**ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTH NATIONAL CONVENTION**
**OF**
**THE AMERICAN LEGION**
**New Orleans, Louisiana**
**August 27, 28, 29, 2024**

**Resolution No. 10: Post-Secondary Credit for Military Service**
**Origin: South Dakota**
**Submitted by: Convention Committee on Veterans Employment & Education**

WHEREAS, The American Legion is dedicated to the well-being and advancement of veterans, active-duty military personnel, and their families; and

WHEREAS, Veterans are in need of academic post-military degree, certification and credentialing universally recognizable by employers for employment opportunities; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Defense (DoD) spares no expense to provide servicemembers with some of the best training and education in the nation paid for by federal budgets of the United States in various technical, leadership, and academic fields; and

WHEREAS, Military service often involves extensive training and education that is equivalent to or exceeds the standards of civilian colleges and universities; and

WHEREAS, The American Council on Education (ACE) has evaluated most training of military occupations using Joint Services Transcripts and provides "recommendations and validated competencies" for awarding post-secondary credit for such training; and

WHEREAS, Approximately 2,800 institutions of higher learning signed the Department of Defense Voluntary Education Partnership (DoDVEP) Memorandum of Understanding formerly Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges (SOC) agreement, to provide educational opportunities to servicemembers who, because they frequently moved from place to place, had trouble completing college degrees; and

WHEREAS, DoDVEP functions in cooperation with higher education associations to expand and improve voluntary post-secondary education opportunities for servicemembers worldwide; and

WHEREAS, There are many high demand technical career fields in critical shortage of qualified employees in the civilian workforce that require training, education and certification; and

WHEREAS, Recognizing and providing standard credit for military service can facilitate the transition of servicemembers into postsecondary education, civilian careers, and promote lifelong learning; and

WHEREAS, Such recognition can contribute to the attainment of educational goals and further professional development among veterans and recognition can contribute to fulfilling the critical skills and employment shortages in the civilian sector of employment; and

WHEREAS, Federal taxpayers spend more than $150 billion a year on federal financial aid, $30 billion on GI Bill benefits, and $1 billion on military tuition assistance, while students, states, and employers spend billions more, servicemembers are still required to take courses that have been recommended by ACE for credit; and

WHEREAS, The DoD has already paid for the training of its personnel for their military occupations and the taxpayers of the United States should not be burdened by paying for the

training again in the form of the Tuition Assistance, GI Bill or any federally funded training programs; and

WHEREAS, DoD Tuition Assistance, Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) education or any form of the GI Bill requires this evaluation, and a fully completed degree or certificate plan to ensure compliance with DoD and VA regulations; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 27, 28, 29, 2024, That the American Legion supports the establishment of a standardized system to recognize and appropriately award academic credit or certification for military service based on American Council on Education recommendations of evaluation of the Joint Services Transcript System standards; and, be it further**

**RESOLVED, That the American Legion urges all post-secondary institutions to work collaboratively with the Department of Defense and relevant military agencies to develop and implement a comprehensive framework for assessing military training and experience for college credit; and, be it further**

**RESOLVED, That the American Legion calls upon Congress to enact legislation that requires all post-secondary institutions that accept federal government funding to adopt policies recognizing the educational value of military service and provide appropriate postsecondary credit in accordance with American Council on Education recommendations and validated competencies; and, be it further**

**RESOLVED, That the American Legion encourages all post-secondary institutions to establish clear and transparent procedures for evaluating military training and experience, granting credit where appropriate, and ensuring that veterans receive fair and equitable treatment in the pursuit of higher education; and, be it finally**

**RESOLVED, That National Executive Committee Resolution No. 12, Fall 2014, "Support Joint Services Transcript Evaluation of Military Training and Experience of Veterans, Active-Duty, Reserve and National Guard Personnel" and National Convention 2016, Resolution No. 322, "Support Joint Services Transcript Evaluation of Military Training and Experience of Veterans, Active-Duty, Reserve and National Guard Personnel" be superseded and rescinded.**