

# Americanism Position Paper Americanism Position Paper

A Summary of Selected

## AMERICAN LEGION AMERICANISM RESOLUTIONS



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# INTRODUCTION

This summary of active and pertinent Americanism resolutions is intended to provide an easy reference regarding many of the programs and positions of The American Legion. It contains resolutions that became mandates of The American Legion after first being considered and adopted by the National Americanism Commission and subsequent adoption by either The American Legion's National Convention or The American Legion's National Executive Committee.

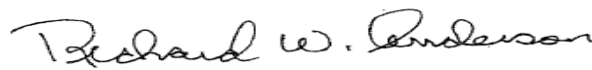
This publication is intended to focus only on selected resolutions, specifically, those subjects with public and organizational interest. Only a brief summation of intent is included when referencing certain resolutions, particularly where technical or exact wording is not essential to the full understanding of the policy. Resolutions of a more technical nature are included with the text of the resolving clause or position statement printed verbatim.

Annual resolutions, sometimes referred to as "housekeeping" resolutions, are not included in this summary. These include resolutions awarding contracts, annual sites and dates of events and activities, and matters of a routine and administrative nature.

Resolutions adopted at National Conventions are shown with a "Nat'l Conv" as the point of origin. Those adopted by the National Executive Committee are shown as "NEC." The month and year of the resolution's adoption are noted on each description.

Resolutions that request specific legislation or action by the current Congress of the United States must be reiterated every two years in order to remain as current or active mandates of the organization. Reiteration typically occurs at National Convention on even numbered years. These resolutions are marked "**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTIONS**" for ease of reference.

The complete text of an Americanism resolution is available from the Americanism Division, The American Legion, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, Indiana 46206; e-mail: [americanism@legion.org](mailto:americanism@legion.org). Resolutions from 1992 to present and approximately one-quarter of all active resolutions are available online @ [www.legion.org/library/digitalarchive](http://www.legion.org/library/digitalarchive).

  
RICHARD W. ANDERSON, Chairman  
Americanism Commission

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# SECTION 1 -- GENERAL SUBJECTS

**EXPLANATION:** *This section includes resolutions on a variety of subjects not related to specific program and interest areas. Some resolutions are included because of their historical significance.*

## **FORMING A COMMISSION OF AMERICANISM**

Summary: Recommends the establishment of a National Americanism Commission whose duty should be the realization of 100 percent Americanism through the conduct of a constructive educational program designed to: 1) combat all anti-American tendencies, activities, and propaganda; 2) work for the education of immigrants, prospective American citizens, and alien residents in the principles of Americanism; 3) inculcate the ideals of Americanism in the citizen population that the interest of all the people is above those of any special interest or so-called class or section of the people; 4) spread throughout the people of the nation information as to the real nature and principles of American government; and 5) foster the teaching of Americanism in all schools. (No number, Nat'l Conv, Mar 1919)

**(Historical resolution – no longer active)**

**The objectives of the commission as outlined in the resolution have been amended through the years to include the encouraging of community service activities by posts and their members and to sponsor and conduct citizenship training activities for youth.**

## **AMERICANISM COMMISSION ESTABLISHED**

Summary: Authorizes the National Commander to appoint a 15-member National Americanism Commission – five for one year, five for two years, five for three years – and the National Americanism Commission is ordered to be a permanent body under the general jurisdiction of the National Executive Committee. The Commission is authorized to appoint a National Director of Americanism. The Director may employ such other assistants as are necessary. The National Commander is authorized to appoint a Commission member as Chairman for one year only. The Commission shall handle only duties pertaining to Americanism and be under the general authority of the National Executive Committee and housed at the National Headquarters in Indianapolis, Indiana. (No number, Nat'l Conv, September 1920)

**(Historical resolution – no longer active)**

**The authorization for the present commission was re-stated in an October 1947 NEC meeting and was amended by NEC action in October 1962 in Las Vegas, Nevada, with the passage of Resolution No. 1.**

## **JURY DUTY**

Summary: Encourages posts and departments to cooperate with the Courts in their communities to educate and encourage persons called to serve on jury duty. (Res. 3, NEC, January 1928)

## ***OPPOSE GOVERNMENT ENCROACHMENT UPON PRIVATE BUSINESS***

“Resolved, That The American Legion declares it is unequivocally opposed to any form of socialism or government encroachment and participation in private business; and be it further

Resolved, That The American Legion direct a long term program of education for all citizens, pointing out the evils of government encroachment upon private business.” (Res. 57, NEC, October 1956)

**Res. 57 makes reference to efforts by some to replace the traditional free enterprise system in the United States with a system of socialism in which the government would own, operate and control all forms of production, manufacturing and distribution.**

## ***ANNUAL AWARDS IN CITIZENSHIP AND AMERICANISM***

“Resolved, That all departments, districts, counties and posts of The American Legion are authorized and urged to initiate annual award programs to outstanding young men and women who have achieved superior success within their club or organization for the year and where such programs include emphasis upon high quality and standards of citizenship and true Americanism.” (Res. 14, NEC, October 1958)

## ***SUPPORT RADIO FREE EUROPE***

“Resolved, That The American Legion pledges to continue its support of the Radio Free Europe Fund.” (Res. 466, Nat'l Conv, October 1960)

## ***DEFINITION OF AMERICANISM***

“Resolved, That the definition of Americanism now recognized and utilized by The American Legion be amended to include the following definition of Americanism given by the Special Committee on Un-American Activities in House Report No. 2, dated January 3, 1939 (First Session, 76<sup>th</sup> Congress)

In order to determine what activities and propaganda are un-American, we must first define Americanism. No scientific definition will be attempted, but we will undertake to set forth in simple and understandable language what some of the chief principles of Americanism are. In the first place, Americanism is the recognition of the truth that the inherent and fundamental rights of man are derived from God, and not from governments, societies, dictators, kings or majorities. This basic principle of Americanism is of Independence, where our immortal forefathers said that all men are created equal and that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, chief among which are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. From this declaration and well established interpretations that have been put upon it from the beginning of the Republic down to the present moment, it is clear that Americanism recognizes the existence of a God and the all-important fact that the fundamental rights of man are derived from God and not from any other source.

Among these inalienable rights which are the gift of man from his Creator are: (1) Freedom to worship; (2) Freedom to work in such occupation as the experience, training, and qualifications of a man may enable him to secure and hold; (6) Freedom to enjoy the fruits of his work, which means the protection of property rights; (7) the right to pursue his happiness with the necessary implication that he does not harm or injure others in the pursuit of this happiness. Upon this basic principle, the whole structure of the American government was constructed. The system of checks and balances in the Constitution was wisely conceived and ingeniously constructed to provide every possible guaranty that every citizen of the United States would enjoy and retain his God-given rights.

First, the Federal Government was specifically enjoined from exercising any power that was not expressly or by necessary implication granted to it in the Constitution. Second, such powers as the Federal Government was authorized to wield were wisely distributed between the three great Departments, the executive, the legislative and the judicial. The essence of Americanism is therefore, class, religious and racial tolerance.

It should be emphasized in the strongest language possible that the maintenance of these three forms of tolerance is essential to the preservation of Americanism. They constitute the three great pillars upon which our Constitutional Republic rests, and if any one of these pillars is destroyed, the whole structure of the American system of government will crumble to the earth. Therefore, the man who advocates class hatred is plainly un-American even if he professes racial and religious tolerance. The converse of the proposition is equally true. It is un-American to hate one's neighbor who has more of this world's material goods as it is to hate him because he was born into another race or worships God according to a different faith.

The American Government was established to guarantee the enjoyment of these fundamental rights. It, therefore, follows that in America, the government is the servant of the people. The rights of the people are protected through laws and their strict enforcement. For this reason, law and order are essential to the preservation of Americanism while lawlessness and violence are distinctly un-American.

Americanism means the recognition of the God-given rights of man and the protection of those rights under the Constitution through the instrumentality of an independent Congress, an untrammelled judiciary, and a fair and impartial executive operating under the American system of checks and balances. Americanism likewise means the protection of an unorganized majority from an organized minority as well as the protection of a helpless minority from and in consideration of a helpless minority from and inconsiderate and thoughtless majority.

The characteristic which distinguishes our Republic from the dictatorships of the world is not majority rule, but the treatment of minorities. Dictatorships muster huge majorities at the polls, through intimidation and high-powered government propaganda, but these majorities are used for ruthless tyranny over minorities. The majority rule of the American form of government is distinguished by its recognition of certain rights of minorities which majorities cannot alienate.

All of these definitions of Americanism are based upon the Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution." (Res. 105, Nat'l Conv, October 1962)

### ***CREATION OF NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL AND NATIONAL AMERICANISM COUNCIL***

Summary: The American Legion abolished the membership of the National Security Training Committee and it became the National Security Council. The National Americanism Council was also created with a purpose to propagate an interest in and a furtherance of the principles of Americanism as advocated by The American Legion and to serve as a medium of disseminating an understanding of these principles throughout the nation using the agencies of the departments and posts of The American Legion and its affiliated bodies; and in association with other patriotic organizations of like mind. The Council shall consist of a Chairman, such Vice Chairmen as may be required, and such general members as may be appointed by the National Commander. At its Fall Meeting each year, the National Executive Committee shall appoint, upon nomination by the National Commander, the Chairman and the Vice Chairmen of the Council to serve in such capacity for one year. The Council shall not form an Executive Section nor shall it be called into general meeting at National expense. The Chairman of the National Americanism Council is an ex-officio member of the National Americanism Commission. (Res. 62, NEC, May 1962 and Res. 3, Pre-NEC, October 1962)

**Note – Although the two resolutions cited are not from the Americanism Commission they are included due to their historical significance.**

***UPHOLDING THE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS OF OTHERS***

“Resolved, That The American Legion urge all public officials to uphold the rights of all people to peaceably pursue their daily tasks and activities without interference from such persons, groups and organizations which claim the protection of the Constitution but by their obstruction, disorderly conduct and abusive pursuits abridge the Constitutional rights of others.” (Res. 27, NEC, October 1970)

***GOLD STAR MOTHERS DAY***

“Resolved, That the last Sunday in September, now known as Gold Star Mothers Day, be recognized to commemorate the mothers of those who made the supreme sacrifice while in the Armed Forces of the United States.” (Res. 29, NEC, October 1970)

***CIVIL RIGHTS PROTECTION***

“Resolved, That The American Legion reaffirms its long standing support of all law enforcement agencies at local, state and federal levels in their mission to protect and preserve the civil rights and property of all our population regardless of race, creed, color, sex or national origin.” (Res. 25, NEC, October 1994)

***OPPOSE LEGALIZATION OF GAMBLING ON MAJOR SPORTING EVENTS***

“Resolved, That The American Legion support the Commissioner of Baseball in his efforts to prevent legalization of gambling on Major League Baseball games and directs the National Americanism Commission to diligently protect The American Legion Baseball program.” (Res. 9, NEC, October 1972)

***PROJECTING ELECTION WINNERS BEFORE POLLS CLOSE***

“Resolved, That the National Organization of The American Legion urge networks to exercise voluntary self-restraint when reporting election results so as not to have undue influence on the outcome.” (Res. 33, NEC, October 1984)

***EDUCATE AMERICANS ABOUT THE HOLOCAUST***

Summary: Condemns those who maintain the Holocaust is a hoax and also activities of some neo-Nazi groups who have desecrated cemeteries, homes and businesses with racist graffiti. Urges all Americans to visit the Holocaust Museum in Washington, DC and encourages the study and discussion at all levels of the educational system of the Holocaust – its meaning in the development of democracy and its values. (Res. 104, Nat’l Conv, September 1993)

***GET OUT THE VOTE***

“Resolved, That The American Legion continue to support and endorse the Get Out the Vote campaign and that it encourage and recommend the active participation of all Legionnaires,

**Gold Star Mothers Day was established by Congress, SJR 115 on June 21, 1936 (49 Stat. 1895 as amended). It has become tradition that the President issue an annual proclamation to commemorate the day and the sacrifices made by the Gold Star Mothers.**

individually and collectively, in said campaign within their respective communities.” (Res. 2, NEC, October 1971)

### ***JANE FONDA***

“Resolved, That The American Legion go on public record as opposed to accepting Ms. [Jane] Fonda’s apology until she proves by her actions in a show of good faith by her aid and comfort to those who even today suffer because of the torture inflicted by the enemy brought on by her dealing with the enemy.” (Res. 427, Nat’l Conv, September 1988)

### ***VOTER REGISTRATION AND VOTING PROGRAM***

“Resolved, That The American Legion reiterates its longstanding commitment of service to the United States of America by recognizing and promoting the truest form of Americanism and personal responsibility to our government, the act of voting on Election Day; and, be it finally

Resolved, That The American Legion, through its Get Out the Vote program, encourage its members, posts, districts and departments to fully involve themselves in the electoral process by serving as poll volunteers, poll workers, by voting and by encouraging and assisting others to register and vote.” (Res. 4, NEC, October 2007)

### ***OPPOSE INSTALLATION OF IWW MURAL***

“Resolved, That The American Legion condemns and opposes the installation of the IWW (International Workers of the World) mural in Centralia, Washington.” (Res. 140, Nat’l Conv, September 1997)

### ***OPERATION RECOGNITION***

“Resolved, That The American Legion encourage each department to work with appropriate agencies to recognize those WWII veterans who dropped out of high school to enlist in the U.S. Armed Forces; and be it finally

Resolved, That those WWII veterans who did not receive their high school diploma because of their selfless service in time of war be awarded their high school diplomas.” (Res. 36, NEC, May 2000)

### ***LEGION PARTICIPATION IN YOUTH PROGRAMS***

“Resolved, That The American Legion reiterate the desire of the National Americanism Commission to encourage participation in youth programs by the membership of The American Legion; and be it further

Resolved, That Legionnaires at all levels be urged to serve on boards or committees whose task is to oversee programs of The American Legion; and be it finally

Resolved, That The American Legion strongly request all department commanders and members of the National Executive Committee to urge all members of all posts to participate in the youth programs of The American Legion.” (Res. 31, NEC, October 2000)

### ***SUPPORT THE U.S. BILL OF RIGHTS***

“Resolved, That The American Legion reaffirm its commitment to and support for the Bill of Rights.” (Res. 159, Nat’l Conv, September 1994)



**RE-NAMING THE WILLIAM RANDOLPH HEARST AMERICANISM TROPHY TO THE DANIEL J. O'CONNOR AMERICANISM TROPHY**

“Resolved, That the William Randolph Hearst Americanism Trophy be re-named as the “Daniel J. O’Connor Americanism Trophy” in honor of Daniel J. O’Connor; and, be it further

Resolved, That the Daniel J. O’Connor Americanism Trophy continue to be awarded annually to that department which in the judgment of the National Americanism Commission has conducted the best all-around Americanism activities; and, be it further

Resolved, That conditions for selecting the annual winner of the Daniel J. O’Connor Americanism Trophy will continue as formerly set forth for the William Randolph Hearst Trophy:

1. The National Americanism Commission shall determine the three departments achieving the greatest number of credit points based upon a review of all Consolidated Post Reports submitted to National Headquarters. A certification by the department as to the number of active posts is required.
2. The winner shall be selected from the aforementioned three departments based on the best narrative statement supporting the claim of points determined from the Consolidated Post Report. Such narrative statement is to be no less than 200 words and not more than 500 words; and, be it finally

Resolved, That funds expended for purchase of the Daniel J. O’Connor Americanism Trophy be set at an amount not to exceed \$1,000 annually.” (Res. No. 1, Pre-NEC, August 2011)

**NATIONAL YOUTH CHAMPION DELEGATION AT NATIONAL CONVENTION**

“Resolved, That the National Youth Champion Delegation be defined as the George W. Rulon American Legion Baseball Player of the Year, The American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year, The American Legion Oratorical Contest Champion, The American Legion Boys Nation President, The American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Precision Champion, and The American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Sporter Champion; and, be it further

Resolved, That each member of the National Youth Champion Delegation and one adult chaperone accompanying each champion shall be invited as distinguished guests to The American Legion National Convention for a time period inclusive of the joint meeting of the National Americanism Commission and the National Commission on Children & Youth, the National Chaplain’s Breakfast, the National Patriotic Memorial Service and the Opening General Session of National Convention; and, be it further

Resolved, That for each National Youth Champion and their respective adult chaperone The American Legion will provide roundtrip airfare or vehicle mileage in accordance with The American Legion travel policy, and meals and lodging for the time period noted above; and, be it further

Resolved, That The American Legion will schedule and provide entertainment for the entire National Youth Champion Delegation and each of their respective adult chaperones while guests at National Convention and the National Organization shall bear the expense of said entertainment costs; and, be it finally

Resolved, That The American Legion will not provide for any incidental expenses or expenses incurred by any additional guests accompanying a National Youth Champion and their respective adult chaperone to National Convention.” (Res. 7, NEC, October 2011)

**BACKGROUND SCREENING OF STAFF FOR NATIONAL YOUTH PROGRAMS**

“Resolved, That The American Legion implement procedures that will require background screening of volunteers selected to staff national tournaments of American Legion Baseball, The American Legion Boys Nation, The American Legion National Oratorical Contest, The American Legion National Junior Shooting Competition, and National Boy Scout Jamborees no later than with the execution of each program in 2013; and, be it further

Resolved, That said background screenings be conducted annually prior to the start of each program; and, be it further

Resolved, That said background screenings only be conducted by the vendor authorized by the National Organization; and, be it further

Resolved, That the National Americanism Commission shall, with advice of its relevant subcommittees, the Compliance and Risk Manager of the National Organization and the National Judge Advocate, develop risk management policies consistent for protection of The American Legion and its youth program participants; and, be it finally

Resolved, That the National Commander, after review and approval of the National Judge Advocate, be and is hereby authorized and directed to execute such contract(s) as may be needed to support the execution of background screenings and the National Adjutant be and is hereby authorized and directed to attest to same.” (Res. 4, NEC, May 2012)

**BACKGROUND SCREENING PROCEDURES AND POLICIES FOR AMERICAN LEGION YOUTH PROGRAM VOLUNTEERS**

“Resolved, That departments of The American Legion are strongly urged and encouraged to establish background screening procedures and policies similar to those of the National Organization for volunteers supporting youth programs conducted within their departments.” (Res. 12, NEC, May 2012)

**NATIONAL AMERICANISM CONFERENCE**

“Resolved, That the National Americanism Commission continue to conduct the annual National Americanism Conference which combines individual program conference sessions for department Chaplains, department chairmen for American Legion Baseball and the National Oratorical Contest, and representatives of the various American Legion Boys State programs; and, be it further

**With the aftermath of several recent high-profile allegations of child sexual molestation across the United States demonstrating the importance for ensuring protection of the youth participants in our programs, and to comply with insurance mandates, background screening of volunteers supporting The American Legion’s youth programs and risk management policies will be implemented in 2013.**

**The Commission encourages departments of The American Legion to institute background screening procedures for volunteers supporting youth programs conducted within their departments.**

Resolved, That the National Americanism Commission be authorized to conduct an individual program conference session for Scouting department chairmen on a one-year test basis in the fall of 2013, expense of which not to exceed \$48,000 inclusive of per diem, travel and conference equipment and materials, and give further evaluation for inclusion as a scheduled program session of the National Americanism Conference; and, be it further

Resolved, That the National Americanism Commission, with concurrence of the National Commander, be and is hereby authorized to test and give implementation to the addition of individual program conference sessions of the National Americanism Conference as may be deemed necessary to enhance program development; and, be it finally

Resolved, That Resolution No. 34 of the National Executive Committee, May 2000 titled, "Authorization To Conduct National Americanism Conference" is hereby superseded and rescinded." (Res. 5, NEC, May 2012)

### ***CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS TAX DIVERSION***

"Resolved, That The American Legion urges Congress to oppose legislation that would give conscientious objectors a voice in diverting monies from military spending." (Res. 204, Nat'l Conv, August 2014)

**LEGISLATIVE  
RESOLUTION**

### ***ELIMINATE DAMAGES AND ATTORNEY FEES IN ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE LAWSUITS***

"Resolved, That The American Legion urge the Congress of the United States to amend the Civil Rights Attorney Fees Act of 1976, 42 U.S. Code Section 1988, the Equal access to Justice Act, 28 U.S. Code 2412, and any and all other federal statutes, to limit remedies to injunctive relief and declaratory relief only, and to rescind the authority of the courts to award attorney fees to the prevailing party in lawsuits brought under the Establishment of Religion Clause in the U.S. Constitution." (Res. 358, Nat'l Conv, August 2014)

**LEGISLATIVE  
RESOLUTION**

### ***STAR SPANGLED BANNER***

"Resolved, That The American Legion encourage and recommend the playing of the National Anthem at all sporting events and that it be performed in its original customary and traditional rendition; and, be it further

Resolved, That The American Legion urge radio and television networks and stations to desist from pre-empting with commercial advertisements the singing and playing of our National Anthem and the raising and/or lowering of our Flag; and, be it further

**LEGISLATIVE  
RESOLUTION**

Resolved, That The American Legion is opposed to any changes in the words and music of the National Anthem as adopted under Public Law 823 of the 71st Congress; and, be it finally

Resolved, That The American Legion promote the establishment of March 3 of each year as a national day of observance for "The Star Spangled Banner" and that the patriotic observance of this day stress the origin of "The Star Spangled Banner." (Res. 357, Nat'l Conv, August 2014)

### ***UNITED STATES OLYMPIC COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP***

"Resolved, That authority for membership on the United States Olympic Committee be formally reinstated." (Res. 12, NEC, May 2013)

***EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE IDEALS AND GOALS OF CITIZENSHIP DAY***

“Resolved, That The American Legion supports the ideals and goals of Citizenship Day; and, be it further

**Citizenship Day is an excellent occasion to support and expand citizenship orientation sessions and classes sponsored by local American Legion posts across the nation.**

Resolved, That The American Legion calls on government authorities, schools, students and all local community organizations to observe Citizenship Day with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs; and, be it finally

Resolved, That The American Legion urges American Legion posts to support local collaboration in “Citizenship Outreach,” an initiative with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services to assist legal immigrants seeking the path to naturalized U.S. citizenship.” (Res. 31, NEC May 2014)

***CONTINUED OPERATION OF THE FAMILY SUPPORT NETWORK***

“Resolved, That The American Legion urges departments and posts to reinvigorate Family Support Network programs in their local communities to aid military families of servicemembers in the Active, Reserve or National Guard components of our nation’s armed forces; and, be it further

Resolved, That American Legion posts be encouraged to maintain an ongoing relationship with local military organizations to help ensure that the Family Support Network program remains a viable asset for future support needs; and, be it finally

Resolved, That the proponency and administration of the Family Support Network Program be officially ratified under the Americanism Commission.” (Res. 8, NEC, Spring 2016)

## SECTION 2 -- BASEBALL

### **JUNIOR BASEBALL**

“Resolved, That the National Americanism Commission does hereby emphasize and call attention to the Legion post and to Legionnaires individually that the principles of good sportsmanship in connection with the activity should at all times be held paramount to the end that the greatest good may come from the activity of the Legion.” (Res. 2, NEC, May 1932)

### **JUNIOR BASEBALL FINAL PLAYOFFS; EXTEND SEASON**

“Resolved, That The American Legion Junior Baseball Committee set the date for the National American Legion final playoff as late as possible each year so as to allow a longer program for each team.” (Res. 56, NEC, October 1956)

### **GRADUATE OF THE YEAR AWARD**

“Resolved, That there should be established an annual national award known as The American Legion Junior Baseball Graduate of the Year Award to be awarded to the graduate of The American Legion Junior Baseball program best exemplifying the principles and purposes of American Legion Baseball; this award to be based on the Approved Rules for Annual Selection of American Legion Junior Baseball Graduate of the Year Award.” (Res. 10, NEC, November 1957)

### **DR. IRVIN L. “CLICK” COWGER MEMORIAL RBI AWARD**

“Resolved, That the Department of Kansas be authorized to present such an annual award honoring the memory of Dr. Cowger; and be it further

Resolved, that the recipient of the annual award will be that American Legion Baseball player who is credited with the most runs batted in by the official scorer at the respective regional tournaments and World Series.” (Res. 30, NEC, May 1971)

### **COMMISSIONER OF BASEBALL TROPHY**

“Resolved, That The American Legion accept the Commissioner of Baseball Trophy for initial presentation to the 1971 National Champions of Legion Baseball.” (Res. 19, NEC, October 1971)



In 1925 The American Legion Baseball (ALB) program was originally established as “The American Legion Junior Baseball Program.” The word “Junior” was subsequently dropped from the program’s official name in 1961 by resolution. Later in 2005, NEC Resolution 38 established a “junior” program of American Legion Baseball for players generally 14-16 years of age. The National Organization officially recognized this junior program by developing a uniform set of eligibility and playing rules consistent with the high ideals of The American Legion Baseball program.

The Commissioner’s Trophy is presented annually at the conclusion of the ALB World Series.

### **BOB FELLER ALB PITCHING AWARD**

“Resolved, That the National Americanism Commission is authorized to annually present the Bob Feller Award to The American Legion Baseball Player participating in the Regional Tournaments and World Series of American Legion Baseball who records the greatest number of strikeouts in such competition; and be it further

Resolved, That this award be initially presented at the 1978 World Series, Yakima, Washington, and that it be incorporated in the next edition of The American Legion Trophies Manual.” (Res. 37, NEC, May 1978)

### **ALB PLAYER OF THE YEAR AWARD**

“Resolved, That the title of the present “American Legion Baseball Player of the Year” award be changed to “The George W. Rulon American Legion Baseball Player of the Year” award; and be it further

Resolved, That such change is to become effective with the selection of the Player of the Year in the 1987 season of American Legion Baseball; and, be it finally

Resolved, That nothing in this resolution is intended to change in any manner the conditions for selection of said player not the manner in which the presentation is made as described in The American Legion Trophies Manual, dated May 15, 1986.” (Res. 4, Pre-NEC, September 1986)

### **“WORLD SERIES” AUTHORIZATION LICENSE**

“Resolved, That after review and approval by the National Judge Advocate, that the National Commander be directed and authorized to execute the license covering the words “World Series” for \$1.00 per year with Major League Baseball Properties, Inc., and the National Adjutant is hereby authorized and directed to attest the same.” (Res. 30, NEC, May 1988)

**The Bob Feller American Legion Baseball Pitching Award is presented each year at the conclusion of the ALB National Championships.**

**George W. Rulon retired in January 1987 after 25 years of employment with The American Legion as the coordinator of American Legion Baseball.**

**MLB Properties, Inc. claims ownership of the registered service mark “World Series.” MLB Properties has extended an indefinite license to the Legion for use of the term “World Series.”**

### **THE ALB GRADUATE OF THE YEAR**

“Resolved, That The American Legion reserve the right to modify the method of presenting the [Graduate of the Year] award if the intent of our National Organization and the respect due to the National Commander is not recognized by any Major League [baseball] club which declines to implement this honor by an appropriate public ceremony on the Major League playing field before baseball fans and the media, and that, in the discretion of the National Commander, a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Presidents of the National and American Leagues and the Office of the Commissioner of Baseball.” (Res. 127, Nat’l Conv, September 1988)

**Recipients of the Graduate of the Year Award include: Alex Gordon, Lyle Overbay, Chad Billingsley, Michael Cuddyer, Darin Erstad, Jeff Bagwell, Luis Gonzales, Todd Stottlemyre, Chipper Jones, Steve Finley, Tony Gwynn, Gregg Maddox and Roger Clemens.**

### **ALB (REGIONAL TOURNAMENT) MINIMUM BID INCREASE**

“Resolved, That the minimum bid for hosting Regional Tournaments, effective for Regional Tournaments in 1995, shall be \$15,000, and be it finally

Resolved, That all bids shall be a flat rate and that the host tournament committee shall retain 100% of the revenues that exceed the \$15,000 minimum.” (Res. 40, NEC, May 1993)

### **DOUBLE ELIMINATION TOURNAMENT FORMAT**

“Resolved, That The American Legion Baseball Program use the double-elimination format for all national tournaments effective with the 2004 National Regional and World Series Tournaments.” (Res. 40, NEC, May 2002)

### **USA BASEBALL – TOURNAMENT OF STARS**

“Resolved, That The American Legion is authorized to continue its participation in the USA Baseball Tournament of Stars under the following conditions:

1. That participation in the Tournament of Stars by The American Legion be reviewed annually by the National Americanism Commission to determine relevance and desire for continued involvement in the activity; and
2. That participation in the Tournament of Stars shall be at no cost to The American Legion; and be it finally

Resolved, That the National Americanism Commission shall recommend 20 American Legion Baseball players, three coaches, an umpire and a tournament administrator to participate at the Tournament of Stars each year.” (Res. 31, NEC, October 2004)

### **TOURNAMENT OF STARS EXPENSES**

“Resolved, That The American Legion provide to American Legion Baseball coaches and team officials funding for authorized incidental expenses associated with organizing, coaching and accompanying an American Legion Baseball team in the Tournament of Stars with the amount of such funding determined annually in an amount considered prudent and specifically enumerated in each year’s annual budget request.” (Res. 22, NEC, October 2007)

### **CONTRIBUTION FROM MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL**

“Resolved, That the National Organization of The American Legion is hereby authorized to accept an annual contribution of up to \$50,000 from Major League Baseball; and be it further

Resolved, That The American Legion shall use those funds to offset expenses incurred in the operation of its baseball program.” (Res. 21, NEC, October 2007)

### **ESTABLISHING DATE OF AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL WORLD SERIES CHAMPIONSHIP GAME**

“Resolved, That The American Legion World Series beginning in the year 2011 and all years thereafter shall be conducted on the dates established by the National Americanism Commission and will be set to best serve The American Legion Baseball Program.” (Res. 31, NEC, October 2008)

### **AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL PROGRAM**

“Resolved, That The American Legion is hereby authorized to assess an annual national registration fee of \$50.00 per Junior and \$50.00 per Senior American Legion Baseball team effective January 1, 2010; and, be it further

Resolved, That The American Legion immediately begin soliciting corporate sponsors for regional and World Series tournament levels of The American Legion Baseball program and engage the services of a professional agency at no cost to The American Legion to acquire advertising and/or sponsorship opportunities; and, be it further

Resolved, That The American Legion begin soliciting official suppliers and licensees for regional and World Series tournament levels of The American Legion Baseball program; and, be it further

Resolved, That beginning with the 2011-2012 seasons, regional tournaments of The American Legion Baseball program be sited in one location for two (2) consecutive years, based on accessibility and central location as determined by open bids using objective, weighted evaluation criteria; and, be it further

Resolved, That the minimum hosting bid for the 2011 American Legion Baseball World Series, and all years thereafter, be \$100,000; and, be it finally,

Resolved, That beginning in 2011, one (1) permanent tournament site be designated to host The American Legion World Series as determined by open bids using objective, weighted evaluation criteria, with the initial bid for a four (4) year period and subsequent renewals contingent upon proper review.” (Res. 9, NEC, May 2009)



**AMENDMENT TO RESOLUTION NO. 9 – ALB PROGRAM**

**Res. 16, NEC, October 2009 amended this resolution - the national registration fee for Junior American Legion Baseball teams was amended from \$50 to \$25.**

“Resolved, That the first Resolved Clause of Res. 9, NEC May 2009 is amended to read:“...That The American Legion is hereby authorized to assess an annual registration fee of \$25.00 per Junior and \$50.00 per Senior American Legion Baseball team effective January 1, 2010...” (Res. 16, NEC, October 2009)

**ADHERENCE TO AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL RULES**

“Resolved, That should a department adopt any rule that is in conflict with existing American Legion Baseball recruiting or playing rules as authorized and approved by the National Americanism Commission, which would cause the National Organization to incur increased potential financial liability and risk to its marks, that the Chairman of the National Americanism Commission shall contact the commander of the offending department by telephone, and follow-up on that same day in writing, to resolve said conflict; and, be it finally

Resolved, That if a department fails to take corrective action within one week of the date of the written notification, or such other reasonable time as is communicated to said department by the Chairman of the National Americanism Commission in his original communication to the offending department, the Chairman of the National Americanism Commission is then authorized, with concurrence of the National Commander, to remove the department from The American Legion Baseball program and prohibit the use of The American Legion name and logo by such department, such notification to be issued by the National Judge Advocate in compliance with all legal requirements, until such time as the deficiency is corrected and the National Commander approves the reinstatement of said department.” (Res. 45, NEC, October 2011)

**AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENT WITH DIAMOND SPORTS CO., INC. AS SCHOLARSHIP SPONSOR OF THE AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL ALL-ACADEMIC TEAM**

“Resolved, That The American Legion enter into an agreement with Diamond Sports Co., Inc., whereby the latter organization shall furnish \$25,000 in scholarship funds per year to The American Legion Baseball program for two consecutive years continuing with the 2015 season; and, be it further

Resolved, That each year the National Americanism Commission shall appoint and convene an official scholarship selection committee annually at The American Legion Baseball World Series tournament in order to select nine (9) American Legion Baseball scholarship recipients:

- a) An overall top academic baseball player shall be selected from all nominations submitted by American Legion departments and that player be officially designated as the “All-Academic Team Captain”; and,
- b) A top academic player from each of the eight (8) American Legion Baseball regions as nominated by their respective departments shall be selected as the remaining members comprising the “All-Academic Team”; and, be it further

Resolved, That a \$5,000 scholarship sponsored by Diamond Sports Co., Inc., shall be awarded annually to the All-Academic Team Captain; and, be it further

Resolved, That a \$2,500 scholarship sponsored by Diamond Sports Co., Inc., shall be awarded annually to each of the eight (8) All-Academic Team members; and, be it further

Resolved, That the National Commander be and is hereby authorized to negotiate the terms and conditions of any formal agreement necessary with Diamond Sports Co., Inc.; and, be it further

Resolved, That after review and approval by the National Judge Advocate of said agreement, the National Commander be and is hereby authorized and directed to execute said agreement and that the National Adjutant be and is hereby authorized and directed to attest to the same; and, be it finally

Resolved, That Resolution 8 of the National Executive Committee, May 2012 titled "Authorization To Enter Into Agreement With Diamond Sports Co., Inc. as Scholarship Sponsor of The American Legion Baseball All-Academic Team" is hereby superseded and rescinded." (Res. 7, NEC, October 2014)

#### ***THE AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL JACK WILLIAMS MEMORIAL LEADERSHIP AWARD***

"Resolved, That authority for the Jack Williams Memorial Leadership Award be formally re-instated; and, be it finally

Resolved, That the award continue to be presented annually to the manager and coaches of the national championship team of American Legion Baseball." (Res. 42, NEC, May 2012)

#### ***AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL WORLD SERIES TOURNAMENT PLAY FORMAT***

"Resolved, That the National Commander is authorized, and as attested by the National Adjutant, to modify the format of play for semifinal and/or championship game(s) of The American Legion World Series tournament as necessary in order to accommodate live telecast or prime time broadcast by ESPN or any other network." (Res. 44, NEC, May 2012)

#### ***REPLACEMENT AND EXTENSION OF AGREEMENT FOR PERMANENT SITE OF THE AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL WORLD SERIES***

"Resolved, That The American Legion extend the current contract to host American Legion Baseball World Series tournaments with Cleveland County ALWS [American Legion World Series] Baseball, Inc., through the 2019 World Series of American Legion Baseball; and, be it further

Resolved, That said contract shall renew automatically in 2019 for a five (5) year term unless the option to cancel, as set out in the contract, is exercised by either party by written notice given no later than the last day of the 2018 American Legion World Series; and, be it further

Resolved, That following the first renewal term the contract may be further automatically renewed for additional five (5) year periods; and, be it further

Resolved, That during the first and any succeeding renewal term(s) the contract may be terminated after one year notice given on or prior to the last day of the most recent American Legion World Series; and, be it further

Resolved, That in the event of a breach the contract may be terminated on thirty (30) day written notice; and, be it further

Resolved, That said contract shall require a minimum of two (2) members of American Legion Post 82 located in Shelby, North Carolina, and two (2) Legionnaires chosen by The American Legion Department of North Carolina, be appointed and serve on the Executive Committee of the Cleveland County ALWS Baseball, Inc.; and, be it further

Resolved, That the dates previously determined by the National Executive Committee in Res. No. 32, May 2010, for future American Legion Baseball World Series tournaments shall remain August 16-20, 2013, and August 15-19, 2014; and, be it further

Resolved, That the National Commander, after review and approval by the National Judge Advocate, be and is hereby authorized and directed to execute all agreements referenced herein and the National Adjutant be and is hereby authorized and directed to attest same; and, be it finally

Resolved, That Resolution No. 32 of the National Executive Committee, May 2010 titled "Permanent Site Of The American Legion Baseball World Series" is hereby superseded and rescinded." (Res. 14, NEC, October 2012)

### ***MANDATORY EXCLUSIVE INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL TEAMS***

"Resolved, That in order to ensure the health, safety and protection of youth participants, volunteers and spectators, all American Legion Baseball teams must purchase insurance policies from exclusive insurance carriers designated by The American Legion each season through the required online baseball registration process in order to participate in the Junior or Senior program of American Legion Baseball; and, be it further

Resolved, That through the Insurance Agent of Record for The American Legion, a commercial general liability carrier shall be selected as the exclusive liability insurance provider for the American Legion Baseball program and a special risk accident carrier shall be selected as the exclusive special risk accident insurance provider each year; and, be it further

Resolved, That the minimum level of mandatory coverage deemed prudent that will be provided by the exclusive carriers shall be established by the Finance Commission on an annual basis during the Fall Meetings; and, be it further

Resolved, That the cost of purchasing mandatory insurance through the required online registration process will be borne by American Legion Baseball teams; and, be it further

Resolved, That teams may voluntarily purchase additional insurance above and beyond that which is required during the online registration by directly contacting either the Insurance Agent of Record or another insurance carrier of choice, cost of which shall be borne by the purchasing team; and, be it finally

Resolved, That Resolution 15 of the National Executive Committee, October 2012 titled "Mandatory Exclusive Insurance Coverage for American Legion Baseball Teams" is hereby superseded and rescinded." (Res. 9, NEC, October 2014)

### ***MANDATORY BACKGROUND CHECK SCREENING FOR COACHES, MANAGERS AND VOLUNTEER STAFF OF JUNIOR AND SENIOR AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL TEAMS***

"Resolved, That effective with the 2013 season, all coaches, managers, and volunteer staff for Junior and Senior American Legion Baseball teams must have background check screening conducted each season prior to any meetings, events, practices or games that involve youth participants; and, be it further

Resolved, That background check screening must be conducted at the following minimum level:

- 1) Social security number verification and address history trace
- 2) Alias names national search

- 3) National sex offender registry search
- 4) National criminal database search
- 5) A county or statewide criminal court search within those states known to have insufficient data contributed to the national criminal database (Delaware, Georgia, North Dakota, Kentucky, Massachusetts, South Dakota, Wyoming, and others as may be deemed in the future); and, be it further

Resolved, That disclosure during background check screening that contains one or more of the following disqualifying criteria will preclude an individual from serving as a coach, manager or volunteer staff of an American Legion Baseball team:

- 1) Conviction of a felony
- 2) Conviction of a crime involving a minor, regardless of the offense
- 3) Conviction of a crime involving force or threat of force against a person
- 4) Conviction of a crime in which sexual behavior is an element
- 5) Conviction of a crime involving controlled substances (not paraphernalia or alcohol)
- 6) Conviction of a crime involving cruelty to animals
- 7) Any sex offender registrant
- 8) Refusal to undergo background screening as mandated; and, be it further

Resolved, That background check screening must be conducted by the exclusive commercial vendor engaged by National Headquarters for the screening of all coaches, managers and volunteer staff of Junior and Senior American Legion Baseball teams in order to provide screening consistency and enhanced confidentiality; and, be it further

**With the aftermath of several recent high-profile allegations of child sexual molestation across the United States demonstrating the importance for ensuring protection of the youth participants in our programs, and to comply with insurance mandates, background screening of coaches, managers and volunteer staff of Junior and Senior American Legion Baseball teams will begin in 2013.**

Resolved, That during the online registration process for American Legion Baseball teams the National Organization of The American Legion will require an acknowledgment that each coach, manager or volunteer staff of an American Legion Baseball team has been verified as having successfully passed the mandated background check screening requirements for that upcoming season; and, be it further

Resolved, That if during the background screening process it is revealed that a team coach, manager or volunteer staff is charged with or has a case pending that involves any disqualifying criteria set out above, that individual will be prohibited from having contact with the American Legion Baseball team until legal adjudication has been made and the screening has been verified as successfully completed; and, be it further

Resolved, That a substitute or replacement for an American Legion Baseball team coach, manager or volunteer staff at any time during the season, cannot assume any duties until background check screening as mandated has been verified as successfully completed; and, be it further

Resolved, That if information is acquired during the playing season that a team coach, manager or volunteer staff may have sustained one of the disqualifying criteria in the interim after a required background check screening has been conducted, that individual will be prohibited from having contact with the American Legion Baseball team until accuracy of the information has been validated so as to ensure the protection of the youth participants; and, be it further

Resolved, That it is strongly urged and recommended that the respective Legion department and/or Legion post or other organization sponsoring an American Legion Baseball team assume the responsibility for verifying that:

- 1) Each coach, manager or volunteer staff has successfully passed the mandated background check screening requirements for each upcoming season
- 2) An individual charged with or having a case pending involving disqualifying criteria is prohibited from having contact with the team until legal adjudication has been made and the screening has been confirmed as successfully completed
- 3) A substitute or replacement team coach, manager or volunteer staff does not assume any duties with the team until the background check screening is successfully completed
- 4) Validity of information that a team coach, manager or volunteer staff may have sustained one of the disqualifying criteria in the interim after a required background check screening
- 5) Non-screened adults removed from the field of play have successfully completed a background check screening prior to their return; and, be it further

Resolved, That the National Organization of The American Legion will not fund or collect any costs associated with the mandatory background check screenings of coaches, managers and volunteer staff of American Legion Baseball teams; and, be it finally

Resolved, That coaches, managers and volunteer staff of American Legion Baseball teams must comply with the risk management policies of The American Legion established for the enhanced protection of children and youth.” (Res. 16, NEC, October 2012)

#### ***RE-SPONSORING OF THE AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL “SLUGGER” TROPHY***

“Resolved, That The American Legion Baseball “Louisville Slugger” trophy now be sponsored by The American Legion and re-named to The American legion Baseball “Slugger” trophy; and, be it further

“Resolved, That funds expended for purchase of The American Legion Baseball “Slugger” trophy be set at an amount not to exceed \$100 annually; and, be it further

“Resolved, The re-naming of The American Legion Baseball “Slugger” trophy be updated in the next edition of The American Legion Trophies, Awards and Ceremonial Manual; and, be it finally

“Resolved, That National Headquarters staff seek to find a new corporate sponsor of The American Legion Baseball “Slugger” trophy. (Res. 6, NEC, May 2013)

#### ***RE-SPONSORING OF THE AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL “BIG STICK” AWARD***

“Resolved, That The American Legion Baseball Award from Adirondack Bat Company (Rawlings “Big Stick” award) now be sponsored by The American Legion and be re-named The American Legion Baseball “Big Stick” award; and, be it further

Resolved, That funds expended for purchase of The American Legion Baseball “Big Stick” award be set at an amount not to exceed \$100 annually; and, be it further

Resolved, That the re-naming of The American Legion Baseball “Big Stick” award be updated in the next edition of The American Legion Trophies, Awards and Ceremonial Manual; and, be it further

Resolved, That National Headquarters staff seek to find a new corporate sponsor of The American Legion Baseball “Big Stick” award; and, be it finally

Resolved, That Resolution 18 of the National Executive Committee, May 1972 titled “American Legion Baseball Award From Adirondack Bat Company” is hereby superseded and rescinded.” (Res. 7, NEC, May 2013)

**RESCIND RESOLUTION NO. 46, FALL 2011 NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**This action allows for the current player age eligibility requirements to continue in accordance with American Legion Baseball Rule 2.**

“Resolved, That The American Legion rescind Resolution No. 46, National Executive Committee, October 12-13, 2011.” (Res. 34, NEC, May 2014)

**AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL COMMITTEE**

“Resolved, That The American Legion Baseball Committee shall consist of a Chairman, a Vice Chairman, and not to exceed six members selected from the Americanism Commission or from at large to serve for a term of one year; and, be it further

Resolved, That the Chairman shall not be appointed from among the members of the Committee and the Vice Chairman shall be appointed from among the members of the Committee; and, be it further

Resolved, The National Commander is authorized to appoint a National Commander’s Representative and make such interim appointments as may be required to fill vacancies in unexpired terms, subject to ratification by the National Executive Committee at its next ensuing meeting; and, be it further

**With the continued growth of The American Legion Baseball program, the resolution addresses the increasing prominence of the program, thereby creating The American Legion Baseball Committee.**

Resolved, At its Fall meeting each year, the National Executive Committee shall appoint, upon nomination by the National Commander, a Chairman and a Vice Chairman of the Committee to serve in such capacity for one year; and, be it further

**The Baseball Committee will be called upon “to formulate and recommend rules (administrative, playing and safety), policies, plans, and activities” and “to promote The American Legion Baseball program and its principles.”**

Resolved, In addition to the six members appointed by the National Commander, two members from the Americanism Commission shall be appointed annually by the Chairman of that Commission; and, be it further

Resolved, There is authorized to be affiliated with this Committee no more than three Consultants which may include representatives of The American Legion and non-members of The American Legion; the consultants shall be appointed for terms of one year each, or until the close of the next succeeding Fall meeting of the National Executive Committee; and, be it further

Resolved, The purpose of this Committee is:

- To formulate and recommend rules (administrative, playing and safety), policies, plans, and activities of The American Legion Baseball program
- To review and be familiar with the resolutions pertaining to The American Legion Baseball program
- To promote The American Legion Baseball program and its principles
- Such other purposes as may be assigned to it by the National Executive Committee; and, be it further

Resolved, The total composition of the Committee shall consist of those with a strong background in the game of baseball; and, be it further

Resolved, That the Chairman of The American Legion Baseball Committee will be a member or an ex-officio member of the Americanism Commission as applicable; and, be it finally

Resolved, That the Baseball Subcommittee is hereby dissolved with thanks to each of the members and consultants for their excellent service.” (Res. 1, NEC, October 2015)

**CREATION OF AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL DEPARTMENT WEBSITE NETWORK**

“Resolved, That The American Legion enter into an agreement to create a national network of American Legion baseball websites; and, be it further

Resolved, That the agreement shall not exceed five years in length with a cost not to exceed \$25,000 per year; and, be it further

Resolved, That departments be given the option to participate in this program at a cost not to exceed \$500 per year; and, be it further

Resolved, That departments be given the opportunity to offset the costs by allowing advertising on their respective websites; and, be it further

Resolved, That departments be given autonomy and control of the management and the content of their respective website, consistent with branding standards as established by the National Headquarters; and, be it finally

Resolved, That after review and approval by the national judge advocate of said agreement for legal sufficiency, the national commander be and is hereby authorized and directed to execute said agreement to accomplish the purpose of this resolution, and that the national adjutant be and is hereby authorized and directed to attest to the same.” (Res. 5, NEC, Spring 2016)

**AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL REGIONAL TOURNAMENT SITES AND DATES FOR 2017 AND 2018**

“Resolved, That the dates for regional tournaments of The American Legion Baseball program shall be August 2-6, 2017, and August 8-12, 2018; and, be it finally

Resolved, That sites for the 2017 and 2018 regional tournaments of The American Legion Baseball program be awarded to:

Region 1 – No Submissions  
Region 3 – Asheboro, North Carolina  
Region 5 – Napoleon, Ohio  
Region 7 – Missoula, Montana

Region 2 – No Submissions  
Region 4 – New Orleans, Louisiana  
Region 6 – Dickinson, North Dakota  
Region 8 – Denver, Colorado”

(Res. 9, NEC, Spring 2016)

**TAYLOR HOOTON FOUNDATION**

“Resolved, That The American Legion commends the Taylor Hooton Foundation for its efforts in providing parents, coaches and other adult influencers with knowledge and tools to help raise

awareness about the dangers of appearance and performance enhancing drugs (APEDs) by making the right choices with respect to healthy lifestyle; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That this commendation is done at no cost to The American Legion which withholds all grants of authority to use The American Legion's name and/or trademark without specific authority, except in fair-use reporting of this resolution." (Res. 12, NEC, Spring 2016)



## SECTION 3 -- BOY SCOUTS

### **ENDORSE THE BOY SCOUT MOVEMENT AND URGE ALL POSTS TO SPONSOR SCOUT TROOPS**

“Resolved, That we not only heartily endorse the Boy Scout movement, but urge all posts of the Legion to adopt Scout Troops; and further

Resolved, That we will cooperate in every way possible with the Boy Scouts of America in perpetuating and furthering their work.” (Res 390, Nat’l Conv, October 1923)

### **AMERICAN LEGION/SCOUTING “SQUARE KNOT” AWARD**

“Resolved, That The American Legion shall establish “The American Legion and Scouting Square Knot Award;” and, be it further

Resolved, That the National Americanism Commission shall establish further rules, regulations, and guidelines for the selection and award of said award; and, be it finally

Resolved, That the said award be included in the next edition of The American Legion Trophies, Awards and Ceremonials Manual.” (Res. 34, NEC, May 2003)

**This award recognizes those individuals who have made a significant contribution to the youth of their communities through the programs of the Boys Scouts of America.**

### **REAFFIRMATION OF SUPPORT AND AUTHORIZATION FOR APPROPRIATION TO ASSIST BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA**

“Resolved, That The American Legion does gladly accept the privilege and responsibility of defending traditional American values and freedoms by reaffirming its support for the Boy Scouts of America, and by pledging to assist the Boy Scouts of America in filing an amicus brief or briefs, as may be necessary, appropriate, legal, and approved by the National Commander so that the concerted assault on traditional American values and morality, beliefs and standards will ultimately fail; and be it further

Resolved, That the National Executive Committee does authorize The American Legion to file amicus briefs in the case of *Boy Scouts of America v Nancy Wyman*, when same is appealed to the Supreme Court of the United States, both on the question of *certiorari* and on the merits, and in such other cases as may be appropriate as determined by the National Commander; and be it further

Resolved, The American Legion does hereby appropriate the initial sum of \$25,000 to fund this effort; and be it finally

Resolved, That the National Commander, after review and approval by the National Judge Advocate, is authorized and directed to execute all appropriate documents concerning this action submitted to him by the National Judge Advocate, and the National Adjutant is hereby authorized and directed to attest the same.” (Res. 28, NEC, October 2003)

**AMERICAN LEGION EAGLE SCOUT OF THE YEAR**

“Resolved, That The American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year eligibility requirements be amended to read: Be a registered active member of a Boy Scout troop, Varsity Scout team, or Venturing crew chartered to an American Legion post, American Legion Auxiliary unit, or Sons of the American Legion squadron OR be a registered active member of a duly chartered Boy Scout troop, Varsity Scout team, or Venturing crew, and the son or grandson of a Legionnaire or American Legion Auxiliary member AND (1) Received the Eagle Scout award; (2) Be an active member of his religious institution and have received the appropriate Boy Scout religious emblem; (3) Demonstrate practical citizenship in church, school, Scouting and community; and (4) Reached his fifteenth birthday and be enrolled in high school at the time of selection; and, be it finally

Resolved, That the said change in eligibility requirements become effective immediately.” (Res. 30, NEC, October 2004)

**THE BSA AND THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**

“Resolved, That The American Legion express its steadfast opposition to Department of Defense policies that prohibit the chartering of Boy Scout units by components of the Armed Forces of the United States and prohibit the use of Department of Defense installations and facilities worldwide by the Boy Scouts of America; and be it finally

**LEGISLATIVE  
RESOLUTION**

Resolved, That The American Legion use every executive, legislative and judicial avenue available to restore longstanding policies of cooperation between the Department of Defense and the Boy Scouts of America that will allow Boy Scout units the right to use DOD facilities and to authorize components of the active duty military, National Guard and reserve units to charter or sponsor Boy Scout units without fear of legal reprisal.” (Res. 117, Nat’l Conv, August 2014)

**The American Legion selects an American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year and three runners-up at its annual Spring Meeting of the National Executive Committee.**

**Opposition groups were successful in convincing Department of Defense officials to eliminate the Scouting program from all branches and installations of the U.S. Armed Forces.**

## ***BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA***

“Resolved, That The American Legion encourages posts, districts and departments to cooperate with the Boy Scouts of America in their effort to inform The American Legion at all levels of the merits of Scouting by allowing Boy Scout officials to attend post, district and department meetings to explain the Scouting experience; and, be it finally

Resolved, That all levels of The American Legion are encouraged to support and endorse the Scouting movement by cooperating with the Boy Scouts of America in continuing to provide a program to assist our young people develop skills and maintain values that help ensure our nation’s future”. (Res 47, NEC, October 2013)

## ***AMERICAN LEGION EAGLE SCOUT OF THE YEAR AWARD SCHOLARSHIP***

“Resolved, That The American Legion continue to award the Eagle Scout of the Year winner a \$10,000 scholarship and the three runners-up each receive a \$2,500 scholarship.” (Res. 9, NEC, October 2013)

## ***REVISE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AMERICAN LEGION EAGLE SCOUT OF THE YEAR***

“Resolved, That the requirements for Eagle Scout of the Year award be amended to include being the son or grandson of a Sons of The American Legion member.” (Res. 10, NEC, Spring 2016)

# SECTION 4 -- BOYS STATE / NATION

## **BOYS STATE MOVEMENT**

“Resolved, By The American Legion, that we highly endorse the Boys State movement and recommend that it be made an essential part of the National Americanism program.” (Res. 602, Nat’l Conv, Sep 1935)

## **AMENDMENT TO RESOLUTION 4, 1962 NAT’L CONVENTION AS IT PERTAINS TO BOYS STATE PROGRAM**

“Resolved, That in all designations of Boys State the words “The American Legion” shall be used as a part of the official and authorized name; and be it further

Resolved, That Resolution 4 adopted at the 45<sup>th</sup> National Convention of The American Legion at Las Vegas, Nevada, October 11, 1962, be amended to include the following: ...and that all Boys State organizations using the name of The American Legion and/or its emblems be under the supervision and control of the department of The American Legion in which such Boys State organization operates.” (Res. 279, Nat’l Conv, August 1967)

## **BOYS NATION MEMORIAL FUND SCHOLARSHIP**

“Resolved, That the National Americanism Commission establish an annual scholarship award in the amount of \$500 [later increased to \$750 through resolution] to be awarded to the President Pro Tem of Boys Nation until such time as the Boys Nation Memorial Fund is depleted.” (Res. 21, NEC, May 1983)

## **ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD TO AMERICAN LEGION BOYS NATION PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT**

“Resolved, That The American Legion award annual scholarships to the young men elected to the offices of American Legion Boys Nation President and Vice-President in the amount of \$2,000 each; and, be it further

Resolved, That the young men elected to the offices of American Legion Boys Nation President and Vice-President in 2008 be retroactively awarded a scholarship in the amount of \$2,000 each; and, be it finally

Resolved, That monies used to fund these scholarships be budgeted in accordance with existing policies and procedures of The American Legion.” (Res. 3, NEC, May 2009)

**The Boys Nation Memorial Fund Scholarship memorialized four Boys State Directors – Fred Smith (IA), Myron Way (MN), Fred Freisleben (MN) and Arlyn Hanson (AK) who were killed in an auto accident while attending a Boys State Conference in Indianapolis in 1980. The fund was depleted in 2008, Resolution 21 (no longer active), is noted for its significance.**

**In 2010 the Sons of The American Legion generously offered to sponsor the Boys Nation President Pro Tempore scholarship, in addition to the Boys Nation Secretary of the Senate scholarship they have historically provided. Both of these scholarships are \$1,000 awards.**

**The American Legion awards a \$2,000 scholarship each to the Boys Nation President and Vice President.**

## ***AMERICAN LEGION BOYS STATE***

“Resolved, That The American Legion reiterates its position as outlined in Resolution 135, National Convention, 1993, ‘American Legion Boys State and American Legion Boys Nation’ by reminding all posts, departments and the National Organization that when referencing American Legion Boys State and American Legion Boys Nation, that the titles of these programs include the words ‘American Legion.’” (Res. 31, NEC, May 2000)

## ***EXPRESSION OF CONCERN IN THE DECLINE OF BOYS STATE PARTICIPATION***

“Resolved, That The American Legion’s National Executive Committee expresses its concern about the decline in enrollment in most of the American Legion Boys State programs in recent years and strongly encourages the various departments of The American Legion to take appropriate and necessary action to increase participation in their programs.” (Res. 1, NEC, October 2007)

## ***AMERICAN LEGION BOYS STATE PROGRAM***

“Resolved, That in the special circumstances where allowing a young man who resides in one state to participate in the Boys State program of another state is considered to be substantially beneficial to the young man and/or The American Legion, then such participation should have, in those circumstances where there is a dispute of eligibility, the express, written approval of the department headquarters and the Boys State governing organization of each of the departments so involved.” (Res.58, NEC, October 2012)

## ***SCHOLARSHIP AWARD TO AMERICAN LEGION BOYS NATION JUNIOR COUNSELORS***

“Resolved, That beginning in 2013, The American Legion award a scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 in appreciation to each junior counselor having served three (3) sessions on staff at The American Legion Boys Nation; and, be it further

Resolved, That monies used to fund these scholarships be budgeted in accordance with existing policies and procedures of The American Legion; and, be it further

Resolved, That scholarship funds are intended to help defray necessary costs of a recipient’s post-secondary education (i.e. tuition, room & board, books & supplies, fees and equipment required by the student’s particular course of study or school) or to help repay federal student loans; and, be it further

Resolved, That scholarship recipients may request any amount up to and including the total scholarship award at one time, the amount of the fund request cannot exceed the cost of education, and scholarship recipients may make only one (1) request for funds per semester or quarter; and, be it further

Resolved, That scholarship recipients will have two (2) years from the date of notification of having received the scholarship to utilize their scholarship funds, excluding any time spent on active military duty or church mission; and, be it further

Resolved, That scholarship checks will be issued upon receipt of a “Request for Funds” form from the scholarship recipient, with the check being made payable to the scholarship recipient; and, be it finally

Resolved, That students who have not requested their award will receive one (1) written notice reminding them of their award and the time limits remaining to receive their award.” (Res. 8, NEC, May 2013)

***AMERICAN LEGION BOYS NATION CONTRACTS***

“Resolved, That The American Legion Boys Nation program be conducted at Marymount University each year.” (Res. 8, NEC, May 2014)

**Marymount University located in Arlington, Virginia, has been the site of The American Legion Boys Nation program since 1986.**

# SECTION 5 -- EDUCATION

## ***APPRECIATION OF THE NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION***

“Resolved, That the National Americanism Commission reaffirm its appreciation of the splendid cooperation which has made it possible for The American Legion to support with its membership and organization the public schools of this country, and that The American Legion pledges its further earnest cooperation with the National Education Association to continue its active support to preserve for all children of the country adequate and universal free education.” (Res. 2, NEC, Fall 1934)

## ***PATRIOTISM IN ELEMENTARY & SECONDARY SCHOOLS***

“Resolved, That we [The American Legion] urge the administrators of all public and private schools to implement a patriotic program including: displaying the American Flag, a portrait of George Washington, copies of the “Declaration of Independence” and “Constitution of the United States” in each classroom; general assemblies and/or classroom activities regarding patriotic holidays, their historical significance and purpose; and a daily recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.” (Res. 321, Nat’l Conv, September 1984)

## ***URGE INSTRUCTION COVERING THE RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF A LOYAL PATRIOTIC U.S. CITIZEN***

“Resolved, That we [The American Legion] urge the U.S. Department of Education to consider developing a comprehensive outline of instruction covering the rights and responsibilities of loyal patriotic U.S. citizens; and, be it further

Resolved, That this outline be made available to all state and local school systems for use in grades one through twelve; and, be it further

Resolved, That successful completion of a final comprehensive examination regarding citizenship responsibilities be recommended for graduation from high school.” (Res. 32, NEC, October 1984)

## ***RALPH T. O’NEIL EDUCATION TROPHY***

“Resolved, That the Ralph T. O’Neil Education Trophy be awarded annually to that department in the United States showing the greatest Americanism activity in the use of The American Legion School Medal Award; and, be it finally

Resolved, The winning department be determined by: (a) the number of ‘American Legion School Medal Awards’ recorded on the Consolidated Post Report Form; (b) the number of awards per department is then divided by the number of posts in the department; and (c) the department with the highest percentage will be declared the winner of the Ralph T. O’Neil Education Trophy.” (Res. 35, NEC, May 1992)

### ***THE EDDIE EAGLE GUN SAFETY PROGRAM***

“Resolved, That The American Legion encourage its posts and departments to introduce the [NRA] Eddie Eagle Gun Safety Program to elementary schools and law enforcement agencies in their communities.” (Res. 24, NEC, May 1994)

### ***PROPOSED HISTORY STANDARDS***

“Resolved, That The American Legion disapproves of the standards proposed by the National Center for History in the Schools for the teaching of United States history and world history (“the proposed history standards”); and, be it finally

Resolved, That The American Legion encourages the United States Department of Education that: (A) the proposed history standards should not be released to school districts or state education boards under the pretense of constituting official national standards; (B) the National Center for History in the Schools should inform any school districts or state education boards to which the proposed history standards have been released that such standards are not official national standards; and (C) the proposed history standards should not be used as a basis for developing voluntary national content or student performance standards or for developing criteria for the certification of such standards on the subject of United States history or world history.” (Res. 19, NEC, May 1996)

### ***THE AMERICAN LEGION SEPTEMBER 11 MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP***

“Resolved, That The American Legion shall establish “The American Legion September 11 Memorial Scholarship” in honor of the brave men and women of the Armed Forces of the United States who died in, or resultant to, the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack on the United States; and, be it further

Resolved, Eligibility for such scholarship shall extend only to first generation direct descendants of active duty military personnel and federalized Guard and Reserve personnel killed on active duty on or after September 11, 2001; and, be it further

Resolved, That this scholarship shall be funded by moneys secured from donations received by The American Legion, whether specific to said scholarship or, at the direction of the National Executive Committee, from donations, contributions and bequests of a general nature made to The American Legion from any source, private or corporate; and, be it further

Resolved, That disbursement of scholarship funds shall not begin before 2003 and continue annually thereafter; and, be it finally

Resolved, That the National Americanism Commission shall establish further rules, regulations, and guidelines for the selection and award of said scholarship with emphasis on financial need, leadership, scholarship and citizenship.” (Res. 2, NEC, October 2001)

### ***CLARIFICATION OF PURPOSE, TAL SEPTEMBER 11 MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP***

“Resolved, That in order to facilitate fund raising efforts and better define its purpose and scope while maintaining the title of the authorized trust fund, “The American Legion September 11 Memorial Scholarship” shall be also known as the ‘American Legacy Scholarship’; and, be it further

Resolved, That Resolution No. 2, of October. 2001, and Resolutions 13 and 20, May, 2002, are amended to reflect that “The American Legion September 11 Memorial Scholarship” shall be also known as the ‘American Legacy Scholarship’; and, be it further



Resolved, That the existing trust fund from which moneys will issue for such scholarships shall remain 'The American Legion September 11 Memorial Scholarship Trust Fund'; and, be it further

Resolved, That the title 'American Legacy Scholarship' shall be used in the promotion of and fund raising for The American Legion September 11 Memorial Scholarship Trust Fund in order to alleviate confusion with other funds/scholarship programs associated with the September 11, 2001 attack on America; and, be it further

Resolved, That to provide for the expenses associated with the administration and promotion of the scholarship program/trust fund, an amount not to exceed five percent (5%) of the income earned from the trust shall be allocated annually; and, be it finally

Resolved, That the scholarship awards will be determined by the National Committee on Education." (Res. 16, NEC, May 2003)

### **AMEND RULES & CONDITIONS FOR ADMINISTRATION OF THE AMERICAN LEGION LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

"Resolved, That the Rules and Conditions under which The American Legion Legacy Scholarships are awarded and the program administered shall be:

1. Those eligible to apply for the scholarship shall be the child/children or legally adopted child/children or a child of a spouse by a prior marriage or dependent child as defined under Title 10 USCA by the United States Armed Services of active duty United States military and National Guard, and military reservists who were federalized and die on active duty on or after September 11, 2001.
2. Must be a high school senior or high school graduate to apply for the scholarship.
3. The American Legion Legacy Scholarship is for undergraduate study at an accredited institution of higher education within the United States, except where the recipient is from a possession of the United States, in which case he/she can select a university or college in that possession or in the United States. The recipient must be accepted or enrolled as a full-time student to receive his/her scholarship funds. The number and amount of the scholarship awards will be determined by the income derived from The American Legion September 11 Memorial Scholarship Trust.
4. The scholarship funds may only be used to defray necessary costs of the student's education (i.e. tuition, room & board, books & supplies, fees and equipment required by the student's particular course of study or school).
5. The scholarship recipient may reapply for the scholarship annually. The amount of the fund request cannot exceed the cost of education. Students may make only one (1) request for funds per semester or quarter.
6. Scholarship checks will be issued upon receipt of a "Request for Funds" form. It is the normal and customary procedure that the scholarship check will be a two-party check made payable to the student and school.

And, be it finally

Resolved, That these Rules and Conditions shall be included on each American Legion Legacy Scholarship application." (Res. 31, NEC, May 2005)

### **THE AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL EDUCATION AWARD**

“Resolved, That The American Legion National Education Award be formally established as a national annual award sponsored by the National Americanism Commission and presented at each annual National Convention of The American Legion; and, be it further

Resolved, That conditions for selecting the annual recipient of The American Legion National Education Award will continue as formerly set forth by the National Committee on Education during its 1994 Spring Meeting:

1. An individual, group or organization that has promoted the education programs of The American Legion, including the promotion of “*NEED A LIFT?*,” or;
2. An individual, group or organization that has promoted education programs that correspond to the goals of The American Legion, or;
3. An individual, group or organization that has promoted or advanced education programs at the national level; and, be it further

Resolved, That the National Committee on Education will continue to select the annual recipient of The American Legion National Education Award; and, be it further

Resolved, That The American Legion will provide one roundtrip coach airfare or vehicle mileage, in accordance with its employee mileage reimbursement rates, staff per diem for two days and lodging for one night in accordance with travel policies of The American Legion for an individual recipient or a single representative of a group or organization to receive the award at National Convention; and, be it further

Resolved, That The American Legion will not provide for any incidental expenses or any expenses incurred by guests accompanying the awardee; and, be it finally

Resolved, That funds expended for purchase of The American Legion National Education Award be set at an amount not to exceed \$450 annually.” (Res. 6, NEC, October 2011)

### **ENGLISH BE DECLARED AS THE OFFICIAL U.S. LANGUAGE**

**LEGISLATIVE  
RESOLUTION**

“Resolved, That The American Legion shall sponsor and encourage legislation which would establish English as the official national language; and, be it finally

Resolved, That The American Legion urges Congress to encourage and fund alternative bilingual education programs to serve, as was intended, as a short intermediate step to achieve proficiency in the English language.” (Res. 213, Nat’l Conv, August 2014)

### **REVISED RULES AND CONDITIONS FOR THE SAMSUNG AMERICAN LEGION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

“Resolved, That effective in 2015 the Rules and Conditions under which Samsung American Legion Scholarships are awarded shall be:

1. As previously established, one representative from each American Legion Boys State program, one representative from each American Legion Auxiliary Girls State program and one high school junior boy and one high school junior girl from the Department of Hawaii will comprise the pool of “Samsung American Legion State Finalists”,

2. The pool of Samsung American Legion State Finalists will be divided into five (5) geographic regions:
  - Western Region: Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington
  - Midwest Region: Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming
  - Central Region: Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin
  - Southeast Region: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas
  - Northeast Region: Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont
  
3. Two (2) "Samsung American Legion Scholars" will be selected by the Committee on Youth Education from each regional pool of State Finalists; and, be it further

Resolved, That all other Rules and Conditions regarding eligibility and administration of the Samsung American Legion Scholarship Program shall remain unchanged:

1. Those eligible to apply for the scholarships shall be students who are direct descendants of U.S. wartime veterans who served during one or more of the periods of war officially designated as such by the United States government:
  - World War I April 6, 1917 - November 11, 1918
  - World War II December 7, 1941 - December 31, 1946
  - Korean War June 25, 1950 - January 31, 1955
  - Vietnam War February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975
  - Lebanon and Grenada August 24, 1982 - July 31, 1984
  - Panama December 20, 1989 - January 31, 1990
  - Gulf War/War on Terrorism August 2, 1990 to cessation of hostilities as determined by the United States government,
2. Samsung American Legion Scholars will have six (6) years to utilize their scholarship funds from the date of graduation from high school, excluding any time spent on active military duty or church mission,
3. Samsung American Legion State Finalists will have two (2) years to utilize their scholarship funds from the date of graduation from high school, excluding any time spent on active military duty or church mission,
4. The Samsung American Legion Scholarship is for undergraduate study at an accredited U.S. college or university,
5. Scholarship recipients must be enrolled as a full-time student to request his/her scholarship funds,
6. The number and amount of the scholarship awards will be determined by the income derived from the Samsung American Legion Scholarship Trust,
7. The scholarship funds may only be used to defray necessary costs of the student's education (i.e. tuition, room & board, books & supplies, fees and equipment required by the student's particular course of study or school),
8. A student may request any amount up to and including his/her total scholarship award at one time,
9. The amount of the fund request cannot exceed the cost of education,
10. Students may make only one (1) request for funds per semester or quarter,
11. Scholarship checks will be issued upon receipt of a "Request for Funds" form,
12. A scholarship check will be issued in the normal and customary procedure of a two-party check made payable to the student and school,

13. Students who have not requested their award will receive one (1) written notice reminding them of their award and the time limits remaining to receive their award,
14. State finalists will receive their notice prior to their last year of eligibility,
15. Samsung American Legion Scholars will receive their notice with two years of eligibility remaining,
16. Unused scholarship funds will be returned to the scholarship trust fund for future awards; and, be it further

Resolved, That all Rules and Conditions shall be included on each Samsung American Legion Scholarship application; and, be it finally

Resolved, That Resolution No. 19 of the National Executive Committee, October 9–10, 2002, titled “Rules and Conditions for Administration of the Samsung American Legion Scholarship Program” is hereby superseded and rescinded.” (Res. 24, NEC, October 2014)

***NATIONAL FLIGHT ACADEMY EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM***

“Resolved, That The American Legion National Organization proudly commends the National Flight Academy for its noteworthy, creative and engaging educational program; and, be it finally

**The NFA is designed to address the serious concerns of the declining Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) skills and standards in our country.**

Resolved, That a commendation is done at no cost to The American Legion and withholds all grants of authority to use The American Legion’s name and/or trademark without specific authority, except in fair-use reporting of this resolution.” (Res. 26, NEC, October 2014)

***THE MEDAL OF HONOR CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM***

“Resolved, That The American Legion commends the Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation for its Medal of Honor Character Development Program using living history to provide educational curricula and instructional activities to instill in youth a sense of citizenship and patriotism that is epitomized by Medal of Honor recipients; and, be it further

Resolved, That departments and posts of The American Legion are urged to assist in and promote the Medal of Honor Character Development Program to schools and community organizations and encourage youth participation; and, be it finally

Resolved, That this commendation is done at no cost to The American Legion and withholds all grants of authority to use The American Legion’s name and/or trademark without specific authority, except in fair-use reporting of this resolution.” (Res. 25, NEC, October 2014)

***SAMSUNG AMERICAN LEGION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM ENHANCEMENT***

“Resolved, That The American Legion be authorized to accept a 3-year grant of up to \$380,000 from Samsung Electronics, for which terms of disbursement will be determined by Samsung, with said monies used for increasing recognition of ‘Samsung American Legion Scholars’ and for establishing an affiliated alumni association; and, be it further

**The resolution calls for authorization to accept a 3-year grant of up to \$380,000 from Samsung Electronics, to be used for increasing recognition of Samsung American Legion Scholars and for establishing an affiliated alumni association that will be titled the “Samsung American Legion Alumni Association”.**

Resolved, That the affiliated alumni association be titled “Samsung American Legion Alumni Association”; and, be it further

Resolved, That the Americanism Commission will establish the criteria, rules and procedures for operation of the Samsung American Legion Alumni Association, and will annually review and make revisions as necessary for maximized development, growth and enhancement of the association; and, be it finally

Resolved, That the National Commander, after review and approval by the National Judge Advocate, be and is hereby authorized and directed to execute all appropriate contracts, trust indentures and documents to accomplish the purpose of this resolution and the National Adjutant be and is hereby authorized and directed to attest to the same.” (Res. 7, NEC, May 2015)

### ***VETERANS IN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS***

“Resolved, That The American Legion encourage a renewed effort be taken up by its posts and departments to revitalize a consistent and ongoing partnership between the membership of local posts and their community school systems; and, be it further

Resolved, That this initiative be retitled “Veterans in Community Schools” in order to more easily communicate the breadth of potential involvement with said schools, and all media be updated to reflect this change in title; and, be it further

**The American veteran remains a source of vital information about service to our country, an invaluable mentor to the young, a pillar of their community and bears the responsibility of passing on the lessons gained from their service.**

Resolved, That the Americanism effort “Reinvigorating Veteran Awareness” be folded into this initiative as a part of the ongoing effort to be a consistent, relevant presence in community schools; and, be it further

Resolved, That the Americanism Commission shall identify resource materials to further the revitalization of this initiative with the understanding that said resources may be obtained in alliance with an external organization; and, be it finally

Resolved, That Resolution No. 33 of the National Executive Committee, May 2002, Veterans in the Classrooms Programs, is hereby superseded and rescinded.” (Res. 21, NEC, October 2015)

### ***THE AMERICAN LEGION’S 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY POLICY ON EDUCATION***

NOTE: Because of its length, Res. 22, NEC, October 2015, “The American Legion’s 21<sup>st</sup> Century Policy on Education” is not included in this summary.

### ***AMERICAN LEGION LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP ENHANCEMENT***

“Resolved, That the American Legacy Scholarship trust will continue to provide educational benefits to those children of military servicemembers who have died while serving on active duty on or since September 11, 2001, (hereafter referred to as “Post-9/11”); and, be it further

Resolved, That effective in 2017 the scope of American Legacy Scholarship trust eligibility will be further enhanced by establishing conditions to allow awarding education benefits to children of Post-9/11 veterans having been assigned a disability rating by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) of at least fifty-percent (50%); and, be it further

Resolved, That effective in 2017 the American Legion Legacy Scholarship will be enhanced from the current merit-based scholarship program to that of a needs-based scholarship whereby the program will serve to fulfill a financial gap remaining after all federal and state grants/scholarships available to

an eligible applicant have first been sought, with the gap fulfillment not to exceed \$20,000 within a calendar year per applicant; and, be it further

Resolved, That the American Legion Legacy Scholarship program will annually prioritize distribution of allotted funds to those eligible applicants demonstrating the greatest financial need, with top priority consideration first given to children of fallen Post-9/11 servicemembers, then secondly to children of Post-9/11 veterans having been assigned a disability rating by the VA of at least fifty-percent (50%), until such allotted funds are exhausted; and, be it further

Resolved, That the strategy for establishing a maximum amount of allotted funds that may be awarded per annum will be that half (50%) of the annual trust fund income earned plus half (50%) of monies fundraised for the American Legion Legacy Scholarship trust during a calendar year will be made available the following year to award as individual needs-based scholarships, with any allotted funds not awarded at the end of the year then returned the trust fund for continued growth; and, be it further

Resolved, That the other half (50%) of monies fundraised during a calendar year for the American Legion Legacy Scholarship trust will automatically be invested into the trust fund for continued growth; and, be it further

Resolved, That the above distribution formula and/or individual scholarship maximum may be changed with concurrence of the Finance Commission and approval of the National Executive Committee; and, be it further

Resolved, That the Americanism Commission will determine, establish in writing, and review annually thereafter, all other conditions, rules, guidelines and procedures for the American Legion Legacy Scholarship program so as to attain maximum equity and efficiency for the eligibility, application, selection, award and disbursement processes; and, be it further

Resolved, That the existing trust fund from which monies are issued will maintain the legal title *The American Legion September 11 Memorial Scholarship Trust Fund*, which is also referred to as the *American Legion Legacy Scholarship*; and, be it further

Resolved, That the title *The American Legion Legacy Scholarship* will be used for marketing, promotion and fundraising efforts and related materials so as to promote brand awareness and help alleviate confusion with other funds/scholarship programs associated with the September 11, 2001, attack on America; and, be it further

Resolved, That the Americanism Commission will be responsible for the awarding and administration of scholarships and will report same through the Finance Commission to the National Executive Committee at its annual May meetings; and, be it further

Resolved, That the Americanism Commission will maintain an accounting of work hours, wages, and expenses associated with administration and promotion of the American Legion Legacy Scholarship to further include in the annual report through the Finance Commission to the National Executive Committee at May meetings; and, be it further

Resolved, That to provide for the expenses associated with the administration and promotion of the American Legion Legacy Scholarship trust, an amount not to exceed five percent (5%) of the income earned for the trust may be allocated annually; and, be it further

Resolved, That the national judge advocate and national treasurer shall cooperate in the drafting of the appropriate amendment to *The American Legion September 11 Memorial Scholarship Trust*, as

originally established in Resolution No. 20 of the National Executive Committee, May 2002, titled *The American Legion September 11 Memorial Scholarship Trust Fund*; and, be it further

Resolved, That the national commander, after review and approval by the national judge advocate for legal sufficiency, be and is hereby authorized and directed to execute all appropriate contracts, trust indentures and documents to accomplish the purpose of this resolution and the national adjutant be and is hereby authorized and directed to attest to the same; and, be it finally

Resolved, That the following resolutions:

Resolution No. 2 of the National Executive Committee, October 2001, titled *The American Legion September 11 Memorial Scholarship*;

Resolution No. 16 of the National Executive Committee, May 2003, titled *Clarification of Purpose, The American Legion September 11 Memorial Scholarship*;

Resolution No. 31 of the National Executive Committee, May 2005, titled *Amend Rules and Conditions for Administration of the American Legacy Scholarship Program*, are hereby superseded and rescinded.” (Res. 1, NEC, Spring 2016)

### **WORLD WAR I CENTENNIAL COMMISSION EDUCATION PLAN**

“Resolved, That The American Legion proudly commends The United States World War I Centennial Commission for its tactical, vital and creative National Education Plan; and, be it finally

Resolved, That this commendation is done at no cost to The American Legion which withholds all grants of authority to use The American Legion’s name and/or trademark without specific authority, except in fair-use reporting of this resolution.” (Res. 11, NEC, Spring 2016)

## SECTION 6 -- FLAG PROGRAMS

### ***FRANCIS BELLAMY RECOGNIZED AS AUTHOR OF PLEDGE***

“Resolved, That Francis Bellamy be recognized as the original author of “The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.” (Res. 52, NEC, May 1968)



### ***DEFENSE AND RESPECT FOR THE UNITED STATES FLAG***

“Resolved, That The American Legion go on record as fully supporting a continuance of the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States in the public schools and urging defense thereof as well as respect therefore by all our citizens.” (Res. 13, NEC, October 1970)

### ***PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG***

“Resolved, That we [The American Legion] spearhead a national effort to encourage and teach every citizen of the United States to recite the Pledge of Allegiance correctly; and, be it further

Resolved, That this effort shall be directed not only toward educating the attendees at all meetings of The American Legion and public gatherings at which members of The American Legion may be officiating, but also toward introducing the necessary information into the public schools and the various youth groups, so that succeeding generations of Americans will be able to correctly recite the Pledge of Allegiance in a meaningful and enlightened manner; and, be it finally

Resolved, That all levels of The American Legion shall be immediately made aware of this resolution so that every Legionnaire throughout this land may join in a spontaneous, unified and continuing effort to achieve this objective.” (Res. 465, Nat’l Conv, August 1983)

### ***FLAG RESPECT***

“Resolved, That we [The American Legion] hereby go on record: 1) That all agencies of government dispose of tattered or worn flags in the proper manner or turn the flag over to The American Legion for proper disposal and

2) That The American Legion will accept from governmental agencies or the public, worn or untidy flags; and be it further

Resolved, That The American Legion call upon the public, especially public officials, to always honor and respect the American flag.” (Res. 51, Nat’l Conv, August 1983)

### ***CLARIFYING PROPER DISPLAY OF FLAG PATCH***

“Resolved, That for American Legion uniforms, the U.S. Flag patch may be worn on either sleeve, providing the blue field must be forward; and, be it finally

Resolved, That no emblem, name or patch shall be worn above the U.S. Flag shoulder patch on the same sleeve.” (Res. 38, NEC, May 1986)



## ***OFFICIAL CITATION FOR DISPLAY OF THE FLAG***

“Resolved, That we [The American Legion] encourage all American Legion posts to promote the display of the flag in their respective communities; and, be it finally

Resolved, That the National Americanism Commission be instructed to draft an official citation certificate for the display of the flag daily and distinguish those that display the flag 24 hours a day, with a spotlight, and have them available through Emblem Sales as soon as possible.” (Res. 301, Nat’l Conv, September 1986)

## ***FLAG DISPLAY IN CHURCHES AND DURING FUNERALS***

“Resolved, That The American Legion urge the leaders of all religious denominations to recognize the flag of the United States as a symbol of religious freedom and advocate its daily display in the sanctuaries and/or church buildings of America; and, be it finally

Resolved, That church authorities be encouraged to allow the long standing practice of draping the casket of departed veterans with the flag of the United States during funeral ceremonies conducted within the church.” (Res. 24, NEC, October 1987)

## ***FLAG PATCH ON POSTAL UNIFORMS***

“Resolved, That The American Legion deems the wearing of the flag patch on the uniforms of postal employees to be an appropriate and patriotic practice; and, be it finally

Resolved, That the National Organization of The American Legion appeal to the United States Postal Service for a change in current uniform regulations that would make the U.S. Flag patch a part of the uniform of U.S. Postal Service employees.” (Res. 26, NEC, October 1987)

## ***THE AMERICAN FLAG AT SPORTING EVENTS***

“Resolved, That The American Legion call upon the local and national television networks covering the regular season baseball, football and basketball games to include the pre-game flag ceremony as a part of their normal sports game programming, and the network officials be urged to refrain from running local programming or commercials during the ceremony.” (Res. 137, Nat’l Conv, September 1989)

## ***DISTRIBUTE FLAG CODE TO U.S. OLYMPIC ATHLETES***

“Resolved, That a concerted effort be made by The American Legion to disseminate information regarding the proper respect for the U.S. Flag by issuing ample quantities of the U.S. Flag Code and the brochure “Let’s Be Right On Flag Etiquette” to the administrators of the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colorado with the intent that these publications be issued to incoming athletes as part of their orientation as prospective members of the U.S. Olympic team.” (Res. 50, NEC, September 1993)

## ***AUTHORIZATION TO CREATE CITIZENS FLAG ALLIANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE***

“Resolved, That the National Commander be and he is hereby authorized and directed to create the Citizens Flag Alliance Advisory Committee to comprise the following members: the National Commander; the immediate Past National Commander; the Chairmen of the NEC Liaison Committee to the Americanism, Legislative, Public Relations, and Finance Commissions; the Chairmen of the Americanism, Legislative, Public Relations and Finance Commissions; such number of Consultants

as the National Commander may deem necessary and appropriate; and the National Adjutant and National Judge Advocate shall be ex officio members; and be it further

Resolved, That the National Commander shall also invite the American Legion Auxiliary to appoint representatives to the Citizens Flag Alliance Advisory Committee in such number as the National Commander may deem necessary and appropriate; and be it finally

Resolved, That the National Commander be and he is hereby authorized and directed to encourage each department of The American Legion to designate a Citizens Flag Alliance Advisory Committee in each state for the purpose of coordinating grassroots flag-protection endeavors with those undertaken by the National Citizens Flag Alliance Advisory Committee.” (Res. 19, NEC, May 1994)

### ***AUTHORIZATION TO CREATE CITIZENS FLAG ALLIANCE***

“Resolved, That the National Commander be and is hereby authorized and directed to establish, acting on the advice of competent legal counsel and with the approval of the National Judge Advocate as to the form and substance of any agreements, contracts, or documents of incorporation, the ‘Citizens Flag Alliance,’ a nonprofit corporation to be created to raise and expend funds, and engage in lobbying in support of securing a constitutional amendment giving the Congress and the States the power to enact legislation to protect the flag of the United States; and be it further

Resolved, That the National Commander shall have the authority to appoint such American Legion representatives and officers to the Board of Directors, Executive Committee, and Advisory Committee of the "Citizens Flag Alliance" as he shall deem necessary and appropriate; and be it further

Resolved, That the National Commander be and is hereby authorized and directed to establish, acting on the advice of competent legal counsel and with the approval of the National Judge Advocate as to the form and substance of any agreements, contracts, or documents of incorporation or similar documents as required by law, additional nonprofit corporations or foundations as he shall deem necessary to fulfill the letter and spirit of this resolution; and be it finally

Resolved, That the National Commander be and is hereby authorized and directed to establish such other nonprofit entities as may be deemed necessary by competent legal counsel for the purpose of furthering this campaign.” (Res. 21, NEC, May 1994)

### ***POW/MIA FLAG***

“Resolved, That The American Legion encourage all Americans to fly the POW/MIA flag until a full accounting of every POW/MIA is completed.” (Res. 94, Nat’l Conv, September 1996)

### ***OPPOSE POLICY OF DENYING FLAGS ON VETERANS’ GRAVES IN NATIONAL CEMETERIES***

“Resolved, That the placement of small American flags on individual veterans’ graves in national cemeteries shall not be prohibited nor discouraged.” (Res. 214, Nat’l Conv, September 1997)

### ***DISPLAY OF FLAG IN SCHOOL CLASSROOMS***

“Resolved, That The American Legion, at all levels, encourage and support efforts to display the flag of the United States in the nation’s school classrooms.” (Res. 23, NEC, October 2003)

**PROPER DISPLAY, CARE AND RESPECT OF THE AMERICAN FLAG**

“Resolved, That The American Legion at all levels encourage its membership, the general public, and all local, state and federal government agencies to display United States flags that are fitting emblems for display; and, be it finally

Resolved, That American Legion Posts are encouraged to promote and conduct a Dignified Disposal of Unserviceable Flags Ceremony as a part of their community service efforts.” (Res. 38, NEC, May 2011)

**The resolution encourages the display of serviceable United States flags and to encourage posts to conduct disposal of unserviceable flag ceremonies as part of their community service project.**

**CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO PROTECT THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES**

“Resolved, That The American Legion continue to urge the Congress of the United States to propose and approve an amendment to the U.S. Constitution that would allow the Congress to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States; and, be it finally

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION**

Resolved, That The American Legion continue its efforts through affiliation with The Citizens Flag Alliance, Inc. to bring to a successful conclusion the grassroots campaign to amend the Constitution of the United States of America in order to return to the people their right to protect the flag from acts of physical desecration.” (Res. 360, Nat’l Conv, August 2014)

**THE PURCHASE OF AMERICAN MADE U.S. FLAGS**

“Resolved, That The American Legion urge all government agencies at the local, state, and federal levels to insure that all American flags purchased for use by these agencies be American made; and, be it finally

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION**

Resolved, That The American Legion embark upon a program to urge the American public to buy American made flags for their personal use and for the use of their community, fraternal, religious and social organizations.” (Res. 69, Nat’l Conv, August 2014)

**THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

“Resolved, That The American Legion reiterate its continuing support for the Pledge of Allegiance in its current form, voicing opposition to any and all attempts to revise it beyond the version approved by Congress in 1954; and, be it further

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION**

Resolved, That The American Legion encourage the nation’s schools to include the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance by teachers and students in regular school activities and events; and, be it finally

Resolved, That The American Legion, at all levels, continue its unyielding support for the Pledge of Allegiance and its provisions of national loyalty by using all means practical to inform Americans about the belief in and the reliance in God by our nation’s founders in forming our democratic Republic.” (Res. 270, Nat’l Conv, August 2014)

***OPPOSE FLAG CODE CHANGE – CONDUCT DURING HOISTING, LOWERING OR PASSING OF THE FLAG OR THE NATIONAL ANTHEM***

“Resolved, That those sections of the U.S. Flag Code prescribing that members of the Armed Forces and veterans out of uniform may render the military salute during hoisting, lowering, or passing of the United States flag and/or during a rendition of the national anthem when the flag is displayed, causes confusion leading to breaches of flag etiquette, to include proper conduct during the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance; and, be it further

**LEGISLATIVE  
RESOLUTION**

Resolved, That The American Legion encourages the Congress of the United States to repeal that portion of Title 4, Chapter 1, Section 9, United States Code permitting members of the Armed Forces and veterans out of uniform to render a military salute during hoisting, lowering, or passing of the United States flag; and, be it finally

Resolved, That The American Legion encourages the Congress of the United States to repeal that portion of Title 36, Chapter 3, Section 301, United States Code permitting members of the Armed Forces and veterans out of uniform to render a military salute during a rendition of the national anthem when the flag is displayed.” (Res. 359, Nat’l Conv, August 2014)

***FLAG DISPLAY***

“Resolved, That The American Legion is urged at all levels to encourage its membership, the general public, and all local, state and federal government agencies to display the United States Flag annually on June 14 and continuing through July 4th; and, be it finally

Resolved, That during this twenty-one day salute, The American Legion at all levels is encouraged to schedule other flag-oriented programs, i.e., special Flag presentations to outside organizations, special schools of instructions on Flag Etiquette and Disposal of Unserviceable Flag Ceremonies.” (Res. 56, NEC, October 2012)

***FLAG CODE AMENDMENT***

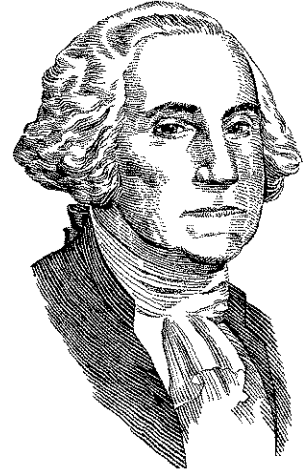
**NOTE:** Res. 27, NEC, October 2014 outlines the numerous changes to the U.S. Flag Code that are being sought by The American Legion. The resolution is not included in this summary because of its length.

**LEGISLATIVE  
RESOLUTION**

## SECTION 7 -- HOLIDAYS

### **DESIGNATE FEB. 12-22 AS AMERICANISM DAYS**

“Resolved, That the month of February be designated as Americanism Month to be observed annually by the nation as a whole. That during such periods of rededication to Americanism, all organizations be urged to exert extraordinary efforts to apprise their members of the vitally serious nature of the Communist threat to our nation of free people under God.” (Res. 163, Nat’l Conv, October 1960)



### **HONORING GEORGE WASHINGTON**

“Resolved, That we [The American Legion] take the lead in restoring the honor due to the Father of our Country.” (Res. 456, Nat’l Conv, August 1982)

### **NATIONAL MOMENT OF REMEMBRANCE**

“Resolved, That The American Legion express its support for a National Moment of Remembrance and that it encourage all Americans to pause for a moment of silence at 3 pm (local time) on the federally observed date of Memorial Day to remember those who died in service to their country.” (Res. 35, NEC, May 2000)

### **ARMED FORCES DAY**

“Resolved, That The American Legion reiterates its continuing support of those who serve in the Armed Forces of the United States and the families that are left behind; and, be it finally

Resolved, That The American Legion encourages its posts and others to conduct and sponsor appropriate observances of ‘Armed Forces Day’ in their respective communities to inform all citizens of the important role of this country’s armed forces and to acknowledge the service of those who serve in them.” (Res. 429, Nat’l Conv, September 2004)



### **EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE IDEALS AND GOALS OF CITIZENSHIP DAY**

“Resolved, That The American Legion supports the ideals and goals of Citizenship Day; and, be it further

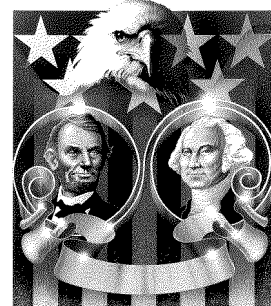
Resolved, That The American Legion calls on government authorities, schools, students and all local community organizations to observe Citizenship Day with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs; and, be it finally

Resolved, That The American Legion urges American Legion posts to support local collaboration in “Citizenship Outreach,” a program sponsored by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services to assist legal immigrants seeking the path to naturalized U.S. citizenship.” (Res. 37, NEC, May 2010)

**RETURN PATRIOTIC HOLIDAYS TO TRADITIONAL DATES**

“Resolved, That The American Legion calls upon the Congress of the United States to restore the official observance of Lincoln’s Birthday to February 12, Washington’s Birthday to February 22, Memorial Day to May 30 and Columbus Day to October 12 each year; and, be it finally

**LEGISLATIVE  
RESOLUTION**



Resolved, That The American Legion urges the passage of federal legislation that would result in an annual Presidential proclamation calling on all American institutions, public and private, to toll their bells for one minute, beginning at 11:00 am on the traditional Memorial Day, May 30, in remembrance of the servicemen and women who died defending our Nation and our freedom.” (Res. 63, Nat’l Conv, August 2014)

# SECTION 8 -- IMMIGRATION

## ***PROTEST AGAINST THE READMISSION INTO THE U.S. OF DEPORTED ALIENS***

“Resolved, That The American Legion registers its protest against the re-admission into the United States of aliens who have been deported and persons whose citizenship has been revoked for proven disloyalty, whether such readmission be upon temporary visa or other means of entry into this country.” (Res. 455/335, Nat’l Conv, September 1949)

## ***REDUCE IMMIGRATION LEVELS***

“Resolved, That The American Legion reiterate its longstanding opposition to any great influx of legal immigrants and that immigration be on a moderate and regulated scale in numbers that enable them to be readily absorbed into the culture and life stream of the United States of America.” (Res. 48, NEC, May 2003)

## ***SUPPORT FAIRNESS FOR IMMIGRANT SPOUSES***

“Resolved, That The American Legion encourages the Congress of the United States to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to allow immigrant spouses of U.S. military personnel who die in training on military installations to continue their petition for permanent resident status without the current two-year eligibility restriction; and, be it finally

**LEGISLATIVE  
RESOLUTION**

Resolved, That the Immigration and Nationality Act be amended to waive the fees for posthumous citizenship assessed to surviving family members who lose a relative in hostile combat while a member of the U.S. Armed Forces and who has a pending application for United States citizenship.” (Res. 119, Nat’l Conv, August 2014)

## ***OATH OF RENUNCIATION AND ALLEGIANCE***

“Resolved, That The American Legion opposes any and all changes to the Oath of Renunciation and Allegiance, as used in naturalization ceremonies, that would dilute or eliminate any of the following important and necessary elements of the oath:

**LEGISLATIVE  
RESOLUTION**

- 1) Renunciation of all allegiances to foreign states or sovereignties;
- 2) Support for and defense of the U.S. Constitution and laws of the USA against all enemies, foreign and domestic;
- 3) Bear ‘true faith and allegiance’ to the USA;
- 4) Bear arms, perform noncombatant service, or perform work of national importance on behalf of the USA;
- and 5) Take this oath without mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and be it further

Resolved, That The American Legion encourages Congress to prescribe the language that is used in the oath of renunciation and allegiance for purposes as outlined in the Immigration and Nationality Act; and, be it finally

Resolved, That The American Legion encourage the Congress of the United States to enact measures to prevent dual citizenship by naturalized U.S. citizens.” (Res. 118, Nat’l Conv, August 2014)

## SECTION 9 -- MARKSMANSHIP

### ***AMERICAN LEGION SHOOTING SPORTS***

“Resolved, That The American Legion encourage its posts to organize and sponsor Junior Shooting Clubs; and, be it further

Resolved, That instructional materials be developed and competition be organized by the National Americanism Commission and its agents to support sponsorship of Junior Shooting Clubs; and, be it finally

Resolved, That all American Legion programs of gun safety and marksmanship be included in a National Americanism program entitled ‘American Legion Shooting Sports Program.’” (Res. 30, NEC, October 1988)

### ***AMERICAN LEGION JR SHOOTING SPORTS TROPHY***

“Resolved, That the National Organization is hereby authorized to accept the gift of \$1,000.00 from Daisy Manufacturing, Incorporated; and, be it further

Resolved, That the funds be used to purchase traveling trophies for the top performing Individual and Team in the Sporter and Precision categories competing in the annual National Junior Olympic Air Rifle Championship who are members of clubs and teams affiliated with The American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Program; and, be it further

Resolved, That the National Americanism Commission is authorized to annually present The American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Trophies to the top performing Individual and Team in the Sporter and Precision categories competing in the annual National Junior Olympic Air Rifle Championship who are members of clubs and teams affiliated with The American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Program; and, be it finally

Resolved, That these awards be initially presented at the 2001 National Junior Olympic Air Rifle Championship in Atlanta, Georgia, and that the awards be included in the next edition of the American Legion Trophies Manual.” (Res. 9, NEC, May 2001)





**FRANCIS M. REDINGTON SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD**

“Resolved, That The American Legion establish the ‘Francis M. Redington Sportsmanship Award’; and, be it further

Resolved, That the National Americanism Commission be authorized to annually present the ‘Francis M. Redington Sportsmanship Award’ to the athlete competing in the American Legion Jr. Air Rifle National Championships who best exemplifies good sportsmanship and fair play; and, be it finally

Resolved, That this award be presented at the 2005 American Legion Junior air Rifle National championship and each year thereafter, and that the award be listed in The American Legion Trophies and Awards Manual.” (Res. 33, NEC, May 2005)

**JUNIOR AIR RIFLE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

“Resolved, That The American Legion continue to conduct its annual Junior Air Rifle National Championships, inviting the top fifteen Sporter category and top fifteen Precision category shooters from the qualifying round of the national postal tournament to participate in the national championship shoulder-to-shoulder match; and, be it further

Resolved, That an annual scholarship award be established by The American Legion in the amount of \$2,500 each to the top Precision and Sporter category national champion; and, be it finally

Resolved, That the National Commander, after review and approval of the National Judge Advocate, be and is hereby authorized and directed to execute such contract(s) as may be needed to support the execution of the Junior Air Rifle National Championships and the National Adjutant be and is hereby authorized and directed to attest to same.” (Res. 10, NEC, October 2013)

## **SECTION 10 -- ORATORICAL**

### ***NATIONAL INTERSCHOLASTIC ORATORICAL CONTEST***

“Resolved, That The American Legion do undertake and sponsor a National Interscholastic Oratorical Contest for students of high school age and that the Director of this Commission be authorized and directed to contact the newspapers of the country to determine whether or not with such sponsorships such newspapers will underwrite the cost of holding regional, sectional and national contests in connection therewith, and that, if the underwriting of the cost thereof shall be determined as practical, The American Legion proceed with the sponsorship thereof, and a special subcommittee of this Commission then be appointed to perfect plans, approve subjects and generally supervise and conduct such contests.” (Res 8, NEC, May 1934)

### ***NATIONAL AMERICANISM COMMISSION HOLD NAT’L HIGH SCHOOL ORATORICAL CONTEST***

“Resolved, That the Nineteenth Annual National Convention in New York City instruct the National Executive Committee and the National Americanism Commission to sponsor and hold a national high school oratorical contest under the supervision of the National Americanism Commission.” (Res. 535, Nat’l Conv, September 1937)

### ***NATIONAL ORATORICAL CONTEST***

“Resolved, that the students winning scholarships in the final contest in the National High School Oratorical Contest be required to attend a university or college within the continental limits of the United States, except in the case where one of the four finalists may be from a possession of the United States, in which case he can select a university or college in that possession or in the continental United States.” (Res. 25, NEC, November 1944)

### ***AMEND NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL ORATORICAL CONTEST RULES***

“Resolved, That the rules for the National Oratorical Contest include the provision that only the four (4) contestants in the National Finals be barred from future participation as a contestant in any phase of the National Oratorical Contest.” (Res. 10, NEC, October 1972)

### ***NATIONAL ORATORICAL CONTEST RULES AMENDMENT***

“Resolved, [The American Legion] does endorse the principle of all contestants in the National Oratorical Contests shall have the right to be chaperoned.” (Res. 177, Nat’l Conv, August 1979)

### ***AMERICAN LEGION NAT’L HIGH SCHOOL ORATORICAL CONTEST***

“Resolved, That changes in the Oratorical Rules brochure be printed in the year subsequent to their adoption at the discretion of the National Americanism Commission; and, be it further

Resolved, That department adjutants and oratorical contest chairmen be advised of these rule changes as they are approved for implementation; and, be it finally

Resolved, That National Headquarters, The American Legion, is urged to schedule distribution of Oratorical Contest materials to reach departments and posts as soon as possible after the National Contest finals each year.” (Res. 29, NEC, October 1984)

**TO ESTABLISH PROPER RECOGNITION OF POSTS WHO SPONSOR FINALISTS IN THE AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL ORATORICAL CONTESTS**

“Resolved, That the National Americanism Commission initiate forthwith an annual method of suitable recognition to those sponsored American Legion Posts whose contestants become National finalists in the program.” (Res. 325, Nat’l Conv, Sep 1988)

**CHANGE THE NAME OF THE AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL ORATORICAL CONTEST**

“Resolved, That the name of The American Legion National High School Oratorical Contest be changed to *The American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program - “A Constitutional Speech Contest.”*” (Res. 22, NEC, May 2007)

**ORATORICAL CONTEST NATIONAL FINALS**

“Resolved, That the contest structure at the national level of The American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program – “A Constitutional Speech Contest” be a system of elimination contests conducted at a single location which will feature nine first-round contests, three second-round contests and a national finals contest involving three finalists; and, be it further



Resolved, That the scholarships award structure for the national level of oratorical competition be as follows so as to annually award the expenditure of scholarship funds in the amount of \$138,000:

- Fifty-four department winners competing in first-round of national contest \$ 1,500 each
- First-round winners eliminated in second round of national contest \$ 1,500 each
- First place national contest winner \$18,000
- Second place national contest winner \$16,000
- Third place national contest winner \$14,000; and, be it further

Resolved, That the national level of competition for The American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program – “A Constitutional Speech Contest,” be conducted in Indianapolis, Indiana, each year; and, be it finally

Resolved, That the National Commander, after review and approval of the National Judge Advocate, be and is hereby authorized and directed to execute such contract(s) as may be needed to support the execution of the Oratorical Contest National Finals and the National Adjutant be and is hereby authorized and directed to attest to same.” (Res 8, NEC, October 2013)

**NATIONAL SPEECH & DEBATE ASSOCIATION SPONSORSHIP**

“RESOLVED, That The American Legion is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement to be a national sponsor of the National Speech & Debate Association in the amount of \$50,000, to be paid in yearly installments of \$10,000 for the period of October 2015 to October 2020; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That when the agreement has been drafted and finalized, the National Commander, after review and approval by the National Judge Advocate, be and is hereby authorized and directed to execute said agreement and the National Adjutant be and is hereby authorized and directed to attest same; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That Resolution No. 11 of the National Executive Committee, October 2014 titled, “National Speech & Debate Association Sponsorship” is hereby superseded and rescinded.” (Res 4, NEC, October 2015)

# SECTION 11 -- RELIGIOUS PROGRAMS

## ***OPPOSE WEAKENING THE AMERICAN PEOPLE'S FAITH IN DIVINE GUIDANCE***

“Resolved, That The American Legion declares its abiding confidence in the wisdom of our Founding Fathers in placing their reliance in God; and, be it finally

Resolved, That The American Legion dedicates the organization to unrelenting opposition to all who would in any way weaken our faith in Divine Guidance or limit its frequent official declaration of such dedication.” (Res. 131, Nat’l Conv, September 1963)

## ***RELIANCE UPON GOD***

“Resolved, That The American Legion should do whatever is possible to maintain the concept of ‘God and Country.’” (Res. 462, Nat’l Conv, Sep 1964)

## ***REMOVAL OF ALL REFERENCES TO GOD IN OUR PUBLIC LIFE OPPOSED***

“Resolved, That The American Legion strongly opposes the efforts of all groups and individuals who contemplate and strive to remove the reference to God from public life.” (Res. 14, NEC, October 1965)

## ***RELIGIOUS FREEDOM***

“Resolved, That we [The American Legion] endorse the following statement:

We whole-heartily support the decision of our astronauts to read scriptures from the Bible while in space as they orbited the moon. We believe in freedom of use of the Bible in public places, over the air waves and while traveling in space. We believe it should be the right of every human being to publicly express his faith in God and the Bible without fear or reprisal from the government or any other power. May this serve as a full endorsement for their gesture, upholding them in the expression of their faith and their belief in God.” (Res. 262, Nat’l Conv, August 1969)

## ***STRENGTHEN SPIRITUAL PRINCIPLES OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT***

“Resolved, That The American Legion urge that all branches of government – legislative, executive and judicial – adhere to moral and spiritual values which we inherited from our founding fathers



so that these values may become, once again in the immediate future, by precept and example, a leading light to all nations under God.” (Res. 459, Nat’l Conv, August 1974)

### **CHAPEL OF FOUR CHAPLAINS**

“Resolved, That The American Legion opposes the permanent placement of symbols and artifacts in the Chapel of Four Chaplains by groups other than those of Protestant, Catholic and Jewish faiths as a memorial to only those four chaplains honored.” (Res. 246, Nat’l Conv, Sep 1993)

### **AWARD MEDAL OF HONOR TO THE FOUR CHAPLAINS**

“Resolved, That The American Legion supports the awarding of the Medal of Honor to U.S. Army Chaplains, Lt. John P. Washington, Lt. Clark V. Poling, Lt. George L. Fox and Lt. Alexander D. Goode, for their heroism which cost them their lives on the night of February 3, 1943.” (Res. 361, Nat’l Conv, August 2006)

### **SCHOOL PRAYER**

“Resolved, That The American Legion reaffirms its support for an amendment to the Constitution of the United States that would permit voluntary prayer in public buildings, including public schools and at other public gatherings; and, be it finally

**LEGISLATIVE  
RESOLUTION**

Resolved, That Congress pass legislation to promote the concept of school prayer in order to ensure that our Nation’s public school children have a daily opportunity to pray.” (Res. 27, Nat’l Conv, August 2014)

### **REITERATE COMMITMENT TO THE “SERVICE TO GOD AND COUNTRY” PROGRAM**

“Resolved, That The American Legion reiterate and encourage its commitment to the longstanding “Service to God and Country” program which seeks to prevent the spiritual decay of America by charging the citizenry with a spirit of positive Americanism, respect for law, reverence for authority and awareness of our human rights and freedoms; and, be it finally

Resolved, That the two main components of the “Service to God and Country” program are:

1. “Service to God,” emphasizing regular public worship, daily family prayer and the religious education of children; and
2. “Service to Country,” inculcating a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation.” (Res. 13, NEC, May 2013)

**It is the aim and objective of the “Service to God and Country” program to bring God to the foreground in American life, not merely in religious life, but in social, economic, and political life as well. The “Service to God and Country” program of The American Legion is strictly non-denominational, non-sectarian, and intended to act in conjunction with and not independent of religious organizational bodies. The American Legion “Service to God and Country” program gives emphasis to regular attendance at public worship, daily family prayers in the home, and religious training of children.**

***HONORING THE ANNIVERSARY OF “IN GOD WE TRUST”***

“Resolved, That The American Legion support the honoring of our nation’s motto “In God We Trust” by encouraging the posting of “In God We Trust” as our national motto in public and private spaces; and, be it further

Resolved, That The American Legion honor July 30 as National Motto Day, upon which special attention is called to the history and heritage of “In God We Trust”; and, be it finally

Resolved, The American Legion encourage local, state and federal legislation to recognize and honor the anniversary of the motto.” (Res. 20, NEC, October 2015)

## SECTION 12 -- YOUTH CADET LAW ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM

### ***JUNIOR LAW CADET PROGRAM***

“Resolved, That the proponency and administration of the Junior Law Cadet Program be transferred from the National Security Commission to the National Americanism Commission; and, be it finally

**The resolution moved the oversight and administration of the program to the National Americanism Commission.**

Resolved, That the National Americanism Commission will provide updates to the Law and Order Committee of the National Security Commission upon request.” (Res. 37, NEC May 2011)

### ***CHANGE THE NAME OF THE AMERICAN LEGION JUNIOR LAW CADET PROGRAM TO THE AMERICAN LEGION YOUTH CADET LAW ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM***

“Resolved, That the name of The American Legion Junior Law Cadet Program be changed to *The American Legion Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Program*.” (Res. 30, NEC May 2014)

**The program title is more descriptive of the type of program and also more reflective of the maturity of the participants involved.**

**The American Legion Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Program provides first-hand experiences and insight into the operations of law enforcement agencies.**