

**NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA
MAY 6 - 7, 2015**

**Resolution No. 21: Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) Award
Origin: Register Resolution No. 2723 (AK) Department Convention
Submitted By: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission**

WHEREAS, The Department of Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) program has been a staple of the VA since 1946 and is heavily used in the Veterans Health Administration (VHA), which includes VA hospitals, Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCS), and State Veterans Homes; and

WHEREAS, Volunteers reinforce The American Legion's Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Pillar, as well as increase membership, and raise visibility and awareness of the organization's services; and

WHEREAS, Volunteers, having been recruited, have indicated a genuine interest in participating in programs for the betterment of the morale and welfare of veteran patients; and

WHEREAS, The retention of volunteers is of prime importance; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion's volunteer force, after an upward trend in FY 2010 and FY 2011, experienced a downward trend during 2012, 2013, and FY 2014; and

WHEREAS, With their significant impact on VA healthcare, volunteers should be recognized for their contributions; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 6-7, 2015, That The National Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission continue to present an award of Citation for Meritorious Service to the outstanding volunteer hospital worker from the department of the National Commander at the Washington Conference.