legion encourages the United States Attorney General to issue a directive making naturalization ceremonies by a U. S. District Judge a mandatory step in the process of acquiring U.S. citizenship; and, be it finally

Resolved, That The American Legion urges Congress, the U.S. Justice Department and the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services of the Department of Homeland Security to require that all Citizenship Naturalization Ceremonies be conducted in the English language." (Res. 305, Nat'l Conv, Aug-Sep 2010)

AMEND THE "TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS" PORTION OF THE IMMIGRATION ACT OF 1990

"Resolved, That The American Legion encourages the Congress of the United States to amend the Temporary Protected Status

section of the Immigration Act of 1990 to limit its coverage to foreign visitors legally in the United States." (Res. 311, Nat'l Conv, Aug-Sep 2010)

SUPPORT FAIRNESS FOR IMMIGRANT SPOUSES

"Resolved, That The American Legion encourages the Congress of the United States to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to allow immigrant spouses of U.S. military personnel who die in training on military installations to continue their petition for permanent resident status without the current two-year eligibility restriction; and, be it finally

Resolved, That the Immigration and Nationality Act be amended to waive the fees for posthumous citizenship assessed to surviving family members who lose a relative in hostile combat while a member of the U.S. Armed Forces and who has a pending application for United States citizenship." (Res. 312, Nat'l Conv, Aug-Sep 2010)

OATH OF RENUNCIATION AND ALLEGIANCE

This resolution is a joint effort of The American Legion and the Hudson Institute, an internationally recognized public policy research not-for-profit organization.

"Resolved, That The American Legion opposes any and all changes to the Oath of Renunciation and Allegiance, as used in naturalization ceremonies, that would dilute or eliminate any of the following important and necessary elements of the oath: 1) Renunciation of all allegiances to foreign states or sovereignties; 2) Support for and defense of the U.S. Constitution and laws of the USA against all enemies, foreign and domestic; 3) Bear 'true faith and allegiance' to the USA; 4) Bear arms, perform noncombatant service, or perform work of national importance on behalf of the USA; and 5) Take this oath without mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and be it further

Resolved, That The American Legion encourages Congress to prescribe the language that is used in the oath of renunciation and allegiance for purposes as outlined in the Immigration and Nationality Act; and, be it finally

Resolved, That The American Legion encourage the Congress of the United States to enact measures to prevent dual citizenship by naturalized U.S. citizens." (Res. 313, Nat'l Conv, Aug-Sep 2010)

STRATEGY TO ADDRESS SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND POPULATION PROBLEMS RELATED TO ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

"Resolved, That The American Legion be unalterably opposed to illegal immigration and oppose legislation that would result in the granting of amnesty and legal residency, in any form or by any name, to illegal immigrants currently in the United States; and, be it further

Resolved, That The American Legion, on behalf of all Americans and future generations of Americans, urge the Congress and the federal government to authorize and fund the following strategy in addressing the issue of illegal aliens in the United States:

1. Eliminate the jobs magnet and social services benefits:
(a) Mandate verification of employment eligibility,
(b) Enforce employer sanctions as called for in current employment laws and assess heavy penalties on employers who knowingly hire illegal aliens,
(c) Make illegal residents ineligible for Social Security benefits, unemployment compensation, and other government-sponsored public services and public assistance,
(d) Eliminate governmental financial aid for illegal alien students;

2. Enforce existing laws and pass new laws to reduce U.S. illegal population:
(a) Reject amnesty or "legalization" programs for illegal aliens,
(b) Prohibit eligibility to services offered by financial institutions in the United States,
(c) Issue no drivers licenses to illegal aliens,
(d) Designate English as the official language of the U.S. government and print all documents, including election ballots, in the English language only,
(e) Work with state and local governments to discourage illegal settlement;

3. Revise legal immigration procedures; screen and track foreign visitors legally entering the U.S.:
(a) Eliminate the Visa Lottery Program,
(b) Restrict the number of countries participating in the Visa Waiver Program,
(c) Establish numerical limits for all immigration categories of temporary workers to help prevent labor market distortions and create new visa categories or expand the H-2A and H-2B Visa Categories for temporary agricultural and temporary and seasonal workers as necessary to replace illegal workers eliminated from employment opportunities in the U.S.,
(d) Create and enforce a reporting system to track the whereabouts of foreign visitors to include students at academic institutions, members of a country's diplomatic corps, aircraft and vessel crews, foreign press representatives, exchange visitors, H-1B Workers, L-1 Intracompany Transferees and those individuals categorized as humanitarian entrants; and

4. Hold accountable those employers who knowingly hire illegal aliens, especially those aliens showing suspected fraudulent documents, thus suggesting the possibility that identity theft may have occurred; and

5. Promptly deport to their country of origin those illegal aliens convicted of felonies relating to the use of fraudulent identity

Illegal immigration continues to escalate into a serious threat against our national and homeland security.

Oversight of social, economic, and population issues involving illegal immigrants, such as eliminating the jobs magnet or public services benefits, falls under the National Americanism Commission.

Illegal immigration issues that are of a strong national security focus such as homeland security, law and order, and a strong internal security are better addressed under the cognizance of the National Security Commission. The reader is encouraged to review the booklet *"The American Legion Policy on Illegal Immigration A Strategy to Address Illegal Immigration in the United States".*

documents, especially those of children, in order to obtain employment in the United States; and

6. Assist victims of identity theft perpetuated by illegal aliens by providing the victims with assistance in reclaiming their identity while erasing derogatory information, such as criminal convictions resulting from the misuse of the victim's identity records; and

7. Make institutions of higher education who fail to cooperate with the federal government in monitoring and tracking foreign students ineligible to receive federal student loan monies benefiting foreign students; and, be it further

Resolved, That The American Legion adamantly oppose provisions of any comprehensive immigration reform legislation that grants amnesty or forgiveness to the employers of illegal aliens; and, be it further

Resolved, That The American Legion opposes any legislation or executive order that would allow illegal aliens and others who are in this country illegally to receive in-state tuition rates, federal or other government education grants and or financial assistance to attend a college or university in the United States; and, be it further

Resolved, That The American Legion endorses the report by the Center for Immigration Studies (CIS) titled "Attrition Through Enforcement – A Cost-Effective Strategy to Shrink the Illegal Population" and adopts the action as proposed in the report as a portion of its strategy for reform of the U.S. immigration policy; and, be it further

Resolved, That The American Legion work with CIS to obtain Congressional approval and national acceptance of the plan which includes the following:

- Mandatory workplace verification of immigration status
- Measures to curb misuse of Social Security numbers and IRS identification numbers
- Cooperation between federal, state and local law enforcement officials
- Increased screening of foreign visitors Increase non-criminal removals through increased interior enforcement
- Discourage illegal settlement by adopting additional state and local legislation; and, be it further

Resolved, That The American Legion encourages the United States government to hold respective agency heads accountable in guaranteeing the desired communications and exchanges of technical information concerning the various aspects of the illegal alien issue; and, be it further

Resolved, That The American Legion seize every opportunity to request an accountability of our elected officials in implementing and enforcing federal and international laws and treaties to eliminate the large numbers of individuals from foreign countries entering the United States illegally and that all candidates for public office and the Democratic and Republican National Committees express publicly to the American people their positions and solutions to this grave danger to our country's stability; and, be it further

Resolved, That The American Legion continue an information campaign to alert its members, federal and state elected officials, and the general public of the massive influx into the country of illegal immigrants, the consequences of mass immigration and how it will affect the standards of living in these United States; and, be it finally

Resolved, That The American Legion use all possible means to bring forth a solution to the challenges faced by the United States because of illegal immigration." (Res. 302, Nat'l Conv, Aug-Sep 2010)

SECTION 10 -- MARKSMANSHIP

AMERICAN LEGION SHOOTING SPORTS

"Resolved, That The American Legion encourage its posts to organize and sponsor Junior Shooting Clubs; and, be it further

Resolved, That instructional materials be developed and competition be organized by the National Americanism Commission and its agents to support sponsorship of Junior Shooting Clubs; and, be it finally

Resolved, That all American Legion programs of gun safety and marksmanship be included in a National Americanism program entitled 'American Legion Shooting Sports Program.'" (Res. 30, NEC, Oct 1988)

AMERICAN LEGION JR SHOOTING SPORTS TROPHY

"Resolved, That the National Organization is hereby authorized to accept the gift of $1,000.00 from Daisy Manufacturing, Incorporated; and, be it further

Resolved, That the funds be used to purchase traveling trophies for the top performing Individual and Team in the Sporter and Precision categories competing in the annual National Junior Olympic Air Rifle Championship who are members of clubs and teams affiliated with The American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Program; and, be it further

Resolved, That the National Americanism Commission is authorized to annually present The American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Trophies to the top performing Individual and Team in the Sporter and Precision categories competing in the annual National Junior Olympic Air Rifle Championship who are members of clubs and teams affiliated with The American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Program; and, be it finally

Resolved, That these awards be initially presented at the 2001 National Junior Olympic Air Rifle Championship in Atlanta, Georgia, and that the awards be included in the next edition of the American Legion Trophies Manual." (Res. 9, NEC, May 2001)

FRANCIS M. REDINGTON SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD

"Resolved, That The American Legion establish the 'Francis M. Redington Sportsmanship Award'; and, be it further

Resolved, That the National Americanism Commission be authorized to annually present the 'Francis M. Redington Sportsmanship Award' to the athlete competing in the American Legion Jr. Air Rifle National Championships who best exemplifies good sportsmanship and fair play; and, be it finally

Resolved, That this award be presented at the 2005 American Legion Junior air Rifle National championship and each year thereafter, and that the award be listed in The American Legion Trophies and Awards Manual." (Res. 33, NEC, May 2005)

SECTION 11 -- ORATORICAL

NATIONAL INTERSCHOLASTIC ORATORICAL CONTEST

"Resolved, That The American Legion do undertake and sponsor a National Interscholastic Oratorical Contest for students of high school age and that the Director of this Commission be authorized and directed to contact the newspapers of the country to determine whether or not with such sponsorships such newspapers will underwrite the cost of holding regional, sectional and national contests in connection therewith, and that, if the underwriting of the cost thereof shall be determined as practical, The American Legion proceed with the sponsorship thereof, and a special subcommittee of this Commission then be appointed to perfect plans, approve subjects and generally supervise and conduct such contests." (No Number, NEC, May 1934)

NATIONAL AMERICANISM COMMISSION HOLD NAT'L HIGH SCHOOL ORATORICAL CONTEST

"Resolved, That the Nineteenth Annual National Convention in New York City instruct the National Executive Committee and the National Americanism Commission to sponsor and hold a national high school oratorical contest under the supervision of the National Americanism Commission." (Res. 535, Nat'l Conv, Sep 1937)

NATIONAL ORATORICAL CONTEST

"Resolved, that the students winning scholarships in the final contest in the National High School Oratorical Contest be required to attend a university or college within the continental limits of the United States, except in the case where one of the four finalists may be from a possession of the United States, in which case he can select a university or college in that possession or in the continental United States." (Res. 25, NEC, Nov 1944)

AMEND NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL ORATORICAL CONTEST RULES

"Resolved, That the rules for the National Oratorical Contest include the provision that only the four (4) contestants in the National Finals be barred from future participation as a contestant in any phase of the National Oratorical Contest." (Res. 10, NEC, Oct 1972)

NATIONAL ORATORICAL CONTEST RULES AMENDMENT

"Resolved, [The American Legion] does endorse the principle of all contestants in the National Oratorical Contests shall have the right to be chaperoned." (Res. 177, Nat'l Conv, Aug 1979)

AMERICAN LEGION NAT'L HIGH SCHOOL ORATORICAL CONTEST

"Resolved, That changes in the Oratorical Rules brochure be printed in the year subsequent to their adoption at the discretion of the National Americanism Commission; and, be it further

Resolved, That department adjutants and oratorical contest chairmen be advised of these rule changes as they are approved for implementation; and, be it finally

Resolved, That National Headquarters, The American Legion, is urged to schedule distribution of Oratorical Contest materials to reach departments and posts as soon as possible after the National Contest finals each year." (Res. 29, NEC, Oct 1984)

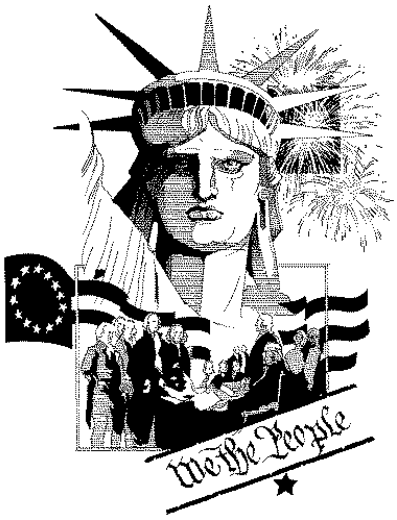
TO ESTABLISH PROPER RECOGNITION OF POSTS WHO SPONSOR FINALISTS IN THE AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL ORATORICAL CONTESTS

"Resolved, That the National Americanism Commission initiate forthwith an annual method of suitable recognition to those sponsored American Legion Posts whose contestants become National finalists in the program." (Res. 325, Nat'l Conv, Sep 1988)

CHANGE IN ORATORICAL CONTEST STRUCTURE

"Resolved, That the present structure of national competition (regionals, sectionals and national finals eliminations) in the National High School Oratorical Contests be discontinued effective with the close of the 1996 contests; and, be it further

Resolved, That in the place of the present structure of eliminations a new national contest structure be initiated on a three-year test basis beginning in 1997 whereby a system of elimination contests are conducted at a single location which will feature nine first round contests, three second round contests and a national finals contest involving three finalists; and, be it further



Resolved, That the scholarships award structure for the national level of competition be revised as follows so as to reflect these structural changes while maintaining the present expenditure of scholarship funds:

Department winners competing in first round of national contests
$1,500 each
First round winners eliminated in second round of competition
$1,500 each
First Place Winner
$18,000
Second Place Winner
$16,000
Third Place Winner
$14,000

and, be it finally

Resolved, That the 1997 national level of eliminations be conducted at Indianapolis, Indiana, on April 11-14, 1997." (Res. 38, NEC, May 1995)

ORATORICAL NATIONAL FINALS SITE

"Resolved, That the new contest format as described in Resolution 38, adopted May 2-4, 1995, by the National Executive Committee of The American Legion, be adopted as a permanent change to The American Legion National High School Oratorical Contest. " (Res. 39, NEC, May 1999)

CHANGE THE NAME OF THE AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL ORATORICAL CONTEST

"Resolved, That the name of The American Legion National High School Oratorical Contest be changed to *The American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program - "A Constitutional Speech Contest."* (Res. 22, NEC, May 2007)

NATIONAL FORENSIC LEAGUE SPONSORSHIP

"Resolved, That The American Legion is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement to be a national sponsor of The National Forensic League in the amount of $10,000 for the period of October, 2011, to October, 2012." (Res.16, NEC October 2011)

More than 112,000 high school and middle school students, representing more than 2,800 high schools and nearly 100 middle schools nationwide, build their communication, leadership, cognitive, and presentational skills as members of the National Forensic League.

This is the second year of the relationship with the National Forensic League and The American Legion.

SECTION 12 -- RELIGIOUS PROGRAMS

OPPOSE WEAKENING THE AMERICAN PEOPLE'S FAITH IN DIVINE GUIDANCE

"Resolved, That The American Legion declares its abiding confidence in the wisdom of our Founding Fathers in placing their reliance in God; and, be it finally

Resolved, That The American Legion dedicates the organization to unrelenting opposition to all who would in any way weaken our faith in Divine Guidance or limit its frequent official declaration of such dedication." (Res. 131, Nat'l Conv, Sep 1963)

RELIANCE UPON GOD

"Resolved, That The American Legion should do whatever is possible to maintain the concept of 'God and Country." (Res. 462, Nat'l Conv, Sep 1964)

REMOVAL OF ALL REFERENCES TO GOD IN OUR PUBLIC LIFE OPPOSED

"Resolved, That The American Legion strongly opposes the efforts of all groups and individuals who contemplate and strive to remove the reference to God from public life." (Res. 14, NEC, Oct 1965)

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

"Resolved, That we [The American Legion] endorse the following statement:

We whole-heartily support the decision of our astronauts to read scriptures from the Bible while in space as they orbited the moon. We believe in freedom of use of the Bible in public places, over the air waves and while traveling in space. We believe it should be the right of every human being to publicly express his faith in God and the Bible without fear or reprisal from the government or any other power. May this serve as a full endorsement for their gesture, upholding them in the expression of their faith and their belief in God." (Res. 262, Nat'l Conv, Aug 1969)

STRENGTHEN SPIRITUAL PRINCIPLES OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

"Resolved, That The American Legion urge that all branches of government – legislative, executive and judicial – adhere to moral and spiritual values which we inherited from our founding fathers

so that these values may become, once again in the immediate future, by precept and example, a leading light to all nations under God." (Res. 459, Nat'l Conv, Aug 1974)

CHAPEL OF FOUR CHAPLAINS

"Resolved, That The American Legion opposes the permanent placement of symbols and artifacts in the Chapel of Four Chaplains by groups other than those of Protestant, Catholic and Jewish faiths as a memorial to only those four chaplains honored." (Res. 246, Nat'l Conv, Sep 1993)

AWARD MEDAL OF HONOR TO THE FOUR CHAPLAINS

"Resolved, That The American Legion supports the awarding of the Medal of Honor to U.S. Army Chaplains, Lt. John P. Washington, Lt. Clark V. Poling, Lt. George L. Fox and Lt. Alexander D. Goode, for their heroism which cost them their lives on the night of February 3, 1943." (Res. 361, Nat'l Conv, Aug 2006)

SCHOOL PRAYER

"Resolved, That The American Legion reaffirms its support for an amendment to the Constitution of the United States that would permit voluntary prayer in public buildings, including public schools and at other public gatherings; and, be it finally

Resolved, That Congress pass legislation to promote the concept of school prayer in order to ensure that our Nation's public school children have a daily opportunity to pray." (Res. 307, Nat'l Conv, Aug-Sep 2010)