

**MINUTES
OF THE
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF
THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION**



**INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA
October 8-9, 2011**

**MINUTES OF THE
FALL NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
OCTOBER 8-9, 2011**

National Commander James K. Roberts, III (FL) called the Fall Meeting of the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion to order Saturday, October 8, 2011 at the Sheraton Hotel, Indianapolis, Indiana.

National Chaplain William Towns, Jr. (OH) gave the invocation.

National Commander Jim Roberts (FL) called for the Sergeant-At-Arms to place the POW/MIA flag on the empty chair which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by National Vice Commander Danny J. Smith (NE) and the Preamble to the Constitution led by National Vice Commander James Noble (NJ).

National Commander Roberts (FL) then called on National Adjutant Brian O’Hearne (MA) to call the roll of National Officers, Past National Commanders, NECmen and Alternate NECmen.

Present were: E (excused)

National Officers

James K. Roberts, III (FL)	National Commander
James A. Noble (NJ)	National Vice Commander
John A. Sansoucie (MO)	National Vice Commander
Bob Fulkerson (KY)	National Vice Commander
Danny Smith (NE)	National Vice Commander
Steven Blank (AZ)	National Vice Commander
Brian J. O’Hearne (MA)	National Adjutant
Harold E. Thompson, Jr. (NE)	National Assistant Adjutant
Ed Sheubrooks (FL)	National Assistant Adjutant
Anthony Wright (PA)	National Assistant Adjutant
Robert Avery (NY)	National Assistant Adjutant
David Ridenour (IN) - E	National Assistant Adjutant
Lyle Larson (KS)	National Assistant Adjutant
William Towns, Jr. (OH)	National Chaplain
James L. Brennan (FL)	National Historian
Joseph Paviglianti (NY)	National Judge Advocate
Michael Dooley (FL)	National Sergeant-At-Arms
Robert Fifield (MA)	National Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms
Danny J. Poole (MI)	National Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms
Jeff L. Alvis (TX)	National Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms
Thomas Getz (OH)	National Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms
Brian Waters (PA)	National Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms
William D. Kelly, Jr. (FL)	Aide To The National Commander

Past National Commanders

David Dew (TX)

Robert McBride (OH)

J. R. Stillwell (IL)

James Hartman (MD)

Charles E. Gannon (MD)

David P. Stephens (IN)

Christopher R. Cerullo (NY)

Douglas Bible (MN)

Roland D. Matteson (AZ)

Joseph M. Mayne (MN)

William E. Matoska (MD)

Byron J. Robichaux (LA)

Richard L. Cook (OK)

Clifford A. Smith (MA)

Steve C. Laws (NC)

Neal C. Warnken (KS)

Michael Deacon (IA)

Earl R. Ruttkofsky (MI)

Raymond P. Giehl, Jr. (IN)

Thomas Cisna (IL)

National Executive Committeemen

Alabama (B), Arizona (N), Arkansas (N), California (B), Colorado (B), Connecticut (B), Delaware, (B), Florida (B), France (N), Georgia (B), Idaho (N), Illinois (N), Indiana (B), Iowa (B), Kansas (N), Kentucky (N), Louisiana (N), Maine (B), Maryland (B), Massachusetts (B), Michigan (B), Minnesota (B), Missouri (N), Nebraska (N), Nevada (A), New Hampshire (B), New Jersey (B), New Mexico (N), New York (B), North Carolina (N), North Dakota (B), Ohio (B), Oklahoma (N), Oregon (N), Pennsylvania (B), South Carolina (*), Tennessee (B), Texas (N), Utah (N), Vermont (N), Virginia (B), Washington (N), West Virginia (N), Wisconsin (A), Wyoming (B).

*South Carolina is represented by Bill Patterson with voice only, motion made and seconded by Georgia. Motion carried.

Commander Roberts (FL) then called upon National Adjutant Brian O’Hearne (MA) for the reading of the minutes from the last meeting. Adjutant O’Hearne (MA) entertained a motion to accept the minutes. A motion was approved by Nebraska, seconded by Florida.

Note of changes to minutes: Pages 5, 12, & 30 roll call of National Executive Committee should be Detachment. Page 33 Steven Blak was misspelled it should be Steven Blank.

At this time National Commander Roberts (FL) welcomed all the Detachment Commanders and asked first time attendees of the Fall NEC Meeting to stand for recognition.

Commander Roberts called on National Liaison John Kerestan (IN) for remarks.

Mr. Kerestan began by saying anyone needing check entitlement to please see Harold Thompson, National Assistant Adjutant in the SAL office. I would like to go back to the Spring Meetings. One of the leaders of the American Legion came to me and said during the spring meeting he observed some of the SAL guys drinking a liquid substance out of mason jars from their trunk in the parking garage. I blamed it on the wedding party (next time please remove your cap and badge).

The SAL website is currently down and being revamped by National Headquarters in hopes to have it up by Veterans Day. Reservations for the hotel went well and most everyone is downtown, however, some of you guys need to help me out. You would e-mail them, then fax them, then mail them. I only need one copy so if you e-mail, mail or fax no need to do all three. Also if you have any handicap issues please note it on your reservation form so we can try to accommodate your needs.

In your packets is American Legion National Headquarters Resolution #4 from Spring NEC that states it's increasing the delegate fees for Convention, which will be effective starting with Indianapolis Convention which will increase from \$15 to \$25 per delegate. Also is a directory, please check your information to make sure it's correct.

I was sitting in the lobby and saw a lot of "street people" wondering into the hotel so be sure to keep an eye on your personal belongings.

Mr. Kerestan again, thanked everyone for their attendance this weekend. This concluded his remarks.

Commander Roberts called for announcements. Caucus meetings were announced as well as flyers are available for Commander Roberts homecoming.

At this time the General Session was adjourned at 8:30 am with a right hand salute to the colors and resumed at 2:30 pm for special guest speaker Chief W. Craig Fugate, Administrator of FEMA.

At 2:30 pm, the meeting of the National Executive Committee was reconvened. National Commander Jim Roberts introduced Mr. Craig Fugate, Administrator of FEMA for his presentation. Administrator Fugate discussed the many types of disasters we face as a nation and some of his experiences in Florida during the time he served as Director of the Florida Division of Emergency Management. He continues to build the "Team" and encourages other organizations to participate with disaster and emergency preparedness in their local communities. He encouraged all to get a plan to be prepared for those emergency or disaster situations. Mr. Fugate also committed the assistance of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to assist the Sons of The American Legion to promote a culture of preparedness through our National Homeland Security and Civil Preparedness Committee and to work with the committee to assist us in being more involved in our communities nationwide.

At the end of Mr. Fugate's presentation, Commander Roberts announced we would receive any donations i.e. National Emergency Fund and Child Welfare Foundation. Donations were received. The meeting concluded and went into recess until Sunday.

The Fall Meeting of the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion reconvened at 8:45 a.m., Sunday October 9, 2011.

With colors being in place and following a right hand salute, National Commander Jim Roberts, III (FL) declared the National Executive Committee Fall Meeting reconvened.

National Chaplain William Towns, Jr. (OH) gave the invocation. Followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by National Vice Commander Steven Blank (AZ) and the Preamble to the Constitution led by National Vice Commander Bob Fulkerson (KY).

National Commander Roberts (FL) then called on National Adjutant Brian O'Hearne (MA) to call the roll of National Officers, Past National Commanders, NECmen and Alternate NECmen.

Present were: E (excused)

National Officers

James K. Roberts, III (FL)
James A. Noble (NJ)
John A. Sansoucie (MO)

National Commander
National Vice Commander
National Vice Commander

Bob Fulkerson (KY)	National Vice Commander
Danny Smith (NE)	National Vice Commander
Steven Blank (AZ)	National Vice Commander
Brian J. O’Hearne (MA)	National Adjutant
Harold E. Thompson, Jr. (NE)	National Assistant Adjutant
Ed Sheubrooks (FL)	National Assistant Adjutant
Anthony Wright (PA)	National Assistant Adjutant
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David Ridenour (IN) - E	National Assistant Adjutant
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David Dew (TX)	William E. Matoska (MD)
Robert McBride (OH)	Byron J. Robichaux (LA)
J. R. Stillwell (IL)	Richard L. Cook (OK)
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David P. Stephens (IN)	Neal C. Warnken (KS)
Christopher R. Cerullo (NY)	Michael Deacon (IA)
Douglas Bible (MN)	Earl R. Ruttkofsky (MI)
Roland D. Matteson (AZ)	Raymond P. Giehl, Jr. (IN)
Joseph M. Mayne (MN)	Thomas Cisna (IL)

National Executive Committeemen

Alabama (B), Arizona (N), Arkansas (N), California (B), Colorado (B), Connecticut (N), Delaware, (B), Florida (B), France (N), Georgia (B), Hawaii (N), Idaho (N), Illinois (N), Indiana (B), Iowa (B), Kansas (N), Kentucky (N), Louisiana (N), Maine (A), Maryland (B), Massachusetts (B), Michigan (B), Minnesota (B), Missouri (N), Montana (N), Nebraska (N), Nevada (A), New Hampshire (B), New Jersey (B), New Mexico (N), New York (B), North Carolina (N), Ohio (B), Oklahoma (N), Oregon (N), Pennsylvania (B), South Carolina (*), Tennessee (B), Texas (N), Utah (N), Vermont (N), Virginia (B), Washington (N), West Virginia (N), Wisconsin (A), Wyoming (B).

*South Carolina is represented by Bill Patterson with voice only, motion made and seconded by Georgia. Motion carried (from Saturday, October 8, 2011).

At this time American Legion National Commander Fang Wong (NY), National Auxiliary President Kris Nelson (MN) and National Vice President Peggy Thomas (VA) were escorted to the stage by the Sergeant-At-Arms.

Commander Wong (NY) said how fast the time has gone since Milwaukee and thanked the SAL for inviting him to their meeting. The SAL is close to hitting your mark for CWF. With your efforts the SAL will hit \$5 million. We are looking at a good year for CWF and many good things from the SAL.

While in Montana they chartered new Post 117 and I suggested they start an SAL and Auxiliary. Commander Wong thanked the SAL from New York for their help and was amazed what they've done for him. This concluded his remarks. Commander Wong presented Commander Roberts with a commander's coin.

National Auxiliary President Kris Nelson (MN) "Mom" for the year was introduced to speak. President Nelson said everything we do will be to honor the service of our veterans and caring for our veterans. This concluded her remarks.

National Auxiliary Vice President Peggy Thomas (VA) spoke and said this year the Auxiliary will concentrate on membership and commended the SAL for increasing their membership each year. This concluded her remarks.

At this time Jim Koutz (IN), next year's leading candidate for national commander was escorted to the stage by the Sergeant-At-Arms.

Mr. Koutz (IN) thanked the SAL for allowing him to say a few words and is a great honor. We know who you are and what you have done for CWF.

The things we need to do: 1) promote the American Legion – Advertise by using the signs you see along the road. 2) When you're out shopping look at the plates for veterans tag more than likely they have a Son or Auxiliary member. 3) Utilize the newspaper and television media.

I love what you do for this organization and I hope to work with Chris Huntzinger next year. This concluded his remarks.

At this time, the Commission/Committee reports were given.

LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION

David Lee (NY), Chairman

Mr. Lee (NY) asked how many talk to our Legislatives? I give you a year. We need to reach out and make them accountable for our veterans. The American Legion needs us to step up for them and our veterans need us to step up for them.

This year's Washington Conference will be held February 26-29, 2011 at the Hilton Washington Hotel. We'll be laying wreaths at the WWII Memorial, Vietnam Wall, Ladies Veterans Memorial at Arlington and The Tomb of The Unknown Soldier.

At this time Harl "Butch" D. Ray (IL) gave his report.

HOMELAND SECURITY and CIVIL PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE

Harl "Butch" D. Ray (IL), Chairman

Mr. Ray (IL) asked, Are you ready? There's not enough government and the public is an asset. Personal preparedness and this is where the Sons come in. We need to be prepared at our Posts, Squadrons and Auxiliary Units. The information you need can be found on www.FEMA.gov or www.READY.gov. This concluded his report.

A motion was made by David Lee (NY) to accept the report, minus the resolution, accepted by Ohio, seconded by Missouri. Motion carried.

Ron Roberts (MS) read Rule 14 from the Robert's Rules of Order Book" the correct procedure for making and accepting motions.

Resolution Chairman Jeff Frain (AZ) read resolution NEC 7-F11 titled "Support the Constitutional Flag Amendment". A motion was made by Jeff Frain (AZ) to accept the resolution, accepted by New York, seconded by Pennsylvania. Motion carried.

At this time Public Relations gave their report.

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMISSION

Damon Bradtmueller (IN), Chairman

Mr. Bradtmueller's (IN) report was given by Larry Weinzirl (MD). Mr. Weinzirl reported there were no resolutions submitted. Our goal this year is to continue to promote the growth and accomplishments of the Sons of The American Legion and work towards better communication from our National Organization to our blue cap members.

We encourage better use of the internet as a tool for communication and if your Detachment, District or Squadron doesn't have a website or facebook why not create one?

An SAL video is being completed. The PR Fair went well and much information was distributed. A Sub-Committee was created to look into holding a photo contest promoting SAL. So we are asking everyone to submit photos. This concluded his report.

A motion was made by Larry Weinzirl (MD) to accept the report, accepted by Indiana, seconded by Iowa. Motion carried.

At this time VA&R gave their report.

VA&R COMMISSION

Bruno Williamson (IL), Chairman

Mr. Williamson reported there were four (4) Resolutions submitted.

The Veterans Walk-A-Thon held annually by the Detachment of New York raised over \$120,000 in the last three years. The money raised are distributed among the VA Medical Centers, Fisher House and State Nursing Homes in New York. The "Help Hospitalized Veterans" program was started in 1971 to provide rehabilitative programs for hospitalized veterans to participate in arts, crafts, leatherworking and model making. This is a nationwide program in 280 facilities and 5 overseas locations.

The "My HealthVet" program administered by Department of Veterans Affairs allows veterans, active duty, dependents and caregivers internet access to DVA healthcare information and services.

The “Heroes to Hometown (H2H)” program was created in 2005 by the DOD for severely wounded, ill and injured service members or veterans as they reintegrate back into civilian life. This program is designed to identify needs and coordinate resources in local communities prior to service members and their families returning home.

There’s an increase threat to the safety of the homeless. The number of violent crimes against the homeless veterans that have been reported has risen drastically in the past few years. Our membership needs to assist these veterans through donations, assist at shelters and by contacting the Homeless Coordinator at their local VAMC. Females make up 15% of our military forces and that percentage has doubled over the last 30 years. As the female veteran population grows so will the number that will be at risk of becoming homeless.

The Missing in America project cannot operate without accompanying legislation to require the release of the veterans remains. The Honor and Remember program promotes a nationally recognized flag for all military lives lost not only in action but also in service.

The Wounded Warrior project provides comfort items to our wounded OIF/OEF veterans. The Ride 2 Recovery (R2R) program is to benefit the mental and physical rehabilitation programs for our wounded veterans with cycling as the core activity.

National Veterans Assistance Day will be on May 19, 2012. This year’s poster was reviewed and approved with a couple of minor changes. The VAVS National Advisory Committee meeting will be held March 13-15, 2012 in Charleston, South Carolina.

When you are reporting volunteer hours be sure to use the Sons code – 303SOAL. Make sure you put this code in when you log in so the Sons will get credit for the volunteer hours. This concluded his report.

A motion was made by Bruno Williamson (IL) to accept the report, minus the resolutions, accepted by New York, seconded by Colorado. Motion carried.

Resolution Chairman Jeff Frain (AZ) read resolution NEC 1-F11 titled “Support of American Legion Resolution No. 19 (May 6-7, 2009) the Ride to Recovery Program”. A motion was made by Jeff Frain (AZ) to accept the resolution, seconded by Virginia. Motion carried.

Resolution Chairman Jeff Frain (AZ) read resolution NEC 2-F11 titled “Support of American Legion Resolution No. 36 (May 4-5, 2011): Improvements Needed for the Department of Veterans Affairs Benefits for Veterans Who Have Served in a Combat Theater”. A motion was made by Jeff Frain (AZ) to accept the resolution, seconded by Indiana. Motion carried.

Resolution Chairman Jeff Frain (AZ) read resolution NEC 3-F11 titled “Support of American Legion Resolution No. 37 (2011 National Convention): Protection of Religious Rights and Ceremonies at National Cemetery Administration National and State Cemeteries”. A motion was made by Jeff Frain (AZ) to accept the resolution, seconded by California. Motion carried.

Resolution Chairman Jeff Frain (AZ) read resolution NEC 4-F11 titled “Support of American Legion Resolution No. 109 (2011 National Convention): Veterans Treatment Courts”. A motion was made by Jeff Frain (AZ) to accept the resolution, seconded by Illinois. Motion carried.

At this time Children & Youth gave their report.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH COMMISSION

Michael Moss (CO), Chairman

Child Welfare Foundation Committee - reported by Peter Sierminski (CO)

We discussed the CWF goal this year of \$400,00 which is \$1.16 per member. As of October 7th we've raised over \$91,000 and are \$33,000 away from our goal of \$5 million.

There are 530 CAT members and we will have a pin for the first 500 CAT members. The CWF will continue the 100% Per Capita Banner Program and the forms are on the website. Last year there were 542 Post, Squadron or Units that submitted paperwork for the 100% per capita. We raffled off a CWF portfolio that was won by the Detachment of Pennsylvania with stipulations that they raffle it off within their Detachment.

We are the leading contributors for CWF year in and year out. This concluded his report.

Mr. Mike Moss (CO) reported information and communication is our key to success this year. Get a Children & Youth Chairman if you don't have one. We need to support the children of our future.

I attended the C&Y Conference in Indianapolis and we only had six (6) members this year. Last year we had 22 members attend. We need more participation at this conference. Next year's conference will be held on September 14-16, 2012. The information that is presented during this conference is invaluable. This concluded his report.

A motion was made by Mike Moss (CO) to accept the report, accepted by Michigan, seconded by West Virginia. Motion carried.

Commander Roberts (FL) called for the Americanism Report.

AMERICANISM COMMISSION

Gerald Hammerschmidt (KS), Chairman

Mr. Hammerschmidt (KS) said to be sure the CPR's are filled out correctly and completely. We had a tie breaker this year and had they been filled out completely that would have made a difference. I encourage you to get information out to the schools about Boys Nation and the Oratorical Contest. This concluded his report.

Question from Jim Gelwicks – is NEF going to follow August-July for NEF or use calendar year? National Adjutant Brian O'Hearne stated it will follow the fiscal year calendar for NEF.

A motion was made by Gerald Hammerschmidt (KS) to accept the report, minus the resolution, accepted by Wisconsin, seconded by Colorado. Motion carried.

Resolution Chairman Jeff Frain (AZ) read resolution NEC 5-F11 titled "Support of American Legion Resolution No. 29 (October 13-14, 2010): Flag Code Amendment". A motion was made by Jeff Frain (AZ) to accept the resolution, seconded by Louisiana. Motion carried.

Commander Roberts called for the Internal Affairs Report.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION
Mark Tansel (IN), Chairman

Mr. Tansel (IN) called for the following to be given:

Convention – reported by Raymond Giehl, III (IN)

SAL National Convention was held August 24-26, 2011. This concluded his report.

Member Training & Development – reported by Mike Sawicki (IL)

MTD has some new ideas for new programs. Commander school will be in session this weekend. We will be conducting NMI in the spring, if anyone is interested let us know because we have limited seating and is based on first come first served. This concluded his report.

Membership – reported by Thomas Wigmore (MA)

We need to get out and work on renewals. The target date is October 19th for 25%. We are 2,000 members behind this time last year. The theme for this year is Recruit-Renew-Reinstate. Use your National Vice Commanders. This concluded his report.

Bill Geary (IL) asked to explain NMI. *Answer: NMI is National Management Institute that's a training program that lasts for three years and conducted in the spring. It gives you the basis on time management, stress management and working skills to become better leaders.*

Mr. Tansel (IN) stated there were two (2) Resolutions (submitted during SAL 2011 National Convention):

NEC 6-11 – “Endorsement from the Department of Florida for John Jennings for National Vice Commander of the Sons of The American Legion. Received and filed.

NEC1-11 Titled: “Support of the Friends of Ernie Pyle by the Detachment of Indiana”. A motion was made to table for further study.

This concluded his report.

A motion was made by Mark Tansel (IN) to accept the report, accepted by New Jersey, seconded by West Virginia. Motion carried.

Commander Roberts called for the Finance Report.

FINANCE COMMISSION
Raymond Jarvis (NY), Chairman

Tom Knox (WI) to report for Jerry Leopold (KS). We reviewed the proposed 2012 budget. We made a few adjustments to the budget which is similar to the 2011 budget with the addition of 5,000 anticipated new members.

Jeff Evans (VA) asked if we are adding 5,000 new members then were adding \$10,000. So we're putting that in the NEC vault? We have 9 new members that aren't receiving call-ins. Answer: The money is added in call-ins for administrative purposes. We have to budget as if everyone from the Commission and Committees attend. It was asked that a comparison budget be put together for 2011 and 2012. This concluded his report.

A motion was made by Tom Knox (WI) to accept the report, accepted by Wisconsin, seconded by Maryland. Motion carried.

Commander Roberts called for the Finance Report.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE
Jeff Frain (AZ), Chairman

Mr. Frain (AZ) stated we had six (6) supported Resolutions that were submitted and passed on the floor. We have guidelines on how to write a resolution. A training session is being reviewed to assist the Commission on writing resolutions. This concluded his report.

A motion was made by Jeff Frain (AZ) to accept the report, accepted by Arizona, seconded by Ohio. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Commander Jim Roberts, III (FL) called for old business. There wasn't any old business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS

Commander Jim Roberts, III (FL) called for new business. There wasn't any new business to discuss.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Commander Jim Roberts, III (FL) called For The Good of the Sons.

PNC David Dew (TX) was escorted to the stage by the Sergeant-At-Arms. National Chaplain Bill Towns (OH) presented PNC David L. Dew (TX) with a photo album and correspondence from his time as National Commander. PNC Dew was also presented with a digital photo frame with 3,000 photos on it.

PNC Dew (TX) thanked everyone. This concluded his remarks.

Mike Lawler (WI) asked for final donation totals.

They are as follows: CWF - \$11,900; NEF - \$6,600; American Heart Association - \$650.

NEC Jim Barnes (PA) asked Commander to call for closure of the meeting on the floor. A motion was made, accepted by Pennsylvania, seconded by Connecticut.

With no further business to come before the National Executive Committee, National Chaplain William Towns, Jr. (OH) gave the benediction.

Following a right-hand salute, National Commander Roberts declared the meeting adjourned at 10:19

am.



Sons of The American Legion National Executive Committee

Held on October 8-9, 2011

Resolution

No.: NEC 1 – F11

Title: Support of American Legion Resolution No. 19 (May 6 -7, 2009) the Ride to Recovery Program

Origin: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission

WHEREAS, Held in partnership with the Fitness Challenge Foundation, 501(c)3, Ride to Recovery raises money to support spinning and outdoor cycling programs at Department of Defense (DoD) and Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) locations around the U.S. to help injured active duty service members and veterans overcome obstacles they face; and

WHEREAS, Ride to Recovery has partnered with the VA's Voluntary Service (VAVS) Offices and DoD's Wounded Transition Units (WTUs) nationwide to recruit active duty service members and veterans to participate; and

WHEREAS, Cycling is an important part of the recovery and rehabilitation process with program benefits such as increased cardio fitness, weight loss, improved mental health, gives participants sense of normalcy, accomplishment, pride, camaraderie, and provides relief from depression and other problems that accompany recovery and rehabilitation; and

WHEREAS, Ride to Recovery conducts East Coast, West Coast, Texas and Florida cycling trips with hundreds of injured troops, celebrities, athletes and elected officials that participate in the events; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion Departments of California, Texas and Virginia have been staunch supporters of the events by utilizing Legion Riders, donations, volunteers, use of post facilities and sponsoring meals; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion Auxiliary is an avid supporter and coordinator for the Ride to Recovery rides; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion is dedicated to improving support for active duty service members and veterans during their time of transition and rehabilitation and will continue to provide opportunities for mutual support of The American Legion Auxiliary and The American Legion on national, departments and local levels; and

WHEREAS, the Sons of The American Legion are also dedicated to the support of our Active Duty, Guardsman, Reservists and our veterans during their time of transition and rehabilitation and will continue to provide opportunities for mutual support of The American Legion Auxiliary, The American Legion and the Sons of The American Legion on national, detachment and local levels; and

RESOLVED, by the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion in regular sessions in Indianapolis, Indiana, October 8-9, 2011 that the Sons of The American Legion supports the

American Legion Resolution No. 19 (May 6-7, 2009) "Ride to Recovery Program" and encourages all Detachments to support their Departments efforts in conjunction with this program.

Resolutions Subcommittee Approval

Jeff Frain
JEFF FRAIN (AZ), CHAIRMAN
RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

Sponsoring Committee/Commission,

Bruno Williamson
BRUNO WILLIAMSON (IL), CHAIRMAN
VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION COMMISSION



Sons of The American Legion National Executive Committee

Held on October 8-9, 2011

Resolution

No.: NEC 2 – F11
Title: Support of American Legion Resolution No. 36 (May 4-5, 2011): Improvements Needed for the Department of Veterans Affairs Benefits for Veterans Who Have Served in a Combat Theater
Origin: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation

WHEREAS, In 2008, Public Law 110-181, the "National Defense Authorization Act of 2008" amended Title 38, United States Code (U.S.C.), Section 1710(e)(3), extending the period of eligibility for health care in the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for veterans who served in a theater of combat operations after November 11, 1998; and

WHEREAS, Military veterans, National Guard and Reserves who served in combat since November 11, 1998, including Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and was recently expanded by VA to include Operation New Dawn (OND) who are discharged with other than dishonorable conditions are eligible for the "Combat Veteran" Authority; and

WHEREAS, Under the VA "Combat Veteran" Authority, veterans receive five-years of enhanced enrollment eligibility for VA health care services and cost-free health care from VA for injuries, illnesses or conditions that related to their service in the theater of operations; and

WHEREAS, In 2010, VA issued a new regulation to relax the requirements in filing for a Combat-Related Post Traumatic Stress Disorder VA compensation and pension claim where veterans no longer need to provide documentation to prove they experienced a specific traumatic event; and

WHEREAS, Veterans returning from OEF/OIF/OND continue to experience challenges in obtaining their VA health and claims benefits due to their military job classifications as well as lack of awareness of these VA benefits; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion, in regular sessions in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 8-9 ,2011, that the Sons of The American Legion supports American Legion Resolution No. 36 (May 4-5, 2011) : Improvements Needed for the Department of Veterans Affairs Benefits for Veterans Who Have Served in a Combat Theater and also urges the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to recognize and afford all veterans, serving in a combat theater of operations with their earned VA benefits and compensation, without regard to military job classification. and be it finally

RESOLVED, That VA expand outreach to all veterans serving in a combat theater of operations to ensure they are aware of their earned VA benefits and services.



Resolutions Subcommittee Approval

Jeff Frain

JEFF FRAIN (AZ), CHAIRMAN
RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

Sponsoring Committee/Commission,

Bruno Williamson

BRUNO WILLIAMSON (IL), CHAIRMAN
VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION COMMISSION

Sons of The American Legion National Executive Committee

Held on October 8-9, 2011

Resolution

No.: NEC 3 – F11

Title: **Support of American Legion Resolution No. 37 (2011 National Convention): Protection Of Religious Rights And Ceremonies At National Cemetery Administration National And State Cemeteries**

Origin: **Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission**

WHEREAS, Some National Cemetery Administration (NCA) national and state cemeteries do not allow graveside services that include a reference to God; and

WHEREAS, This policy is pursuant to a memorandum of the Undersecretary of Veterans Affairs for Memorial Affairs dated November 1, 2007; and

WHEREAS, This policy involves prior restraint of speech and religion in violation of the First Amendment to the United States Constitution; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion and other veteran service organizations have challenged this policy in the United States District Court; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion, in regular sessions in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 8-9 ,2011, that the Sons of The American Legion supports The American Legion Resolution No. 37 (2011 National Convention): Protection Of Religious Rights And Ceremonies At National Cemetery Administration National And State Cemeteries.

Resolutions Subcommittee Approval

Jeff Frain
JEFF FRAIN (AZ), CHAIRMAN
RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

Sponsoring Committee/Commission.

Bruno Williamson
BRUNO WILLIAMSON (IL), CHAIRMAN
VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION COMMISSION



**Sons of The American Legion
National Executive Committee**

Held on October 8-9, 2011

Resolution

No.: NEC 4 – F11
Title: Support of American Legion Resolution No. 109 (2011 National Convention): Veterans Treatment Courts
Origin: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission

WHEREAS, When veterans return from combat, some turn to drugs or alcohol to cope with mental health issues as a Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and/or Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI); and

WHEREAS, An unfortunate number of veterans are entering the criminal justice system to face charges stemming from these issues; and

WHEREAS, In 2008, a judge in Buffalo, NY, created the first Veterans Treatment Court after seeing an increase in veterans' hearings on his dockets; and

WHEREAS, Veteran Treatment Courts are hybrid Drug Courts and Mental Health Courts and have evolved out of the growing need for a treatment court model designed specifically for justice-involved veterans to maximize efficiency and economize resources while making use of the distinct military culture consistent among veterans; and

WHEREAS, Many veterans that enter the veteran treatment courts are not aware of their federal, state, county and a variety of additional benefit programs, in particular, Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits for compensation, pension and healthcare; and

WHEREAS, Grouping justice-involved veterans into a specific court docket significantly expedites access to veteran-specific resources, including benefits and treatment earned through military service; and

WHEREAS, In 2009, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) sent a memorandum to the 152 VA Medical Centers recommending that a Veterans Justice Outreach (VJO) Coordinator be established at each of the VA Medical Centers nationwide to provide veterans with assistance in Veteran Treatment Courts and connect these veterans with VA benefits and assistance; and

WHEREAS, Currently, VA has not established a national Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Directive on the VJO program and a single staff person manages this program under the auspices of the VHA Homeless Office; and

WHEREAS, Only 120 of the 153 VA Medical Centers nationwide currently have VJO coordinators and their schedules are inconsistent in coverage of veteran treatment courts necessitating the need for national oversight, funding and clearly established policies and responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, Veteran Service Organizations, such as The American Legion, can assist these veterans in the Veteran Treatment Courts in pursuit of their VA claims and benefits or volunteering to help connect them with resources and assistance; and

WHEREAS, Veterans deeply value their military experience and share an inimitable bond among their peers and Veteran Treatment Courts build upon this camaraderie by allowing participants to go through the treatment court process with people who are similarly situated and have common past experiences, and pairing veterans with volunteer veteran mentors; and

WHEREAS, Veteran Treatment Courts are able to better serve veterans and are greatly enhanced when American Legion Department Service Officers are involved with the court process; and

WHEREAS, Justice For Vets, in coordination with the National Drug Court Institute, both professional service organizations of the National Association of Drug Court Professionals, a 501(c) 3, non-for-profit organization, serves as the national clearinghouse for veteran treatment courts and ensures Veteran Treatment Courts receive the proper training and technical assistance to be successful; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The Sons of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 8-9, 2011 That The Sons of The American Legion supports The American Legion Resolution No. 109 (2011 National Convention): Veterans Treatment Courts.



Resolutions Subcommittee Approval

Sponsoring Committee/Commission.

Jeff Frain

JEFF FRAIN (AZ), CHAIRMAN
RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

Bruno Williamson

BRUNO WILLIAMSON (IL), CHAIRMAN
VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION COMMISSION

**Sons of The American Legion
National Executive Committee
Held on October 8-9, 2011
Resolution**

No.: NEC 5 – F11

Title: Support of American Legion Resolution No. 29 (October 13-14, 2010): Flag Code Amendment

Origin: Americanism Commission

WHEREAS, The United States Flag Code, Title 4, United States Code, Chapter 1, Subsections 1-10, is a codification of existing rules and customs pertaining to the display and use of the flag of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, Practices and customs have been modified in the past few years regarding certain display procedures; and

WHEREAS, Previous changes and modifications to the Flag Code did not clearly state the intent of some display procedures; and

WHEREAS, The Flag Code needs to reflect current, accepted patriotic practices; and

WHEREAS, The National Executive Committee of The American Legion Resolution No. 29 that seeks the appropriate legislation or Presidential proclamation to alter, amend, or modify the following provisions of the United States Flag Code, Title 4, United States Code, Chapter 1:

SS6. Time and occasions for display

(d) The flag should be displayed on all days, especially on New Year's Day, January 1; Inauguration Day, January 20; Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday, the third Monday in January; Lincoln's Birthday, February 12; Washington's Birthday, February 22; Presidents Day, third Monday in February; Easter Sunday(variable); Thomas Jefferson's Birthday, April 13; Loyalty Day - Law Day U.S.A., May 1; Mother's Day, second Sunday in May; National Maritime Day, May 22; Armed Forces Day, third Saturday in May; Memorial Day (half-staff until noon), the last Monday in May; Flag Day, June 14; Flag Week, week of June 14; Father's Day, third Sunday in June; Independence Day, July 4; National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day, July 27; Aviation Day, August 19; Labor Day, first Monday in September; Citizenship Day, September 17; POW/MIA Recognition Day, third Tuesday in September; American Gold Star Mothers Day, last Sunday in September; Columbus Day, second Monday in October; Navy Day, October 27; Veteran's Day, November 11; Thanksgiving Day, fourth Thursday in November; Pearl Harbor Day (half-staff), December 7; Christmas Day, December 25; and such other days as may be proclaimed by the President of the United States; the birthdays of States (date of admission); and on State holidays.

(h) The flag should be displayed during public meetings, at cemeteries, and other public gatherings such as sporting events.

SS7. Position and manner of display

(f) When flags or pennants of States, cities, localities, societies, or corporations are flown on the same halyard with the flag of the United States, the latter should always be at the peak. When the flags are flown from adjacent staffs, the flag of the United States should be hoisted first and lowered last. No such flag or pennant may be placed above the flag of the United States or to the United States flag's right, that is the observer's left. The flags or pennants of States, cities, localities, societies, or corporations may be of approximately equal size as the flag of the United States but not larger.

(g) When flags of two or more nations are displayed, they are to be flown from separate staffs of the same height. The flags should be of approximately equal size. International usage forbids the display of the flag of one nation above that of another nation in time of peace. The flag of the United States should be on its own right, the observer's left. The flags of other nations are displayed on the observer's right and in alphabetical order from left to right.

(m) The flag displayed at half-staff is a sign of national mourning and a mark of respect to the memory of principal figures of the U.S. or State Government and should not be so displayed, except as provided herein, or in special proclamation by the President of the United States or the Governor of any state, territory or possession. No other official may designate the United States Flag to be displayed at half-staff. The flag, when flown at half-staff, should be first hoisted to the peak for an instant and then lowered to the half-staff position. The flag should be again raised to the peak before it is lowered for the day. On Memorial Day, the flag should be displayed at half-staff until noon only, then raised to the top of the staff. By order of the President, the flag shall be flown at half-staff upon the death of principal figures of the United States Government and the Governor of a State, territory, or possession. In the event of the death of other officials or foreign dignitaries, the flag is to be displayed at half-staff according to Presidential instructions or orders, or in accordance with recognized customs or practices not inconsistent with law. In the event of the death of a present or former official of the government of any State, territory, or possession of the United States or the death of a member of the Armed Forces from any State, territory, or possession who dies while serving on active duty, the Governor of that State, territory, or possession may proclaim that the National flag shall be flown at half-staff and the same authority is provided to the Mayor of the District of Columbia with respect to present or former officials of the District of Columbia and members of the Armed Forces from the District of Columbia. When the Governor of a State, territory, or possession, or the Mayor of the District of Columbia, issues a proclamation under the preceding sentence that the National flag be flown at half-staff in that State, territory, or possession or in the District of Columbia because of the death of a member of the Armed Forces, the National flag flown at any Federal installation or facility in the area covered by that proclamation shall be flown at half-staff consistent with that proclamation.

The flag shall be flown at half-staff thirty days from the death of the President or a former President; ten days from the day of death of the Vice President, the Chief Justice or a retired Chief Justice of the United States, or the Speaker of the House of Representatives; from the day of death until interment of an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, a Secretary of an executive or military department, a former Vice President, or the Governor of a state, territory, or possession; and on the day of death and the following day for a Member of Congress. The flag shall be flown at half-staff on Peace Officers Memorial Day, unless that day is also Armed Forces Day and Pearl Harbor Day, December 7. As used in this subsection:

(1) The term "half-staff" means the position of the flag when it is one-half the distance between the top and bottom of the staff;

(2) the term "executive or military department" means any agency listed under sections 101 and 102 of title 5 United States Code; and

(3) the term "Member of Congress" means a Senator, a Representative, a Delegate, or the Resident Commissioner for Puerto Rico.

SS8. Respect for flag

(c) The flag may be carried flat or horizontally when a patriotic effect is desired and when it is of such size that it cannot be carried aloft and free.

(i) The flag should never be used for advertising purposes in any manner whatsoever. Advertising signs should not be fastened to a staff or halyard from which the flag is flown.

(j) No part of the flag should ever be used as a costume or athletic uniform. However, a flag patch may be affixed to the uniform of military personnel, firemen, policemen, postal workers, and members of patriotic organizations. The flag represents a living country and is itself considered a living thing. Therefore, the lapel pin being a replica should be worn on the left lapel near the heart; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED; By the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 8-9,2011, That the Sons of The American Legion support the American Legion Resolution No. 29 (October 13-14, 2010): Flag Code Amendment.

Resolutions Subcommittee Approval

Sponsoring Committee/Commission.

Jeff Frain

JEFF FRAIN (AZ), CHAIRMAN
RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

Gerald Hammerschmidt

GERALD HAMMERSCHMIDT (KS), CHAIRMAN
AMERICANISM COMMISSION



Sons of The American Legion National Executive Committee

Held on October 8-9, 2011

Resolution

No.: NEC 7 – F11
Title: Support the Constitutional Flag Amendment
Origin: Legislative Commission

Whereas, the American flag is the symbol of our great nation; and

Whereas, the Sons of The American Legion reiterates it's support of The American Legion stance on the protection of the American flag, keeping it safe from physical desecration; and

Whereas, The American Legion and the Sons of The American Legion have continued to call on Congress to pass a constitutional amendment that will allow Congress to protect the flag from physical desecration since 1989; and

Whereas, some might say this action is a freedom of speech, the majority of Americans call it a disrespectful physical act; and

Whereas, the Sons of The American Legion will continue to solicit sponsors in Congress for House Joint Resolution 13 and Senate Joint Resolution 19 and to pass these pieces of Legislation that will allow each state to ratify the amendment to the United States Constitution to protect the American flag, keeping it safe from physical desecration; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, by the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled, October 8-9,2011 in Indianapolis, Indiana, that every member of the Sons of The American Legion be called upon to rally support for the flag amendment in both the House and Senate and to aggressively fight to help enact Legislation through Congress that will protect the American flag.

Resolutions Subcommittee Approval

Jeff Frain
JEFF FRAIN (AZ), CHAIRMAN
RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

Sponsoring Committee/Commission,

Gerald Hammerschmidt
DAVID LEE (NY), CHAIRMAN
LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION

**NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION**

October 12, 2011

**TO: National Officers, National Executive Committeemen, and
Commission/Committee Chairman**

FROM: Brian J. O' Hearne, National Adjutant

**SUBJECT: DISPOSITION OF RESOLUTIONS FROM THE
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – FALL 2011**

Attached to this memorandum is a copy of the final disposition of action taken on the Sons of The American Legion resolutions by the Internal Affairs Commission and approved by the National Executive Committee of The American Legion, October 2011 for your review.

All resolutions from the Sons of The American Legion Spring NEC were approved. Chairmen are requested to notify their Commission/Committee members.

Enclosure

ADDENDUM B

***Internal Affairs Commission Report to
National Executive Committee
The American Legion
October 8-9, 2011***

Disposition of Action of
Sons of The American Legion

In compliance with Resolution 21 “entitled”, “Establish Procedure for Handling Matters Originating from SAL National Conventions and SAL National Executive Committees”, adopted by the National Executive Committee of The American Legion at its meeting April 30-May 1, 1973, this is to report dispositions made by the Internal Affairs Commission of SAL actions taken at the National Executive Committee October 8-9, 2011.

RESOLUTION NUMBER	TITLE	ACTION
SAL NEC 1-F11	Support of American Legion Resolution #19 (May 2009) Ride to Recovery Program	Approved
SAL NEC 2-F11	Support of American Legion Resolution #36 (May 2011) Improvements Needed for the Department of Veterans Affairs Benefits for Veterans Who Have Served in a Combat Theater	Approved
SAL NEC 3-F11	Support of American Legion Resolution #37 (National Convention 2011) Protection of Religious Rights and Ceremonies at National Cemeteries	Approved
SAL NEC 4-F11	Support of American Legion Resolution #109 (National Convention 2011) Veterans	Approved
SAL NEC 5-F11	Support American Legion Resolution #29 (October 2010) Flag Code Amendment	Approved
SAL NEC 7-F11	Support the Constitutional Flag Amendment	Approved
SAL NC 1-11	Endorsement of John Waite (VT) for National Vice Commander	Received and Recorded
SAL NC 2-11	Endorsement of Philip Michael Deutser (OK) for National Vice Commander	Received and Recorded
SAL NEC 6-F11	Endorsement of John Jennings (FL) for National Vice Commander	Received and Recorded