

**NINETIETH NATIONAL CONVENTION
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
Phoenix, Arizona
August 26, 27, 28, 2008**

Resolution No. 100: Uniformed Services University Of The Health Sciences

Origin: Maryland

Submitted by: Convention Committee on National Security

WHEREAS, The American Legion has supported the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU), since its establishment in 1972 as the Nation's Federal Academic Health Center dedicated to providing uniquely educated and trained uniformed officers for the United States Army, Navy, Air Force and Public Health Service. USU alumni are currently serving over 20-year careers and thus providing continuity and leadership for the Military Health System (MHS) as physicians, advanced practice nurses and scientists; and

WHEREAS, The USU F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine has a year-round, four-year curriculum that is nearly 700 hours longer than found at other U.S. medical schools. These extra hours focus on epidemiology, health promotion, disease prevention, tropical medicine, leadership and field exercises. Doctoral and Masters degrees in the biomedical sciences and public health are awarded by interdisciplinary and department-based graduate programs within the School of Medicine. Programs include infectious disease, neuroscience, and preventive medicine research; and

WHEREAS, The USU Graduate School of Nursing offers a Master of Science in Nursing degree in Nurse Anesthesia, Family Nurse Practitioner, Perioperative Clinical Nursing, Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner, and a full and part-time program for a Ph.D. degree in Nursing Science. The university's continuing education program is unique and extensive, serving and sustaining the professional and readiness requirements of the Defense Department's worldwide military healthcare community; and

WHEREAS, The university's nationally ranked military and civilian faculty conduct cutting edge research in the biomedical sciences and in areas specific to the DoD health care mission such as combat casualty care, infectious diseases and radiation biology. The university specializes in military and public health medicine, focusing on keeping people healthy, disease prevention, and diagnosis and treatment. USU faculty offer significant expertise in tropical medicine and hygiene, parasitology, epidemiologic methods and preventive medicine; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Defense (DOD) and the United States Congress have recognized that the extensive military-unique and preventive health care education provided in the multi-Service environment of USU ensures Medical Readiness and Force Health Protection for the MHS; USU is recognized as the place where students receive thorough preparation to deal with the medical aspects of Weapons of Mass Destruction, including chemical, radiological and biological, nuclear and high yield explosive (CBRNE) terrorism or other catastrophe. USU has developed similar training for civilian first responders, medical professionals and emergency planners. USU is also uniquely qualified and experienced in simulation technology, education and training; and

WHEREAS, USU, recognized by DOD as the Academic Health Center for the MHS, has graduated 4227 uniformed physician officers who represent approximately one-quarter of the

total physicians on active duty in the Armed Forces; the current Secretary of Defense refers to the USU alumni as the *backbone* of the MHS; in addition, the USU Graduate School of Nursing has conferred 369 Masters of Science in Nursing Degrees to uniformed, critically required advanced practice nurses during the current Nation-wide nursing shortage; and, the University has conferred 1080 Master and Doctoral Degrees through its Graduate Education Programs in essential areas requested by the MHS; and

WHEREAS, With the establishment by the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) of a Joint Medical Command in Fiscal Year 2008 with plans to establish the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC) by 2011 and the close collaboration between the Armed Services Flag Officers and the President of USU to create a world-class military academic health center, expanding the role of USU; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Phoenix, Arizona, August 26, 27, 28, 2008, That The American Legion urges the Congress to: continue its demonstrated commitment to USU, as a national asset, for the continued provision of uniquely educated and trained uniformed physicians, advanced practice nurses, and scientists dedicated to careers of service in the Army, Navy, Air Force, and the United States Public Health Service; support timely construction at the USU campus during Fiscal Years 2009-2010; continue funding the University's collaborative effort for sharing its CBRNE expertise and training; support development of the USU Immersive, Wide Area Virtual Environment (WAVE) Simulation for CBRNE/WMD Medical Readiness Training; support funding for the Graduate School of Nursing Teaching/Educational Programs and, encourage continued close collaboration and progress towards the OSD-proposed Joint Medical Command and WRNMMC with USU as the core academic health center.