

**NINETY-FIRST NATIONAL CONVENTION
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
Louisville, Kentucky
August 25, 26, 27, 2009**

**Resolution No. 117: Support for the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU)
Origin: Convention Committee on National Security
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; and

WHEREAS, USU alumni are currently serving well 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 Hebert School of Medicine has a year-round, four-year curriculum that is nearly 700 hours longer than found at other U.S. medical schools; and

WHEREAS, These extra hours focus on epidemiology, health promotion, disease prevention, tropical medicine, leadership and field exercises; and

WHEREAS, Doctoral and Master degrees in the biomedical sciences and public health are awarded by interdisciplinary and department-based graduate programs within the School of Medicine; and

WHEREAS, Programs include infectious disease, neuroscience, and preventive medicine research; and

WHEREAS, The USU Graduate School of Nursing (GSN) offers a Master of Science in Nursing degree in the following programs: Nurse Anesthesia; Nurse Practitioner; Clinical Nurse Specialist Perioperative; and Psychiatric Mental Health; and

WHEREAS, Since 2002, the GSN has provided a Ph.D. Program in Nursing Science; and

WHEREAS, The university's Offices of Continuing Education for Health Professionals and Graduate Medical Education are unique and extensive, serving and sustaining the professional and readiness requirements of the Defense Department's worldwide military health care community; and

WHEREAS, The university's nationally recognized military and civilian faculty conduct cutting edge research in the biomedical sciences and areas specific to the Defense Department's (DOD's) health care mission such as combat casualty care, infectious diseases, post traumatic stress disorder, deployment psychology, neurological and regenerative medicine, prostate cancer and radiation biology; and

WHEREAS, The university specializes in military and public health medicine, focusing on keeping people healthy, disease prevention, and diagnosis and treatment; and

WHEREAS, USU faculty offer significant expertise in tropical medicine and hygiene, parasitology, epidemiologic methods and preventive medicine; and

WHEREAS, The 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; and

WHEREAS, 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 and other catastrophe; and

WHEREAS, USU has developed similar training for civilian first responders, medical professionals and emergency planners, the Congressionally-established National Center for Disaster Medicine and Public Health was placed at USU in Fiscal Year 2009; and

WHEREAS, 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 4,387 uniformed physician officers who represent approximately one-quarter of the total physicians on active duty in the Armed Forces and often referred to as the backbone of the MHS by the Office of the Secretary of Defense; and

WHEREAS, USU Graduate School of Nursing has conferred 424 Master of Science in Nursing Degrees to uniformed, critically required deployable advanced practice nurses and 11 Doctoral Degrees in Nursing Science who will serve as educators and scientists for military nursing; and

WHEREAS, USU has conferred 1,136 Master and Doctoral Degrees through its Graduate Education Programs in essential areas requested by the MHS; and

WHEREAS, With the establishment of the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC) by the United States Congress to be designed and constructed as a “world-class medical facilities,” through close collaboration between the Armed Services Flag Officers and the USU President; USU’s fully accredited and acknowledged academic and research programs will augment the strategic efforts of the Joint Task Force at Bethesda, Maryland; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, August 25, 26, 27, 2009, That The American Legion urges 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; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That Congress support timely planning and construction at the USU campus during Fiscal Years 2010-2011 to augment the creation of a world-class medical facilities; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That Congress continue funding the University's collaborative efforts for sharing its CBRNE expertise and training; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That Congress support development of the USU Immersive, Wide Area Virtual Environment (WAVE) Simulation for CBRNE/WMD Medical Readiness Training; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That Congress provide continued support for the Defense Graduate Psychology Education Program; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That Congress encourage continued close collaboration between the Joint Task Force and USU with the university serving as the core academic health center.