Immigration and Naturalization Activities

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The American Legion’s interest in immigration and naturalization focuses on the security and protection of our nation’s borders, the assimilation of immigrants into American society, immigration quotas and citizenship and naturalization matters. The Americanism Commission works closely with the Legislative Commission to review all legislation affecting these subjects. The American Legion is unalterably opposed to illegal immigration and the granting of amnesty to any and all illegal aliens. The American Legion supports rigid enforcement of employer sanctions as called for in current laws that provide penalties for employers who knowingly hire illegal aliens.

Because certain industries within the United States face persistent and/or seasonal labor shortages, The American Legion supports a temporary workers program but supports the establishment of a numerical quota to be established with strict control of the program by the appropriate government agency. The American Legion has consistently opposed any great influx of legal immigrants and has insisted that immigration should be on such a moderate and regulated scale that they be readily absorbed into the life stream of our country. The American Legion has insisted that legal immigrants should not be admitted in such numbers that they would displace veterans from either employment or housing.

The American Legion does not assist with individual immigration admissions, appeals or deportations, but it will try to direct the individual to the proper federal authority. While The American Legion opposes any great influx of legal immigrants and stands firmly against those who bypass the system to cross our borders illegally, the organization has been a recognized leader in mentoring legal candidates for U.S. naturalization and citizenship.

That proud tradition dates back to the beginning of The American Legion and continues yet today. Working closely with federal courts, and in more recent years with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), the Legion has conducted naturalization sessions throughout the country. These sessions set legal immigrants upon the path to citizenship by teaching them lessons about U.S. history, government and proficiency in the English language. The Legion has helped countless naturalized citizens become assimilated, contributing members of our society.