

Issue- Illegal Immigration

Message Points:

- The American Legion, since the organization's first convention, has recognized the threat of illegal immigration to this country's security and well-being. It has continually passed resolutions calling on Congress and other governmental agencies to pass and enforce effective immigration laws that will restrict entry of illegal immigrants.
- The American Legion is unalterably opposed to illegal immigration and urges Congress and the states, the U.S. Justice Department and the Department of Homeland Security to take the necessary action to stop the invasion of this country by illegal immigrants. Specific actions to achieve this goal include the following steps:
 1. Hire and train additional border patrol agents with employment preference afforded former military personnel.
 2. Urge Congress to pass legislation to empower all the nation's law enforcement personnel to apprehend, hold and incarcerate those individuals who are in this country illegally.
 3. Initiate immediate deportation proceedings at major points of embarkation for those arriving in this country without valid passport visas.
 4. Require that all legal aliens carry a counterfeit resistant registration card and that they be required to report, in a specified length of time, to local officials their location and place of employment.
 5. Petition the President of the United States and the Congress to expand and strengthen the Customs and Immigration Services and the U.S. Coast Guard, and enact such emergency measures as will prevent smuggling of illegal aliens and stop, detain and deport potential terrorists or those with ties to terrorist groups.
 6. That, as appropriate, military resources be employed to assist in stopping the flow of illegal aliens into the country, and all of the resources of the United States be utilized to enforce the security of our country's borders.
- The American Legion urges Congress to seek ways in which to ease the strain on federal, state and local forms of public assistance by reducing or eliminating demands on these services by illegal immigrants.

- The American Legion supports strict enforcement and heavy penalties for U.S. employers who knowingly hire illegal aliens.
- Delegates to The American Legion's 87th Annual National Convention in August 2005 passed Resolution 1 titled "Call for Action on Illegal Immigration Issue" which called for Congressional action to take steps necessary to secure the borders of this country. It also requested an accountability of our elected officials on illegal immigration issues and to use all possible means to bring solution to the challenges faced by the United States because of illegal immigration.