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104th Congress, 1st Session – – – – – – – – – – – – House Document 104–51

PROCEEDINGS OF 76*th* NATIONAL CONVENTION *of the* AMERICAN LEGION

Minneapolis, Minnesota

September 6–8, 1994

1994 : 76th NATIONAL CONVENTION OF THE AMERICAN LEGION : 1994

104th Congress, 1st Session – – – – – – – – – – – – House Document 104–51

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JANUARY 9, 1995.—Referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and ordered to be printed.

86–484

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

THE AMERICAN LEGION,
Washington, DC, January 5, 1995.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,
The Speaker of the House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: In compliance with current public law we herewith transmit for printing as a House document: a financial statement and independent audit of The American Legion, proceedings of our 76th annual National Convention held in Minneapolis, Minnesota from September 6, 7, and 8, 1994 plus a report on our organization's activities for the year preceding the Convention.

Sincerely,

STEVE ROBERTSON,
Director, National Legislative Commission.

CONTENTS

	Page
National Conventions and Officers of The American Legion, 1919–1994	VI
TUESDAY SESSION—SEPTEMBER 6, 1994	
Call to Order—National Commander Bruce Thiesen	1
Invocation—National Chaplain Monsignor Raymond J. Kozlowski	2
Reading of Convention Call—National Adjutant Robert Spanogle	3
Greetings:	
Bernie Melvin, Commissioner, Minnesota Dept. of Veterans Affairs	7
Honorable Sharon Sayles Belton, Mayor of Minneapolis	8
Raymond L. Galazan, Department Commander, Minnesota	9
Donald L. Schroedl, President, National Convention Corporation of Minnesota	10
Address—Honorable Lane Evans, U.S. House of Representatives (IL)	11
Presentation of Plaque—City of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	13
Certificate of Appreciation—National Chaplain Monsignor Kozlowski	14
Greetings:	
Mrs. Helen Holcomb, National President, American Legion Auxiliary	15
Presentation, Distinguished Service Award—Honorable Walter Annenberg	16
National Commander's Convention Report	17
Report of Committee:	
Credentials and Internal Affairs, Section I	25
Certificate of Appreciation—Warren Hutching, Adolph Coors Company	27
Reports of Committees:	
Legislation and Rules	28
Children and Youth	31
Awards:	
Garland Murphy	36
Report of Committee—Americanism	37
Awards:	
Ralph T. O'Neil Education	55
Frank Belgrano, Jr	55
William Randolph Hearst Americanism Trophy	55
National Youth Champions	57
Addresses:	
Honorable Jim Ramstad, U.S. House of Representatives (MN)	61
Lt. Gen. Claude M. Kicklighter, Executive Director, World War II Commemorative Committee	64
George W. Bentley, Society of American Legion Founders	68
W.T. Russ Ward, Dominion President, Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans in Canada	69
Joseph Kobolak, Dominion President, Royal Canadian Legion	70
General Chou Shin-Pin, Chairman, Vocational Assistance Commission for Retired Servicemen—Republic of China	72
Award—Legion of Honor Bronze Medallion Award Chapel of Four Chaplains	73
WEDNESDAY SESSION—SEPTEMBER 7, 1994	
Call to Order—National Commander, Bruce Thiesen	77
Address—Honorable Paul Wellstone, U.S. Senate (MN)	77
Report—John P. Comer, PNC and Member, Korean War Memorial Advisory Board	81
Address—Honorable Jesse Brown, Secretary of Veterans Affairs	82
Award—Employer of The Year	85

Page

Report of Committee:
Employment and Veterans' Preference and Other Economic Matters 87
Address—Honorable Preston Taylor, Assistant Secretary for Veterans Employment 111
Report of Committee—Credentials and Internal Affairs, Section II 115
Special Committee Report—Credentials and Other Internal Affairs 121
Presentation—Citation for Meritorious Service to Honorable Robert C. Smith, U.S. Senate (NH) 123
Addresses:
Honorable Robert C. Smith, U.S. Senate (NH) 124
Diane Carlson Evans, Vietnam Women's Memorial Project 127
Wilma L. Vaught, Brigadier General, USAF Retired, President, Women in Military Service for American Memorial Foundation 129
Major General Robert Ensslin, National Guard Association of U.S. 131
Certificate of Appreciation—Frank Dosio, NYNEX 134
Address—Joe Mayne, National Commander, Sons of the American Legion 136
Report of Committee—Credentials and Internal Affairs, Section III 138
Award—National Recruiter of the Year 144
Reports of Committees:
Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation 145
Finance 170
Foreign Relations 171
Constitutional Amendments 197

THURSDAY SESSION—SEPTEMBER 8, 1994

Call to Order—National Commander, Bruce Thiesen 200
Presentation—George Greene, Buick Motor Division, GMC 201
Addresses:
Honorable Arne Carlson, Governor, State of Minnesota 202
Honorable Rod Grams, U.S. House of Representatives (MN) 204
Vice Admiral James M. Loy, U.S. Coast Guard 208
Award—Fourth Estate Award 213
Certificate of Appreciation—Brain Science Foundation, Minneapolis MN 214
Report of Committee—National Security 217
Election of National Commander 267
Address—National Commander, William Detweiler 277
Election of National Vice Commanders 281
Greetings—Mrs. Linda Newsome, President, American Legion Auxiliary 285
Benediction—Outgoing National Chaplain, Msgr. Raymond Kozlowski 286

APPENDIX

Annual Awards 288
Financial Report 293

THE AMERICAN LEGION 74TH ANNUAL REPORT

Foreword, National Adjutant Robert W. Spanogle 311
Excerpts from the Constitution of The American Legion 312
National Executive Committee 314
Reports of National Vice Commanders:
Juan Cintron, Puerto Rico 316
Douglas A. Mason, Utah 317
John Mulkern, Massachusetts 318
K.W. Ohl, Indiana 319
Curtis O. Twete, North Dakota 320
Reports:
National Chaplain 321
National Historian 322
National Judge Advocate 323
Administrative Services 330
Library and Museum 332
Americanism Commission 333
Counter-Subversive Activities Committee 337
Education Committee 337
Children & Youth Commission 339
American Legion Child Welfare Foundation, Inc 350

Page

Reports—Continued
Convention Commission 351
Economic Commission 352
Employment Committee 355
Veterans Preference Committee 355
Finance Commission 358
Emblem Committee 358
American Legion Life Insurance Committee 359
Foreign Relations Commission 369
Internal Affairs Commission 379
Membership and Post Activities Committee 383
Legislative Commission 387
National Security Commission 399
Aerospace Committee 404
Defense Civil Preparedness Committee 405
Law and Order Committee 406
Merchant Marine Committee 407
Military Affairs Committee 408
National Security Council 415
Naval Affairs Committee 416
Public Relations Commission 416
American Legion Magazine Commission 417
Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission 418
Report of the National President of the American Legion Auxiliary 435
Financial Statements 442

NATIONAL CONVENTIONS AND NATIONAL OFFICERS AMERICAN LEGION, 1919 to Date

Note: In the following list it should be noted that the terms of each group of officers expire with that particular convention under which they are listed.

*** indicates deceased.**

HONORARY COMMANDERS

General John J. Pershing*

Marshall Ferdinand Foch*

PARIS CAUCUS

Paris, France, March 15 to 17, 1919

Temporary Chairman: Eric Fisher Wood,* Pennsylvania. (Voted title of Past National Commander at the 1955 National Convention.)
Permanent Chairman: Bennett C. Clark,* Missouri. (Voted title of past National Commander at the 1926 National Convention.)
Chairman Pro Tempore: Thomas W. Miller,* Delaware. (Voted title of Past National Commander at the 1968 National Convention.)
Secretary: Eric Fisher Wood,* Pennsylvania. (Voted title of Past National Commander at the 1955 National Convention.) At the Paris Caucus an Executive Committee was elected to complete arrangements, the chairman and secretary of which were:
Chairman: Milton J. Foreman,* Illinois. (Voted title of Past National Commander at the 1921 National Convention.)
Secretary: George A. White,* Oregon.

ST. LOUIS CAUCUS

St. Louis, Missouri, May 8 to 10, 1919

Temporary Chairman: Theodore Roosevelt, Jr.,* New York. (Voted title of Past National Commander at the 1949 National Convention.)
Permanent Chairman: Henry D. Lindsley,* Texas.
Vice Chairmen: John J. Sullivan,* Washington; Fred Humphrey,* New Mexico; P.C. Calhoun,* Connecticut. (Voted titles of Past National Commanders at 1933 National Convention.)
Secretary: Eric Fisher Wood,* Pennsylvania.
Chaplain: Thomas H. Wiles,* Colorado. (Voted title of Past National Commander at the 1921 National Convention.)

1st NATIONAL CONVENTION

Minneapolis, Minnesota, November 10 to 12, 1919

Chairman: Henry D. Lidsley,* (Voted title of Past National Commander at the 1919 National Convention.)
Vice Chairman: Bennett C. Clark,* Missouri.
Secretary: Eric Fisher Wood,* Pennsylvania.
Treasurer: Gasper G. Bacon,* Massachusetts.
Chaplain: Thomas H. Wiles,* Colorado.

2d NATIONAL CONVENTION

Cleveland, Ohio, September 27 to 29, 1920

Commander: Franklin D'Olier,* Pennsylvania.
Vice Commanders: James O'Brien,* California; Allan Tukey,* Nebraska; Joyce S. Lewis,* Minnesota; Alden B. Chambers, Massachusetts; William Follett,* Oregon.
Adjutant: Lemuel Bolles,* Washington.

Treasurer: Robert H. Tyndall,* Indiana.
Historian: Eben Putnam,* Massachusetts.
Chaplain: Rev. Francis A. Kelly,* New York.

3d NATIONAL CONVENTION

Kansas City, Missouri, October 31 to November 2, 1921

Commander: Frederic W. Galbraith, Jr.,* (killed June 9), succeeded by John G. Emery,* Michigan.
Vice Commanders: John G. Emery,* Michigan; Thomas Goldingay,* New Jersey; Claudius G. Pendill,* Wisconsin; James G. Scrugham,* Nevada; E. Jackson Winslett,* Alabama.
Adjutant: Lemuel Bolles,* Washington.
Treasurer: Robert H. Tyndall,* Indiana.
Chaplain: Rev. John W. Inzer,* Tennessee.
Historian: Eben Putnam,* Massachusetts.
Judge Advocate: Robert A. Adams,* Indiana.

4th NATIONAL CONVENTION

New Orleans, Louisiana, October 16 to 20, 1922

Commander: Hanford MacNider,* Iowa.
Vice Commanders: H. Nelson Jackson,* Vermont; George L. Berry,* Tennessee; Raymond O. Brackett,* Massachusetts; Charles H. Kendrick, California; John A. McCormack,* Colorado.
Adjutant: Lemuel Bolles,* Washington.
Treasurer: Robert H. Tyndall,* Indiana.
Chaplain: Rev. Earl A. Blackman,*
Historian: Eben Putnam,* Massachusetts.
Judge Advocate: Robert A. Adams,* Indiana.

5th NATIONAL CONVENTION

San Francisco, California, October 16 to 19, 1923

Commander: Alvin M. Owsley,* Texas.
Vice Commanders: Edward J. Barrett,* Wisconsin; Watson B. Miller,* District of Columbia; E. Erle Cocke, Sr.,* Georgia; Robert O. Blood,* New Hampshire; Chiles P. Plummer, Wyoming.
Adjutant: Lemuel Bolles,* Washington.
Treasurer: Robert H. Tyndall,* Indiana.
Chaplin: Rev. William F. O'Connor,* Ohio.
Historian: Eben Putnam,* Massachusetts.
Judge Advocate: Robert A. Adams,* Indiana.

6th NATIONAL CONVENTION

St. Paul, Minnesota, September 15 to 19, 1924

Commander: John R. Quinn,* California.
Vice Commanders: Lester Albert,* Idaho; Celora M. Stoddard, Arizona; William B. Healey,* Pennsylvania; F. Ryan Duffy,* Wisconsin; Dr. I. Thurman Mann,* North Carolina.
Adjutant: Lemuel Bolles,* Washington.
Treasurer: Robert H. Tyndall,* Indiana.
Chaplain: Rev. Ezra Clemens,* Minnesota.
Historian: Eben Putnam,* Massachusetts.
Judge Advocate: Robert A. Adams,* Indiana.

7th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Omaha, Nebraska, October 5 to 9, 1925

Commander: James A. Drain,* Washington.
Vice Commanders: Frank H. McFarland,* Kansas; Eugene P. Armstrong,* Connecticut; A.L. Perry, Panama; Peyton H. Hoge, Jr,* Kentucky; William Stern,* North Dakota.

Adjutant: Russell G. Creviston,* Indiana (resigned), succeeded by James f. Barton,* Iowa.
Treasurer: Robert H. Tyndall,* Indiana.
Chaplain: Rev. Joseph M. Lonergan,* Illinois.
Historian: Eben Putnam,* Massachusetts.
Judge Advocate: Robert A. Adams,* Indiana.

8th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, October 11 to 15, 1926

Commander: John R. McQuigg,* Ohio.
Vice Commanders: Joseph Y. Cheney,* Florida; Hughes B. Davis,* Oklahoma; Vincent A. Carroll,* Pennsylvania; Raymond B. Littlefield,* Rhode Island; James A. Howell,* Utah.
Adjutant: James F. Barton,* Iowa.
Treasurer: Robert H. Tyndall,* Indiana.
Chaplain: Rev. William E. Patrick,* California.
Historian: Eben Putnam,* Massachusetts.
Judge Advocate: Robert A. Adams,* Indiana.

9th NATIONAL CONVENTION

New York, New York, October 18, 1927

Paris, France, September 19 to 22, 1927

Commander: Howard P. Savage,* Illinois.
Vice Commander: C. Thomas Busha, Jr.,* Montana; Stafford King,* Minnesota; John G. Sims, Tennessee; John E. Curtis,* Nebraska: John G. Towne,* Maine.
Adjutant: James F. Barton,* Iowa.
Treasurer: Robert H. Tyndall,* Indiana.
Chaplain: Rev. Joseph L.N. Wolfe,* Pennsylvania.
Historian: Eben Putnam,* Massachusetts.
Judge Advocate: Robert A. Adams,* Indiana.

10th NATIONAL CONVENTION

San Antonio, Texas, October 8 to 11, 1928

Commander: Edward E. Spafford,* New York.
Vice Commanders: John T. Raftis,* Washington; Ralph T. O'Neil,* Kansas; Paul R. Younts,* North Carolina; Dan Spurlock,* Louisiana; John M. Henry,* Minnesota.
Adjutant: James F. Barton,* Iowa.
Chaplain: Rev. Gill Robb Wilson,* New Jersey.
Historian: Eben Putnam,* Massachusetts.
Treasurer: Bowman Elder,* Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Scott W. Lucas,* Illinois.

11th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Louisville, Kentucky, September 30 to October 2, 1929

Commander: Paul V. McNutt,* Indiana.
Vice Commanders: Lawrence E. McGann, Jr.,* Illinois; George W. Malone,* Nevada; Edward L. White,* Connecticut; Miller C. Foster, South Carolina; Walton D. Hood,* Texas.
Adjutant: James F. Barton,* Iowa.
Chaplain: Rabbi Lee J. Levinger,* Ohio.
Treasurer: Bowman Elder,* Indiana.
Historian: Eben Putnam,* Massachusetts.
Judge Advocate: Scott W. Lucas,* Illinois.

12th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Boston, Massachusetts, October 6 to 9, 1930

Commander: O.L. Bodenhamer,* Arkansas.

Vice Commanders: Milt D. Campbell,* Ohio; John J. Dugan,* Delaware; Morton M. David,* Colorado; Frank Schoble, Jr.,* Pennsylvania; Willis M. Brewer,* Michigan.
Adjutant: James F. Barton,* Iowa.
Chaplain: Rev. George K. Kettell, D.D.,* New York.
Treasurer: Bowman Elder,* Indiana.
Historian: Eben Putnam,* Massachusetts.
Judge Advocate: Scott W. Lucas,* Illinois.

13th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Detroit, Michigan, September 21 to 24, 1931

Commander: Ralph T. O'Neil,* Kansas.
Vice Commanders: Bert S. Hyland,* Vermont; Roland B. Howell,* Louisiana; Harry B. Henderson, Jr.,* Wyoming; Dr. James A. Duff,* West Virginia; Dr. Neal D. Williams,* Missouri.
Adjutant: James F. Barton,* Iowa.
Chaplain: Rev. Joseph N. Barnett, Wisconsin.
Treasurer: Bowman Elder,* Indiana.
Historian: Eben Putnam,* Massachusetts.
Judge Advocate: Scott W. Lucas,* Illinois.

14th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Portland, Oregon, September 12 to 15, 1932

Commander: Henry L. Stevens, Jr.,* North Carolina.
Vice Commanders: Richard F. Paul,* Massachusetts; Forrest G. Cooper,* Mississippi; Roy L. Cook,* New Mexico; Frank N. Brooks,* Washington; Harold L. Plummer,* Wisconsin.
Adjutant: James F. Barton,* Iowa.
Chaplain: Rev. H.A. Darche,* Illinois.
Treasurer: Bowman Elder,* Indiana.
Historian: Eben Putnam,* Massachusetts.
Judge Advocate: Remster A. Bingham,* Indiana.

15th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Chicago, Illinois, October 2 to 5, 1933

Commander: Louis A. Johnson,* West Virginia.
Vice Commanders: Russell Meadows,* Arizona; Robert D. Flory,* Nebraska; William Easterwood, Jr.,* Texas; John J. Maloney,* Maine; Chas. A. Mills,* Florida.
Adjutant: Frank E. Samuel,* Kansas.
Chaplain: Rev. Irvin Q. Wood,* Idaho.
Treasurer: Bowman Elder,* Indiana.
Historian: Eben Putnam,* Massachusetts (died January 22, 1933), succeeded by Thomas M. Owen, Jr.,* Alabama.
Judge Advocate: Remster A. Bingham,* Indiana.

16th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Miami, Florida, October 22 to 25, 1934

Commander: Edward A. Hayes,* Illinois.
Vice Commanders: Charles R. Mabey,* Utah: Robert L. Gordon, Arkansas; Miguel Munoz,* Puerto Rico; Ed W. Carruth,* Kansas; Charles L. Woolley,* Rhode Island.
Adjutant: Frank E. Samuel,* Kansas.
Chaplain: Rev. Robert J. White,* Massachusetts.
Historian: Thomas M. Owen, Jr.,* Alabama.
Treasurer: Neal Grider,* Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Remster A. Bingham,* Indiana.

17th NATIONAL CONVENTION

St. Louis, Missouri, September 23 to 26, 1935

Commander: Frank N. Belgrano, Jr.,* California.

Vice Commanders: Daniel J. Doherty,* Massachusetts; Harold J. Warner,* Oregon; John K. Kennelly,* North Dakota; Milo J. Warner,* Ohio; Quimby Melton,* Georgia.
Adjutant: Frank E. Samuel,* Kansas.
Chaplain: Rev. Park W. Huntington,* Delaware.
Historian: Thomas M. Owen, Jr.,* Alabama.
Treasurer: James A. Drain,* Washington.
Judge Advocate: James A. Drain,* Washington.

18th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Cleveland, Ohio, September 21 to 24, 1936

Commander: Ray Murphy,* Iowa.
Vice Commanders; Raymond F. Gates,* Connecticut; Dr. W.E. Whitlock,* Florida; Oscar W. Worthwine, Idaho; Dr. F. Whitney Godwin, Virginia; Lewis R. Probst,* Wyoming.
Adjutant; Frank E. Samuel,* Kansas.
Chaplain: Rev. Thomas D. Kennedy,* Missouri.
Historian: Thomas M. Owen, Jr.,* Alabama.
Treasurer: John Ruddick,* Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Ralph B. Gregg,* Indiana.

19th NATIONAL CONVENTION

New York, New York, September 20 to 23, 1937

Commander: Harry W. Colmery,* Kansas.
Vice Commanders: Salvatore Capodice,* California; Leo A. Temmey,* South Dakota; Leonard Sisk,* Tennessee; J. Fred Johnson, Jr.,* Alabama; Jack Crowley,* Vermont.
Adjutant: Frank E. Samuel,* Kansas.
Chaplain: Rev. Bryan H. Keathley,* Texas.
Historian: Thomas M. Owen, Jr.,* Alabama.
Treasurer: John Ruddick,* Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Ralph B. Gregg,* Indiana.

20th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Los Angeles, California, September 19 to 22, 1938

Commander: Daniel J. Doherty,* Massachusetts.
Vice Commanders: Drury M. Phillips,* Texas; Phil Conley, West Virginia: Harry M. Johnson,* Montana; James F. Daniel, Jr.,* South Carolina; James R. Mahaffy,* Hawaii.
Adjutant: Frank E. Samuel,* Kansas.
Chaplain: Rev. Frank J. Lawler,* Illinois.
Historian: Thomas M. Owen, Jr.,* Alabama.
Treasurer: John Ruddick,* Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Ralph B. Gregg,* Indiana.

21st NATIONAL CONVENTION

Chicago, Illinois, September 25 to 28, 1939

Commander: Stephen F. Chadwick,* Washington.
Vice Commanders: Edward J. Quinn,* Maine; Charles W. Crush, Virginia; Earl T. Ross,* Nevada; James T. Crawley,* Mississippi; Henry C. Oakey,* Wisconsin.
Adjutant: Frank E. Samuel,* Kansas.
Chaplain: Rev. Frank J. Lawler,* Illinois.
Historian: Thomas M. Owen, Jr.,* Alabama.
Treasurer: John Ruddick,* Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Ralph B. Gregg,* Indiana.

22d NATIONAL CONVENTION

Boston, Massachusetts, September 23 to 26, 1940

Commander: Raymond J. Kelly,* Michigan.

Vice Commanders: Leo E. Ray,* New Hampshire; Charles Q. Kelly,* Arkansas; Matthew J. Murphy,* Illinois; James B. Fitzgerald,* Maryland; H. Elwyn Davis,* Colorado.
Adjutant: Frank E. Samuel,* Kansas.
Chaplain: Rev. Patrick N. McDermott,* Iowa.
Historian: Thomas M. Owen, Jr.,* Alabama.
Treasurer: John Ruddick,* Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Ralph B. Gregg,* Indiana.

23d NATIONAL CONVENTION

Milwaukee, Wisconsin, September 15 to 18, 1941

Commander: Milo J. Warner,* Ohio.
Vice Commanders: Erwin A. Froyd,* Wyoming; James L. McCrory,* Nebraska; Harold P. Redden,* Massachusetts; Edward R. Stirling,* Pennsylvania; Alcee S. Legendre,* Louisiana.
Adjutant: Frank E. Samuel,* Kansas.
Chaplain: Rev. Brigadier William G. Gilks, Texas.
Historian: Thomas M. Owen, Jr.,* Alabama.
Treasurer: John Ruddick,* Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Ralph B. Gregg,* Indiana.

24th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Kansas City, Missouri, September 19 to 21, 1942

Commander: Lynn U. Stambaugh,* North Dakota.
Vice Commanders: W.C. Sawyer,* Arizona; William DeLacy Allen,* Georgia; Charles E. Booth,* West Virginia; V.M. Armstrong,* Indiana; John F. Sullivan,* Vermont.
Adjutant: Frank E. Samuel,* Kansas.
Chaplain: Rev. Frederick J. Halloran,* New Jersey.
Historian: Thomas M. Owen, Jr.,* Alabama.
Treasurer: John Ruddick,* Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Ralph B. Gregg,* Indiana.

25th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Omaha, Nebraska, September 21 to 23, 1943

Commander: Roane Waring,* Tennessee.
Vice Commanders: John T. Batten,* Alabama; Arthur J. Connell,* Connecticut; Fred G. Fraser,* District of Columbia; Herman H. Lark,* Missouri; Jefferson Davis Atwood,* New Mexico.
Adjutant: Frank E. Samuel,* Kansas (died July 25), succeeded by Donald G. Glascoff,* Michigan, Acting Adjutant.
Chaplain: Rev. Paul De Forrest Mortimore,* Idaho.
Historian: Thomas M. Owen, Jr.,* Alabama.
Treasurer: John Ruddick,* Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Ralph B. Gregg,* Indiana.

26th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Chicago, Illinois, September 18 to 20, 1944

Commander: Warren H. Atherton,* California.
Vice Commanders: Martin V. Coffey,* Ohio; E.A. Littlefield,* Utah; Robert "Roy" McMillan,* North Carolina; Edward Al Mulrooney,* Delaware; Hector G. Staples,* Maine.
Adjutant: Donald G. Glascoff,* Michigan.
Chaplain: Rev. Paul F. McManus,* Kansas.
Historian: Thomas M. Owen, Jr.,* Alabama.
Treasurer: John Ruddick,* Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Ralph B. Gregg,* Indiana.

27th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Chicago, Illinois, November 18 to 21, 1945

Commander: Edward N. Scheiberling,* New York.
Vice Commanders: Bascom F. Jones,* Tennessee; Frank E. McCuffrey,* Rhode Island; Dan M. McDade,* Oregon; Ray S. Plerson,* Kansas; William P. Shadoan,* Kentucky;
Adjutant: Donald G. Glascoff,* Michigan.
Chaplain: Rev. DeWitt C. Malloy,* Florida.
Historian: Thomas M. Owen, Jr.,* Alabama
Treasurer: John Ruddick,* Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Ralph B. Gregg,* Indiana.

28th NATIONAL CONVENTION

San Francisco, California, September 30 to October 4, 1946

Commander: John Stelle,* Illinois.
Vice Commanders: R. Graham Huntington,* New Jersey; Fred LaBoon,* Oklahoma; Sam L. Latimer, Jr.,* South Carolina; H. Dudley Swim,* Idaho; Jeremiah Twomey,* Massachusetts.
Adjutant: Donald G. Glascoff,* Michigan.
Chaplain: Rt. Rev. Msgr. Edward J. Smith,* Iowa.
Historian: Thomas M. Owen, Jr.,* Alabama.
Treasurer: John Ruddick,* Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Ralph B. Gregg,* Indiana.

29th NATIONAL CONVENTION

New York, New York, August 28–31, 1947

Commander: Paul H. Griffith,* Pennsylvania.
Vice Commanders: Joseph W. Brown,* New Hampshire; Martin B. Buckner,* Michigan; Richard C. Cadwallader,* Louisiana; Earnest H. Dervishian,* Virginia; Edward J. Sharkey,* California.
Adjutant: Donald G. Glascoff,* Michigan.
Chaplain: Rev. Arthur L. Rustad,* Minnesota.
Historian: Thomas M. Owen, Jr.,* Alabama.
Treasurer: John Ruddick,* Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Ralph B. Gregg,* Indiana.

30th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Miami, Florida, October 18 to 20, 1948

Commander: James F. O'Neill,* New Hampshire.
Vice Commanders: L.W. Barns,* South Dakota; Albert A. Cree,* Vermont; Richard B. Ott,* Washington; Myron R. Renick,* West Virginia; Edward J. Sharkey,* California.
Adjutant: Henry H. Dudley,* Nebraska.
Chaplain: Rev. Frank L. Harrington,* Montana.
Historian: Thomas M. Owen, Jr.,* Alabama.
Treasurer: John Ruddick,* Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Ralph B. Gregg,* Indiana.

31st NATIONAL CONVENTION

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, August 29 to September 1, 1949

Commander: S. Perry Brown,* Texas.
Vice Commanders: James Lane,* Alabama; Leonard W. Moody,* Arkansas; James Annin,* Montana; Walter E. Alessandroni,* Pennsylvania; Edward J. Kelly,* Connecticut.
Adjutant: Henry H. Dudley,* Nebraska.
Chaplain: Rev. Thomas Grice,* California.
Historian: Monte C. Sandlin,* Alabama.
Treasurer: Neal Grider,* Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Ralph B. Gregg,* Indiana.

32d NATIONAL CONVENTION

Los Angeles, California, October 9 to 12, 1950

Commander: George N. Craig,* Indiana.
Vice Commanders: Milton G. Boock,* Minnesota; David H. Fleisher,* Missouri; Frank E. Lowe,* Maine; J.E. Martie,* Nevada; Dr. D.R. Perry,* North Carolina.
Adjutant: Henry H. Dudley,* Nebraska.
Chaplain: Rev. Edward J. Carney,* O.S.A., Massachusetts.
Historian: Monte C. Sandlin,* Alabama.
Treasurer: Neal Grider,* Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Ralph B. Gregg,* Indiana.

33d NATIONAL CONVENTION

Miami, Florida, October 15 to 18, 1951

Commander: Earl Cocke, Jr.,* Georgia.
Vice Commanders: Joe Adams,* Florida; Herbert J. Jacobi,* District of Columbia; Felix Pogliano,* Colorado; Lewis K. Gough,* California; Fred C. Bramlage,* Kansas.
Adjutant: Henry H. Dudley,* Nebraska.
Chaplain: Rabbi David Lefkowitz,* Louisiana.
Historian: Monte C. Sandlin,* Alabama.
Treasurer: Neal Grider,* Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Ralph B. Gregg,* Indiana.

34th NATIONAL CONVENTION

New York, New York, August 25 to 28, 1952

Commander: Donald R. Wilson,* West Virginia.
Vice Commanders: Adolph F. Bremer,* Minnesota; Frank R. Kelley,* Massachusetts; Thomas E. Paradine,* New York; Oscar B. Rohiff,* Wyoming; Audley H. Ward,* South Carolina.
Adjutant: Henry H. Dudley,* Nebraska.
Chaplain: Rev. Olaf G. Birkeland,* Wisconsin.
Historian: Monte C. Sandlin,* Alabama.
Treasurer: Neal Grider,* Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Ralph B. Gregg,* Indiana.

35th NATIONAL CONVENTION

St. Louis, Missouri, August 31 to September 2, 1953

Commander: Lewis K. Gough,* California
Vice Commanders: William R. Bourdon,* Arizona; Lyon W. Brandon,* Mississippi; Wilbur C. Daniel,* Virginia; Harry V. Groome,* New Jersey; J. Addington Wagner, Michigan.
Adjutant: Henry H. Dudley,* Nebraska.
Chaplain: Rev. John E. Duff,* Ohio.
Historian: Monte C. Sandlin,* Alabama.
Treasurer: Neal Grider,* Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Ralph B. Gregg,* Indiana.

36th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Washington, D.C., August 30 to September 2, 1954

Commander: Arthur J. Connell,* Connecticut.
Vice Commanders: John A. High,* New Hampshire; Dr. Deward H. Reed,* New Mexico; Truman C. Wold, North Dakota; Thomas W. Bird,* North Carolina, Herbert M. Walker,* Pennsylvania.
Adjutant: Henry H. Dudley,* Nebraska.
Chaplain: Dr. Tom B. Clark,* Oklahoma.
Historian: Robert T. Fairey,* South Carolina.
Treasurer: Neal Grider,* Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Ralph B. Gregg,* Indiana.

37th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Miami, Florida, October 10 to 13, 1955

Commander: Seaborn P. Collins,* New Mexico.
Vice Commanders: Leonard H. Jackson,* Louisiana; Patrick H. Mangan, Jr., Vermont; Howard C. Kingdom,* Ohio; Dr. Carl J. Rees,* Delaware; Robert L. Shelby, Utah.
Adjutant: Henry H. Dudley,* Nebraska.
Chaplain: Rev. Albert J. Hoffman,* Iowa.
Historian: Robert T. Fairey,* South Carolina.
Treasurer: Neal Grider,* Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Ralph B. Gregg,* Indiana.

38th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Los Angeles, California, September 3 to 6, 1956

Commander: J. Addington Wagner, Michigan.
Vice Commanders: Guy Stone,* Georgia; John H. Van Horn,* Alaska; L. Everett Page,* Texas; Gilman H. Stordock,* Wisconsin; James V. Day,* Maine (resigned Jan. 1, 1956), succeeded by William J. Holliman, District of Columbia.
Adjutant: Henry H. Dudley,* Nebraska (resigned), succeeded by E.A. Blackmore,* Wyoming.
Chaplain: Rev. Joseph MacCaroll,* New Jersey.
Historian: Robert T. Fairey,* South Carolina.
Treasurer: Neal Grider,* Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Ralph B. Gregg,* Indiana.

39th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Atlantic City, New Jersey, September 16 to 19, 1957

Commander: W.C. "Dan" Daniel,* Virginia.
Vice Commanders: Gaylord M. Brown,* Iowa; George T. Lewis, Jr., Tennessee; Carl R. Moser,* Oregon; John E. Stay, Pennsylvania; J. Edward Walter,* Maryland.
Adjutant: E.A. Blackmore,* Wyoming.
Chaplain: Rev. Joseph MacCaroll,* New Jersey.
Historian: Robert T. Fairey,* South Carolina.
Treasurer: Neal Grider,* Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Ralph B. Gregg,* Indiana.

40th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Chicago, Illinois, September 1 to 4, 1958

Commander: John S. Gleason, Jr.,* Illinois.
Vice Commanders: William A. Cottrell,* Hawaii; Ramon R. Guas,* Puerto Rico; Harry W. Miller,* West Virginia; Leo A. Lemos,* Rhode Island; Isador Levine,* Indiana.
Adjutant: E.A. Blackmore,* Wyoming.
Chaplain: Rev. Feltham S. James,* South Carolina.
Historian: Mrs. Charles A. (Emily) Herbert,* New Jersey.
Treasurer: Neal Grider,* Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Ralph B. Gregg,* Indiana.

41st NATIONAL CONVENTION

Minneapolis, Minnesota, August 24 to 27, 1959

Commander: Preston J. Moore, Oklahoma.
Vice Commanders: C.D. DeLoach, District of Columbia; John W. Collins, Pennsylvania; James B. Kerrigan,* Missouri; Robert Charles Smith,* Louisiana; James C. Bangs,* Idaho.
Adjutant: E.A. Blackmore,* Wyoming.
Chaplain: Rt. Rev. Msgr. John J. Twiss,* Massachusetts.
Historian: Mrs. Charles A. (Emily) Herbert,* New Jersey.
Treasurer: Francis Polen,* Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Ralph B. Gregg,* Indiana.

42d NATIONAL CONVENTION

Miami Beach, Florida, October 15 to 20, 1960

Commander: Martin B. McKneally,* New York.
Vice Commanders: William A. Brennan, Jr., Indiana; A. Layman Harman,* South Carolina; Nate V. Keller,* Minnesota; Irven Frank Gianotti,* Minnesota (appointed September 14, 1960, to fill vacancy created July 25 by the death of Nate V. Keller); Willard W. Brandt, North Dakota; Charles McGonegal,* California; Corydon T. Hill,* California (appointed May 4, 1960, to fill vacancy created January 27 by the death of Charles McGonegal).
Adjutant: E.A. Blackmore,* Wyoming.
Chaplain: Rabbi Robert I. Kahn, D.H.L., Texas.
Historian: Mrs. Charles A. (Emily) Herbert,* New Jersey.
Treasurer: Francis Polen,* Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

43d NATIONAL CONVENTION

Denver, Colorado, September 9 to 14, 1961

Commander: William R. Burke, California.
Vice Commanders: George K. Walker, Massachusetts; James M. Wagonseller, Ohio; Vincent J. Maxheim,* Iowa; Dr. Harry Kretzler,* Washington; R.C. Godwin,* North Carolina.
Adjutant: E.A. Blackmore,* Wyoming.
Chaplain: Rev. William H. Moss,* Tennessee.
Historian: Glenn B. Hoover,* Iowa.
Treasurer: Francis Polen,* Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

44th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Las Vegas, Nevada, October 5 to 11, 1962

Commander: Charles L. Bacon,* Missouri.
Vice Commanders: Walter W. Barnard,* Montana; Edward T. Hoak,* Pennsylvania; Wilson H. Morrison, Michigan; J. Milton Patrick, Oklahoma; Edward Wysocki, New Jersey.
Adjutant: E.A. Blackmore,* Wyoming.
Chaplain: Rev. Robert G. Keating,* Connecticut.
Historian: Earl David Young,* Colorado.
Treasurer: Francis Polen,* Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

45th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Miami Beach, Florida, September 6 to 12, 1963

Commander: James E. Powers,* Georgia.
Vice Commanders: Harold D. Beaton, District of Columbia; James W. Doon,* New Hampshire; Claude A. Hamilton,* South Dakota; Paschal C. Reese,* Florida; Victor F. Whittlesea,* Nevada.
Adjutant: E.A. Blackmore,* Wyoming.
Chaplain: Rabbi Albert M. Shulman, Indiana.
Historian: H. Armand de Masi,* Italy.
Treasurer: Francis Polen,* Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

46th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Dallas, Texas, September 22 to 24, 1964

Commander: Daniel F. Foley, Minnesota.
Vice Commanders: Earl D. Franklin, Jr., Colorado; Emilio S. Iglesias,* Vermont; Garland D. Murphy, Jr.,* M.D., Arkansas; George Emory Sipple,* Wisconsin; Harry Wright,* Mexico.
Adjutant: E.A. Blackmore,* Wyoming.
Chaplain: Rev. John J. Howard,* Virginia.
Historian: H. Armand de Masi,* Italy.

Treasurer: Francis Polen,* Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

47th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Portland, Oregon, August 24 to 26, 1965

Commander: Donald E. Johnson, Iowa.
Vice Commanders: David Aronberg,* Kentucky; Herbert D. Black,* South Carolina; Ward W. Husted,* Wyoming; Edward H. Lynch, Jr.,* Connecticut; Joseph Paul,* Michigan.
Adjutant: E.A. Blackmore,* Wyoming.
Chaplain: Rev. Morris N. Dummet,* Louisiana.
Historian: Harold A. Shindler,* Indiana.
Treasurer: Francis Polen,* Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Bertram A. Davis, New York.

48th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Washington, D.C., August 30 to September 1, 1966

Commander: L. Eldon James, Virginia.
Vice Commanders: Dr. A.R. Choppin,* Louisiana; William E. Galbraith, Nebraska; Robert O. Phillips,* Philippines; William J. Rogers, Maine; Soleng Tom, Arizona.
Adjutant: E.A. Blackmore,* Wyoming.
Chaplain: Rev. Alfred C. Thompson, New York.
Historian: Harold A. Shindler,* Indiana.
Treasurer: Francis Polen,* Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

49th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Boston, Massachusetts, August 29 to 31, 1967

Commander: John E. Davis,* North Dakota.
Vice Commanders: Robert M. Fritz,* Indiana; Lewis W. Emerich, Texas; Harry V. Klein, Pennsylvania; Frank L. Orfanello,* Massachusetts; James A. Tadlock,* New Mexico.
Adjutant: Earnest N. Schmit, North Dakota.
Chaplain: Rev. Anthony J. O'Driscoll,* New York.
Historian: Harold A. Shindler,* Indiana.
Treasurer: Francis Polen,* Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

50th NATIONAL CONVENTION

New Orleans, Louisiana, September 6 to 12, 1968

Commander: William E. Galbraith, Nebraska.
Vice Commanders: Coleman Nolen, Oklahoma; Louis R.J. Malo, Rhode Island; Roscoe D. Curtiss,* Tennessee; Dr. Edward L. Peterson, Utah; Marvin W. Roth, Wisconsin.
Adjutant: William F. Hauck,* Indiana.
Chaplain: Rev. Edward P. Nolan,* Pennsylvania.
Historian: Harold A. Shindler,* Indiana.
Treasurer: Francis Polen,* Indiana
Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

51st NATIONAL CONVENTION

Atlanta, Georgia, August 22 to 28, 1969

Commander: William C. Doyle,* New Jersey.
Vice Commanders: C. Russell Huber,* Alaska; John A. Jones,* West Virginia; Howard E. Lohman,* Minnesota; Lewis E. McCray, Alabama; Maurice Parisien,* Maine.
Adjutant: William F. Hauck,* Indiana.
Chaplain: Rev. C.J. Olander,* Mississippi.
Historian: Harold A. Shindler,* Indiana.

Treasurer: Francis Polen,* Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

52d NATIONAL CONVENTION

Portland, Oregon, August 28 to September 3, 1970

Commander: J. Milton Patrick, Oklahoma.
Vice Commanders: Kent. T. Lundgren,* Michigan; Roland D. Marble, Mississippi; Raymond F. Mudge, New Hampshire; Earl R. Norgard, Oregon; Gilberto M. Font, Puerto Rico.
Adjutant: William F. Hauck,* Indiana.
Chaplain: Rev. William D. Curtis, Minnesota.
Historian: John A. May,* South Carolina.
Treasurer: Francis Polen,* Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

53d NATIONAL CONVENTION

Houston, Texas, August 27 to September 2, 1971

Commander: Alfred P. Chamie,* California.
Vice Commanders: Claude Carpenter, Arkansas; Max Hanson,* Idaho; *Robert E.L. Eaton; Maryland; Gabriel T. Olga,* Massachusetts; John E. Gilbert, Pennsylvania.
Adjutant: William F. Hauck,* Indiana.
Chaplain: Rev. Milton B. Faust,* North Carolina.
Historian: Howard M. Swinney,* Kentucky.
Treasurer: Francis Polen,* Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

54th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Chicago, Illinois, August 22 to 24, 1972

Commander: John H. Geiger, Illinois.
Vice Commanders: Howard W. Fann, Kentucky; Arthur M. MacCarthy,* Florida; Roy Sweet, Vermont; Harry G. Wiles, Kansas; Wallace C.S. Young, Hawaii.
Adjutant: William F. Hauck,* Indiana.
Chaplain: Rev. Paul J. Schwaab, Nebraska.
Historian: G. Greer McCallister,* Ohio.
Treasurer: Francis Polen,* Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

55th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Honolulu, Hawaii, August 21 to 23, 1973

Commander: Joe L. Matthews, Texas.
Vice Commanders: Tim T. Craig,* North Carolina; Sam Gray,* California; Donald L. Gruenbaum, Ohio; Albert J. Moeller, New Jersey; Raymond J. Novak, South Dakota.
Adjutant: William F. Hauck,* Indiana.
Chaplain: Rev. L.P. Fitzpatrick,* Iowa.
Historian: Mrs. Loretta O. Phillips, California.
Treasurer: Francis Polen,* Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

56th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Miami Beach, Florida, August 20 to 22, 1974

Commander: Robert E.L. Eaton,* Maryland.
Vice Commanders: John N. Roberto, Connecticut; Frank C. Brooks, Washington; Gilbert E. Sheeks, Indiana; Merrick W. Swords Jr.,* Louisiana; N.E. Brown,* South Carolina.
Adjutant: William F. Hauck,* Indiana.
Chaplain: Rev. Jerome D. Fortenberry, Missouri.
Historian: R. Robert Filter,* Wisconsin.
Treasurer: Francis Polen,* Indiana.

Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

57th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Minneapolis, Minnesota, August 19 to 21, 1975

Commander: James M. Wagonseller, Ohio.
Vice Commanders: Boyd H. Clemens, North Dakota; Jack W. Flynt, Texas; Jay E. Harville, Tennessee; Donald H. Jeffery, Pennsylvania; William A. Lindsay, Montana.
Adjutant: William F. Hauck,* Indiana.
Chaplain: Rev. Harvey T. Goodling,* Oregon.
Historian: Nolie C. Deas, Sr., Florida.
Treasurer: Francis Polen,* Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

58th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Seattle, Washington, August 24 to 26, 1976

Commander: Harry G. Wiles, Kansas.
Vice Commanders: John W. Adams, Jr., Kentucky; Fred W. Anderson, Jr., Nevada; Leo F. Malloy, Massachusetts; Thomas W. Miller, Arkansas; James F. Walker, Minnesota.
Adjutant: William F. Hauck,* Indiana.
Chaplain: Rev. Claude E. Smithmier, Georgia.
Historian: Mrs. Dorothy Grimes, Colorado.
Treasurer: Francis Polen,* Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

59th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Denver, Colorado, August 23 to 25, 1977

Commander: William J. Rogers, Maine.
Vice Commanders: Lloyd J. Berken, Wisconsin; Thomas B. Coll, District of Columbia; Robert B. Grauberger,* Colorado; Frank A. Kelly, Georgia; Wilbur Walker, Virginia.
Adjutant: William F. Hauck,* Indiana.
Chaplain: Rev. James C. Tuxbury, North Dakota.
Historian: Alton H. Carpenter, New York.
Treasurer: Francis Polen,* Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

60th NATIONAL CONVENTION

New Orleans, Louisiana, August 22 to 24, 1978

Commander: Robert Charles Smith,* Louisiana.
Vice Commanders: Eugene V. Lindquist, Minnesota; Roger A. Munson, Ohio; John J. O'Connell,* Rhode Island; Chester Phillips, West Virginia; Irving B. Selmer,* Wyoming.
Adjutant: Frank C. Momsen,* Minnesota.
Chaplain: Rev. Walter D. Power, Maryland.
Hostorian: Arnold J. Stockstad,* North Dakota.
Treasurer: Webber LaGrange, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

61st NATIONAL CONVENTION

Houston, Texas, August 21 to 23, 1979

Commander: John M. Carey, Michigan.
Vice Commanders: L. Max Connoly,* Arizona; Alvin F. Grauerholz, Kansas; Joseph F. Ward, New Jersey; John H. Wienand, Jr.,* Alabama; Nathan M. Wolfe, South Carolina.
Adjutant: Frank C. Momsen,* Minnesota.
Chaplain: R. Drew Wolcott,* Mexico.
Historian: Harry H. Kretzler, M.D.,* Washington.
Treasurer: Webber LaGrange, Indiana.

Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

62d NATIONAL CONVENTION

Boston, Massachusetts, August 19 to 21, 1980

Commander: Frank I. Hamilton, Indiana.
Vice Commanders: G.Y. Fails,* New Mexico; Keith A. Kreul, Wisconsin; Bob Legan, Arkansas; Max E. Robinson, North Carolina; Lawrence R. Spauldin,* New Hampshire.
Adjutant: Frank C. Momsen,* Minnesota.
Chaplain: Rev. Karl E. Kniseley, California.
Historian: Phillip Haddad, Oklahoma.
Treasurer: Webber LaGrange, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

63d NATIONAL CONVENTION

Honolulu, Hawaii, September 1 to 3, 1981

Commander: Michael J. Kogutek, New York.
Vice Commanders: Ralph M. Godwin,* Mississippi; Keith H. Gwilliam, Utah; Matthew W.Jamieson,* Michigan; Robert W. Lowry, Nebraska; Dr. Almo J. Sebastianelli, Pennsylvania.
Adjutant: Robert W. Spanogle, Michigan.
Chaplain: Rev. George S. Macres,* Minnesota.
Historian: Neal S. Sundeen, Arizona.
Treasurer: Webber LaGrange, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

64th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Chicago, Illinois, August 24 to 26, 1982

Commander: Jack W. Flynt, Texas.
Vice Commanders: Frank T. Markovich,* Missouri; Dan C. McDonough,* Alaska; Percy C. Miller, Tennessee; Melvin "Doc" Simon, Vermont; David A. Wade,* Maryland.
Adjutant: Robert W. Spanogle, Michigan.
Chaplain: Rev. George R.M. Rumney, Virginia.
Historian: Bernard J. Chisholm,* Minnesota.
Treasurer: Webber LaGrange, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

65th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Seattle, Washington, August 23 to 25, 1983

Commander: Al Keller, Jr., Illinois.
Vice Commanders: Robert C. Gabrielson, South Dakota; Margaret M. Malone, New Jersey; H. Melvin Napier, Indiana; Jack C. Plato,* Oregon; Leo O. Walker, Oklahoma.
Adjutant: Robert W. Spanogle, Michigan.
Chaplain: Rev. John D. Kempf,* Ohio.
Historian: James W. Conway, Massachusetts.
Treasurer: Webber LaGrange, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

66th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Salt Lake City, Utah, September 3 to 5, 1984

Commander: Keith Kreul, Wisconsin.
Vice Commanders: J. Leslie Brown, Jr., Kentucky; Roberto Gonzalez, Puerto Rico; Charles R. Green,* Ohio; Robert W. Groccia, Massachusetts, John N. Lockhart, Hawaii.
Adjutant: Robert W. Spanogle, Michigan.
Chaplain: James Clay McKee, Utah.
Historian: Herberta T. Stark,* New Hampshire.
Treasurer: Webber LaGrange, Indiana.

Judge Advocate: Philip B. Onderdonk, Jr., Maryland.

67th NATIONAL CONVENTION

New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26 to 28, 1985

Commander: Clarence M. Bacon, Maryland.
Vice Commanders: Robert S. Turner, Georgia; Harold E. Collett,* Idaho; Ronald D. Birk, Kansas; Stewart Kunde,* Minnesota; Stephen J. Mikosky,* Pennsylvania.
Adjutant: Robert W. Spanogle, Michigan.
Chaplain: Rev. Charles G. Rice, Jr., New York.
Historian: Roy B. Mahoney, Florida.
Treasurer: Webber LaGrange, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Philip B. Onderdonk, Jr., Maryland

68th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Cincinnati, Ohio, September 2 to 4, 1986

Commander: Dale L. Renaud, Iowa.
Vice Commanders: Bernard Black, South Carolina; Norman Conn,* California; Vito M. DeFilipp, Maine; Miles S. Epling, West Virginia, H.R. Gierke, North Dakota.
Adjutant: Robert W. Spanogle, Michigan.
Chaplain: Dr. Gordon L. Patterson, Nebraska.
Historian: Ethel M. Matuschka, Wisconsin.
Treasurer: Webber LaGrange, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Philip B. Onderdonk, Jr., Maryland.

69th NATIONAL CONVENTION

San Antonio, Texas, August 25 to 27, 1987

Commander: James P. Dean, Mississippi.
Vice Commanders: William M. Detweiler, Louisiana; Doris R. Gross, Washington; Donald E. Neil, Delaware; Allen L. Titus, Indiana; Ervin F. Van Dyke, Wisconsin.
Adjutant: Robert W. Spanogle, Michigan.
Chaplain: Rev. Arthur J. Jakobiak, New Mexico.
Historian: J. Ruffin Apperson, Virginia.
Treasurer: Webber LaGrange, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Philip B. Onderdonk, Jr., Maryland.

70th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Louisville, Kentucky, September 6 to 8, 1988

Commander: John P. "Jake" Comer, Massachusetts.
Vice Commanders: Neale V. Cabral, Connecticut; Joe Frank, Jr., Missouri; W.P. "Bill" Peterson, Montana; Paul B. Phifer, Jr., Virginia; Leon Reed, Arkansas.
Adjutant: Robert W. Spanogle, Michigan.
Chaplain: Rev. Jerry Salveson, Minnesota.
Historian: Edward F. Brennan,* Illinois.
Treasurer: Webber LaGrange, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Philip B. Onderdonk, Jr., Maryland.

71st NATIONAL CONVENTION

Baltimore, Maryland, September 5 to 7, 1989

Commander: H.F. "Sparky" Gierke, North Dakota.
Vice Commanders: Thomas L. Gabel, Ohio; Harvey Holcomb, Texas; Archie Pozzi, Jr., Nevada; Ray G. Smith, Sr., North Carolina; John P. Tipping, New York.
Adjutant: Robert W. Spanogle, Michigan.
Chaplain: Rev. F. Robert Davidson, Michigan.
Historian: Richard A. Stevens, Louisiana.
Treasurer: Webber LaGrange, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Philip B. Onderdonk, Jr., Maryland.

72d NATIONAL CONVENTION

Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28 to 30, 1990

Commander: Miles S. Epling, West Virginia.
Vice Commanders: Vincent E. Blank, Iowa; Joseph E. Caoette, New Hampshire; Andrew J. Cooper, Alabama; Gerald Goetzinger, South Dakota; Vinton R. Guy, Colorado.
Adjutant: Robert W. Spanogle, Michigan.
Chaplain: Lynn S. Kearsley, Idaho.
Historian: C. Carl Pilgrim, South Carolina.
Treasurer: Webber LaGrange, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Philip B. Onderdonk, Jr., Maryland.

73d NATIONAL CONVENTION

Phoenix, Arizona, September 3 to 5, 1991

Commander: Robert S. Turner, Georgia.
Vice Commanders: Lewis Adams, Nebraska; James T. Anderson, Wyoming; Fred M. Ingellis, Mississippi; Harry F. McDowell, Florida; George E. Sampson, New Jersey.
Adjutant: Robert W. Spanogle, Michigan.
Chaplain: Rev. Michas M. Ohnstad, Minnesota.
Historian: Harold Matthew Branton, Teaxas.
Treasurer: Webber LaGrange, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Philip B. Onderdonk, Jr., Maryland.

74th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Chicago, Illinois, August 25 to 27, 1992

Commander: Dominic D. DiFrancesco, Pennsylvania.
Vice Commanders: James "Jim" G. Brouillette, Vermont; Thomas P. Cadmus, Michigan; Ronald C. Murphy, Arizona; Lawrence F. Roy, Oklahoma; Lee R. Stolful, Kansas.
Adjutant: Robert W. Spanogle, Michigan.
Chaplain: Rev. Donal M. "Jack" Squires, West Virginia.
Historian: Bettie M. Canon, Montana.
Treasurer: Webber LaGrange, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Philip B. Onderdonk, Jr., Maryland.

75th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, September 7 to 9, 1993

Commander: Roger A. Munson, Ohio.
Vice Commanders: Joseph V. Adams, Pennsylvania; Paul Andrejewski, Minnesota; Robert E. David, South Carolina; John Wm. (Bill) Murphy, Arizona; Louis A. (Tony) Santillanes, New Mexico.
Adjutant: Robert W. Spanogle, Michigan.
Chaplain: Rev. James R. Wagner, Mississippi.
Historian: Delfo Barabani, Massachussetts.
Treasurer: Webber LaGrange, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Philip B. Onderdonk. Jr., Maryland

76th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6 to 8, 1994

Commander: Bruce Thiesen, California.
Vice Commanders: Juan H. Cintron, Puerto Rico; Douglas A. Mason, Utah; John J. Mulkern, Massachussetts; K.W. Ohl, Indiana; Curtis O. Twete, North Dakota.
Adjutant: Robert W. Spanogle, Michigan.
Chaplain: Msgr. Raymond J. Kozlowski, New York.
Historian: Marjorie T. Simpson, Georgia.
Treasurer: Webber LaGrange, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Philip B. Onderdonk, Jr., Maryland.

PROCEEDINGS

of the

76th ANNUAL CONVENTION

of the

THE AMERICAN LEGION

Tuesday, September 6, 1994

. . . At 8:30 a.m., the Delegates were entertained by Mr. Peter Olé, our organist.
. . . At 9:00 a.m., the Delegates assembled for the 76th Annual National Convention, and the following proceedings were had:

NATIONAL COMMANDER BRUCE THEISEN: Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to recognize a gentleman who has been bringing us the organ music this morning. Peter Olé. Peter, thank you very much.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: At this time, the 76th National Convention of The American Legion will now come to order.

[At this time, an off-stage announcer read the intro to the show, "Through The Eyes Of A Hero." An actor portraying Theodore Roosevelt, Jr. with choral support, performed a 15 minute program. At the conclusion of the program, Theodore Roosevelt, Jr. called for the posting of the Colors, followed by the hand salute.

Speedway Color Guard of American Legion Post 500 in Speedway, Indiana, presented the Colors, following which the Delegates sang the National Anthem.]

. . . The introduction to the show was as follows:

> Throughout three-quarters of a century, the men and women of The American Legion have been making a difference.
>
> They've made a difference in countless homes and home towns. They've accomplished much through their dedication and sacrifice. And they have accomplished these things with the greatest of compassion.
>
> It is impossible to list everything The American Legion has accomplished during those years. Yet, we can reflect on the past, and gaze into the future. It becomes easier if we do it 'Through The Eyes Of A Hero.'"

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: Once again, I would like to say, good morning.

Would everybody please stand for the Invocation, and I will call upon our National

Chaplain, Monsignor Raymond J. Kozlowski of American Legion Post 799 in Buffalo, New York.

I would like to ask that he remember Governor Carlson's daughter, who is preparing for surgery this morning for a major operation.

INVOCATION
Monsignor Raymond J. Kozlowski (NY)
National Chaplain

Let us pray. Almighty God, our creator and preserver of all things, visible and invisible, we pause to offer our prayers and thanksgiving for the good gifts of this land, its institutions, and its people.

As You have made and preserved us as a nation, take us into Your keeping throughout the difficult days in which we live. Infuse in the lives of all the people a new sense of Your presence in all the values which are eternal.

Lord, our God, help the people of this great land to understand and respect one another, to work with and to work for one another in the spirit of Him who went about doing good. Be with Your servants at this Convention, and emancipate them from all that obstructs Your spirit, or impedes the will to do justice to love, mercy, and to walk firmly with Thee. Grant them the wisdom and the strength for their present task, which come to those who put their full trust in You, that they may distinguish the truth from the false, the good from the evil, in order to advance justice and the good of The American Legion, Amen.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: Remain uncovered, and please join me in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

. . . At this time, National Commander Thiesen led the delegation in the Pledge of Allegiance.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: Fellow Legionnaires, please join me in reaffirming our commitment to the principles and ideals in which our great American Legion was founded, and our dedication to the important work for which we have come together, by reciting with me the Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion

. . . At this time, the delegation stood and recited the Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion.

LIGHTING OF PEACE CANDLE

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: At this time, I would invite Chaplain Kozlowski to oversee the lighting of the Peace Candle.

Would you please stand for the lighting of the Peace Candle.

NATIONAL CHAPLAIN RAYMOND KOZLOWSKI: Sergeant-at-Arms, as we begin our 76th National Convention in the city where our founders held their 1st National Convention, we pause to remember those founders, and all veterans who have come before us. Their role can never be diminished, a role that has helped assure a peace for countless people around the globe.

. . . At this time, the Peace Candle was lighted.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: Thank you Monsignor Kozlowski. Thank you for your words of inspiration and spiritual leadership.

POW/MIA EMPTY CHAIR CEREMONY

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: It seems that each year, as The American Legion gathers in National Convention, the controversy surrounding our comrades who are missing in action and those POWs still unaccounted for grows stronger. This past year has been no exception.

With the lifting of the economic embargo on Vietnam, and the Administration's subtle moves to establish some diplomatic presence in that country, the questions about those brave men are nowhere closer to being answered.

This morning, our POW/MIA Flag is placed reverently on an empty chair by Past National Commander Robert Turner of Georgia, Chairman of the Special POW/MIA Committee and Joseph Frank of Missouri, Chairman of the Foreign Relations Commission.
. . . A moment of silence was observed.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: Let this Flag remind each and every one of you here today that The American Legion has not forgotten. Our missing are human beings with families who are still waiting to resolve a very painful part of their lives.

Please pause for a moment of silence and personal prayer for those missing, and their families.
. . . The Delegates stood for a moment of silent prayer.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: Amen.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is time to move forward with the business of this Convention. I now call upon our National Adjutant, Mr. Robert W. Spanogle, of the Department of Michigan, to issue the Call for the Convention.

CONVENTION CALL
for Seventy-Sixth Annual Convention
of
The American Legion

NATIONAL ADJUTANT ROBERT W. SPANOGLE: The Call for the 76th Annual Convention of The American Legion.

By the authority of the National Executive Committee, the Seventy-Sixth Annual National Convention of The American Legion is hereby called to meet in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6-8, 1994. The Convention business sessions will be held in the Minneapolis Convention Center - Exhibit Hall 1, First Floor.

PURPOSE

The annual National Convention is the legislative body of The American Legion. The Convention is called for the purpose of setting the programs of The American Legion for the ensuing year; amending the National Convention and By-Laws, and for the transaction of such other business as may be brought before it. At twelve o'clock (noon) of the final

session or at the conclusion of all other business of the National Convention, whichever first occurs, on Thursday, September 8, 1994 officers for the ensuing year will be elected, these being the National Commander and five National Vice Commanders, in that sequence.

REPRESENTATION

Representation in the Convention shall be by Department, and in accordance with the provisions of the National Constitution. (Sec. 3, Art. V)

"... each department shall be entitled to five delegates and one additional delegate for each one thousand members, or major fraction thereof, whose current dues have been received by the National Treasurer 30 days prior to the meeting of said convention (August 8) and whose registration fees, as fixed by the National Executive Committee, for its total authorized delegate strength, have been paid; and to one Alternate for each Delegate." (Sec. 3, Art. VII)

"Each duly registered delegate shall be entitled to one vote." (Sec. 4, Art. V)

Delegates to the National Convention shall be accredited in writing to the National Adjutant in the number and manner prescribed by Article V, National Constitution. The rights of Departments to make and accredit substitutes for absentee delegates or alternate delegates shall be recognized by the National Adjutant, provided that such substitution shall be officially certified by the Department Commander and Department Adjutant at the time of the certification required by the National Constitution or at any time prior to adjournment of the first session of the National Convention.

ALTERNATES

Alternates shall have the power to vote only in the absence of the regular Delegates.

The selection of Alternates to represent absent Delegates is a matter for decision within the respective delegations.

The vote of any registered delegates absent and not represented by an alternate shall be cast by the majority of the registered Delegates present from his/her department.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

A meeting of the new National Executive Committee will be held at the call of the National Commander within twenty-four hours after the adjournment of the National Convention, have no privileges in the Convention except as the guests of their respective Delegates.

DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS

Department Officials, unless elected as delegates or alternates to the National Convention, have no privileges in the Convention except as the guests of their respective delegates.

PRESS REPRESENTATIVES

Press representatives accompanying the delegations will be afforded every facility for their work at the Convention. They should report to the office of the National Public Relations Director in the temporary National Headquarters Offices, located in the Minneapolis Convention Center, Room 101 A-J, First Floor, upon arrival in the Convention city. Representatives of the Public Relations division will be on duty in that office to assist in issuing the necessary press credentials to bona fide press representatives. Each newspaper correspondent who wishes a press space in order to file copy by wire to his paper must present a letter of certification from his newspaper to that effect.

CONVENTION COMMITTEES

The 38th Annual National Convention, through revision of the National Constitution (Section 6, Article V) directed that the National Executive Committee should provide a Uniform Code of Procedure for the orderly organization and operation of National Conventions unless it is amended, suspended, or repealed by a majority vote of the total authorized representation at a National Convention. Such Code of Procedure was approved by the National Executive Committee at the October 17, 18, 19, 1956 meeting.

Under the Code, Convention Committees are to be called for organization purposes in advance of the opening session of the National Convention in the Convention city, with subsequent meetings as called by the Chairman, providing that all final policy forming reports shall be approved by such committees in meetings held after the National Convention is formally convened. Each Department shall designate delegates or alternates for service on each Convention Committee and shall file with the National Adjutant a list of such designees at least two weeks prior to the opening session of the Convention. Each Department must notify its designees of their appointments to committees by mail, stating the time and place in the Convention city of the initial meetings of the committees. Departments have the right of substitution of committee members providing proper credentials are filed with the Temporary Chairman, or later, with the Permanent Secretary of each Convention committee.

CONVENTION COMMITTEES

CONVENTION COMMITTEE	Number of Members to which each Department is entitled
1. Americanism	One Delegate
2. Children & Youth	One Delegate
3. Constitutional Amendments	One Delegate
4. Credential & Internal Affairs	
Credentials & Other Internal Matters (Sec. I&II)	One Delegate
Membership (Sec. III)	One Delegate
5. Economic	
Employment & Veterans Preference	One Delegate
Other Economic Matters	One Delegate
6. Finance	One Delegate

7. Foreign Relations	One Delegate
8. Legislation & Rules	One Delegate
9. National Security Committee Joint Meeting (Includes Aerospace, Defense Civil Preparedness, Merchant Marine, Military Affairs, Naval Affairs, Law & Order Convention Committees) IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING NATIONAL SECURITY JOINT MEETING	
Aerospace	One Delegate
Merchant Marine	One Delegate
Military Affairs	One Delegate
Naval Affairs	One Delegate
Law and Order	One Delegate
10. Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation	
Claims & Rating	One Delegate
Hospitals and Medical Services	One Delegate

Each Department delegation should select a chairman and secretary prior to the departure of the delegation for the Convention. The chairman and secretary, or their representatives, should arrive in the Convention city in advance of their delegation.

Delegation Secretaries should report to the office of the National Adjutant in the National Headquarters Offices, located in the Minneapolis Convention Center, Room 101 A-J, First Floor, upon arrival in Minneapolis for full detailed instructions concerning all Convention arrangements.

CREDENTIALS

Each Delegation Secretary arriving in advance of his delegation will bring with him properly executed in triplicate, the official "Certification of Delegates and Alternates," which must contain the following information:

1. Name of Department
2. Number of Posts in the Department
3. Paid-up membership at the close of business, August 8, 1994 according to the books of National Treasurer.
4. Delegation Chairman.
5. Delegation Secretary.
6. Names, addresses and post affiliations of delegates.
7. Names, addresses and post affiliates of alternates.
8. Signature of Department Commander, attested by Department Adjutant.

DELEGATION HEADQUARTERS

Each delegation will establish headquarters in the hotel to which assigned. Upon arrival in Minneapolis, all members of a Department delegation will report to their respective delegation headquarters. They will receive all necessary instructions from the

Secretary of the delegation and will not report to the National Adjutant.

CONVENTION HEADQUARTERS

Convention Headquarters will be opened by the National Adjutant in the Minneapolis Convention Center, Room 101 A-J, First Floor, 9:00 A.M., Monday, August 29, 1994.

Only business which pertains strictly to Convention matters should be addressed to the Convention Headquarters. Regular and routine correspondence will be sent as usual to the National Headquarters, Indianapolis, Indiana.

MISCELLANEOUS

Instructions covering program, order of business, and other miscellaneous matters, will be issued later.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT SPANOGLE: Mr. Commander, this concludes the Call for the 76th National Convention of The American Legion.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: I now declare the 76th National Convention of The American Legion regularly convened.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: At this time, due to the fact that the Governor has been called to his daughter's side for emergency surgery, it gives me a great deal of pleasure to introduce Bernie Melvin, Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs on behalf of the Governor.

BERNIE MELVIN
Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs

Thank you, Commander, distinguished guests, National Officers, the Honorable Mayor Belton, fellow Legionnaires and guests. I was so much distressed this morning that the Governor of the great State of Minnesota would not be able to be with you. But I understand that, and I know The American Legion understands that family comes first.

If the Governor was here, I'm sure he would ask you to enjoy the great things that Minnesota and the Twin Cities have to offer. He would tell you that Minnesota is one of those great states that has come on-board with the Flag Desecration Act.

And I think he would tell you that Minnesota enjoys bi-partisan efforts when it comes to legislation and that indeed this year, along with the passing of the Flag Amendment Memorializing Resolution, that perhaps this was the greatest year for the veterans in the State of Minnesota.

So, National Commander, may I wish for you and your Delegates, on behalf of the Governor Arne Carlson, the greatest of conventions to carry on the great work and the reputation of the distinguished action of The American Legion in past years, and for the future of our nation, God bless you, and God bless America.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: Thank you, Bernie. As I visited the Department of Minnesota in my travels, I had the opportunity to visit with Governor Carlson

and I can assure you, he is committed to seeing to it that our Flag, that Flag, the symbol that we live by, is protected in its own right.

I just want to have you convey our sympathies and well wishes and prayers that his daughter has a speedy recovery, if you would please.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: I hope by now many of you have had the opportunity to get out and explore some of the many fine shops and restaurants that Minneapolis has to offer. This is truly a remarkable city: clean, efficient, and patriotic.

This morning, it is a pleasure to introduce to the Delegates the woman who was the first African-American and first female Mayor of this fine city. In her public life, which spans many years, she has been a leader on children's issues. Her unique combination of professional volunteer and personal experiences have helped shape her commitment to public service and her vision for Minneapolis.
Please give a warm American Legion welcome to Mayor Sharon Sayles Belton.

THE HONORABLE SHARON SAYLES BELTON
Mayor, Minneapolis

Thank you Commander. I want to wish personally a very special welcome to you to Minneapolis, to you special guests and Delegates to The American Legion Convention. Good morning and welcome to our city. Minneapolis has really played a very special role in the Legion's history, and I thought I would share some of that with you, in case you have forgotten.

The very first Legion Convention was held here over Armistice Day in November of 1919. My understanding - I wasn't here then - was that it was so cold and snowy, that the participants decided in mass against locating the National Headquarters here.

One of the original founders in 1919 is a native of Minneapolis. Many of you know him. His name is George Washington Bentley and I understand that Mr. Bentley is 96 years young and he served as the Grand Marshal in yesterday's parade. If he is here today, I would like to ask him if he would stand and we could recognize him once again.

Minneapolis has an exceptional level of membership in the Legion, and I know that these members take pride and make an exceptional contribution to our community here in Minneapolis. I am proud of our Legion members from across the State of Minnesota as well the Auxiliaries, because they really do make the difference in our communities. So to the Auxiliaries of The American Legion, I want to say my hat goes off to you. You do a fine job for Minneapolis, for Minnesota, and this nation. Let's give our Auxiliaries a round of applause this morning.

I'm so grateful to The American Legion. To me, the Legion really embodies the virtue of responsibility. You assumed responsibility when your nation needed you and you served her with honor, but you didn't stop there. Now through the Legion, you continue that responsibility, that commitment, that service to nation. And I want to apologize for the fact that sometimes that service goes unnoticed by fellow Americans. But today, I want to take notice and I want to tell you how much I appreciate your great work. I appreciate that fact that you are taking care of one another. Your work through the veterans hospitals and the veterans homes does not go unnoticed by me. Your hospital visitation program, helping to ease and enrich the lives of those who have served our country, will not be forgotten by me. Your blood donor projects make the difference for all of us in this nation, and it will not be

forgotten. Your special support of the Brain Science Research right here at our VA Medical Center puts that hospital on the map.

In addition to caring for each other, you reached out to the greater community. It's clear to all of us that every time we pick-up a newspaper, it tells the story about how our society cannot forget or neglect our children without paying serious consequences. The American Legion and the Auxiliary have not forgotten this nation's children. You help to keep them safe and teach them responsibility with your school safety patrol programs. You teach them citizenship through Boys State and Girls State. I thank you for your work on behalf of your nation's children, and on behalf of the nation, I want to thank you also.

While you are here, I should tell you, in addition to doing the hard work of the Legion, that you should try to have some fun. This is a beautiful city. It is called the City of Lakes. It is one of the cleanest, safest and friendliest cities in the country. It offers you a wide range of entertainment, recreation and, even for the men, shopping. Take gifts home.

I want you to have an excellent convention. I want you to have a good time, renew your old friendships with fellow veterans, and Auxiliary members from across the country.

I want to invite you to come back soon. And from the bottom of my heart, I want to say, God bless America and God bless The American Legion.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN:. It's a pleasure to have welcomes like that on behalf of the city government, and especially when the Mayor shows up to make it more personal.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: In the months leading up to a National Convention, the host Department is responsible for a wide variety of details. Strong Department leadership is essential, and Minnesota has had that strong leader in the immediate Past Department Commander.

A Korean War veteran, he has been active in our organization for two decades. He has served as Post Commander, District Commander and Department Membership Chairman. Besides his Department leadership role, he has served on the National Americanism Commission. Please welcome a member of West Duluth Post 71, my Department Commander, Ray Galazan.

RAYMOND L. GALAZAN
Minnesota Department Commander
1993 - 1994

Commander Thiesen, distinguished Legionnaires, and guests, welcome to the Department of Minnesota. Welcome to the land of 10,000 lakes. Welcome to Minneapolis, home of the 1st National Convention.

Commander Thiesen, I want to thank you and congratulate you on your terrific year. It has been my pleasure to serve with you. It has been 19 years since we last hosted a Convention, we were excited and very pleased to have you all here.

Commander Thiesen, I don't know if this is good or bad, but the Delegates first asked "where is the Mall of America," and then they say, "by the way, where is the Convention Center."

We hope you enjoy your stay here in Minnesota. In fact, if you are having a great time, please let me know, I would appreciate that very much. If you have any complaints or problems, talk to out NEC man, Don Schroedl. Thank you very much.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: The American Legion first came to Minneapolis for a convention in 1919. I imagine there was a bit of a struggle back then to keep everything moving. Over the years, many cities have had the honor of hosting an American Legion Convention. But for 1994 it is perhaps even more of an honor as the nation's largest veterans organization returns to Minneapolis to cap off a year long Diamond Jubilee Celebration. This convention in Minneapolis is the culmination of countless hours of hard work be dedicated volunteers here in the land of a 10,000 lakes, and no one even gave us a boat to use while we were here, so maybe we can get one out of the next speaker. I'm proud to be in Minneapolis today, reflecting on the tremendous accomplishments of The American Legion, accomplishments that owe success to the civic-minded foundation that was established here three-quarters of a century ago.

Our next guest has worked many hours to see that this convention is a success. He is a United States Army Air Corp veteran of World War II. He has served on the Department and National level in a variety of positions. He is serving his 19th year as National Executive Committeeman from Minnesota. He has served as the NEC Liaison Chairman on the Public Relations Commission and currently is Liaison Chairman to the National Convention Commission. He understands what it takes to orchestrate national conventions. He served as the President of the 1975 National Convention and is again serving in that capacity as we return to Minneapolis.

Please welcome to this podium National Executive Committeeman Don Schroedl.

DONALD R. SCHROEDL
President, The American Legion National
Convention Corporation of Minnesota, Inc.

Commander Thiesen, National Officers, our Honorable Mayor, Delegates to this Convention, Legionnaires, friends and guests, good Morning.

It is indeed a privilege and a pleasure for me to bring greetings to all of you this morning. I want to welcome each and every one of you to this, the 76th Annual National Convention of The American Legion, and a warm welcome to the city of Minneapolis and to the state of Minnesota. Our Chairmen, have been planning and organizing their committees for months in anticipation of your arrival. We hope your hotel accommodations have met with your approval and that the bus shuttles haven't caused you any undue delays. We are most fortunate to have this fine convention center for our meetings and business sessions. I hope this Convention will be informative and most productive. What a great opening we had this morning, and I hope that this will set the tone for this Convention.

I hope you have had some time to enjoy our city and have the opportunity to visit some of our Legion Posts and take some time out to have a little fun. If I or any of our Chairmen of the committees can be of any assistance to you, just ask and certainly we will try to help you.

Commander Thiesen, it was a great privilege for me to present you with your badge for this Convention on your arrival to the city of Minneapolis. I wish for you a very successful and memorable Convention. I wish you well as you carry on your duties with The American Legion.

RESPONSES TO ADDRESSES OF WELCOME
National Commander Bruce Thiesen (California)

I thank each of these distinguished civic leaders on behalf of our Delegates, distinguished guests and friends, for your warm welcome to the city of Minneapolis. We are honored that you share in our pride as we draw the curtain on our Diamond Jubilee year.

Now it is time for the Delegates to this Convention to begin to focus on the important business at hand. The purpose of The American Legion National Convention is to set the direction of our organization. The issues we face, the resolutions we consider, the resolve that we take from Minneapolis, contributes to the continued success of The American Legion.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: Our next guest is a man who has certainly demonstrated his concern for his fellow veterans during six terms in the United States House of Representatives.

His legislative achievements include spearheading the successful effort to pass Agent Orange compensation, and winning passage of legislation that gives veterans the right of judicial review of adverse agency decisions. He is also very involved in the search for answers to the mysterious medical problems that plaque some veterans of Desert Storm. Our guest also has worked to bring common sense priorities to defense spending and strengthening the military's conventional readiness. He is a Marine Corps veteran of the Vietnam-era and a member of The American Legion Post 246 in Moline, Illinois.

Please welcome the Honorable Lane Evans, Congressman from Illinois.

THE HONORABLE LANE EVANS
United States House of Representatives (Illinois)

It is a great honor to be here as a member of The American Legion Post 246 in Moline, Illinois, as a former Marine and as a sub-committee chairman of the Veterans Affairs Committee in the United States Congress.

Recently I had another honor, as a former Marine, to take an Army General from my district to lunch in the United States House of Representatives dining room in our nation's capital.

As soon as we were seated, the General immediately noticed the huge painting in that room depicting General Cornwallis' surrender to General Washington after the Battle of Yorktown, thus ending our Revolutionary War. After a moment, the General said, "Congressman, I notice that General Cornwallis is surrounded by about half dozen British Army officers, and I notice that General Washington is accompanied by a similar number of American Army officers. Can you tell me why," he asked, "at this most historic moment in our nation's history, there was not a single Marine present in that room?"

Well, I did have to think about it for a moment, but then it finally came to me, and I replied, "That's easy, General, when it comes time for the surrender, you don't need the Marines anymore."

In the last decade or so of our government's actions, it's acted as if once the wars of our country are over, it doesn't need our veterans any more. You just have to look at our most recent war for proof of that. Gulf War veterans are heroes of a war fought with great bravery and unmatched high-tech expertise, but when many of them reported their injuries, officials in Washington tried to dismiss their claims as unfounded. As the number of sick veterans grew, they could no longer be ignored. I am proud as a Legion member that The

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American Legion was involved from the get-go in turning the government's attitude around.

When legislation was first proposed to help Gulf veterans, it would have helped some, but not all of these brave patriots. But the Legion could not be party to legislation that created two tiers of Persian Gulf veterans. One that would get help and another that would, at best, get partial benefits from our government.

So, the Legion worked with me to change and strengthen that legislation. It was a commitment not only of your top-notch national staff, including John Sommers, Dick Christian, Phil Wilkerson and two Persian Gulf veterans, Steve Robertson and Kimo Hollingsworth, but it was a battle fought personally and directed by your National Commander, Bruce Thiesen, who testified, who attended the hearings, who came to the mark-up and who helped carry the day for our veterans.

You know from experience that legislative fire fights can quite often be well-pitched and long lasting battles. All I know is that when I'm in one of those foxholes on the banks of the Potomac River, it's good to have the Legion fighting right alongside with you. The Legion was not only with me on this issue affecting Persian Gulf veterans, the Legion helped pass legislation that I introduced to help those veterans exposed to Agent Orange. The Legion also joined in helping me pass legislation I authored to help atomic weapons veterans who were exposed to harmful ionizing radiation.

It's abundantly clear to me that when you joined The American Legion, you joined a fighting organization. But it may not be clear to you that you joined a compassionate organization. As a member of Congress, I represent the Mississippi district of about 150 miles that was threatened last year by the severest flooding we have had in over a century I want to thank the Legion for its financial and moral support during that crisis. Your help made a big contribution to my state's comeback, and my 519,000 constituents thank you all very much for your help.

We have more battles that lie ahead of us. If national health care legislation is not going to be passed this year, and it looks as if it won't, then we will have to seek additional funding to help the VA catch up from its underfunding during the 1980s. The VA medical system cannot remain viable without a talented workforce, without proper facilities and needed equipment, and my friends, without eligibility reform.

Let me just ask any one of your here today, if when you enlisted in the respective service you went into, if you enlisted as a Category A, if you enlisted as a Category B or you enlisted as a Category C armed service personnel? Did anyone do that when they were here? Raise your hand. I don't see anyone here, and I didn't think so.

What all of us were led to believe was that at least as a last resort, the VA medical system would be there and available to us in our hour of need. But what has happened with means testing is that veterans that have gone to the VA sometimes for decades, and who often did so because they had no other health insurance whatsoever, were suddenly and cruelly turned away from the VA health care system. Yes, it is true that we have a horrible deficit problem, but you shouldn't try to balance the budget on the backs of people who fought and defended this country in time of war.

We also have a fight to make sure that none of those who defended our freedoms go hungry or homeless. Those who fought on the front lines should not now have to stand in the unemployment or soup lines, nor should those who fought the Cold War be left in the cold at night.

We also have to fight so that veterans don't have to wait for years for the benefits that they have earned. It's a sad day in America when a spouse can become eligible for

survivor's benefits before a veteran's claim is finally decided.

If we are going to reinvent government, let's start with inventing an adjudication system that works for veterans, not against them. Let's get back to the notion of giving the benefit of the doubt to those who put it all on the line for our country. To do so may cause us to spend more money. It also amazes me that we constantly face cuts in veterans programs, yet somehow the government can always find money to bail out those who may have broken the law in the S&L bail out industry. The government has spent billions of your taxpayers money doing that. I believe we would be much better off helping those who served our country than those who ought to be serving time in federal penal institutions.

I don't know when this country started to ignore the voice of veterans who need and deserve our help. Maybe it started with POWs from World War II who never received the help they needed from the Veterans Administration. It certainly happened to veterans exposed to atomic radiation who served as occupation troops at Hiroshima and Nagaski, and as guinea pigs in the atomic tests after World War II. It happened to Korean veterans. Ivy League historians can call that war a forgotten war, but the veterans of the frozen chosin and the freezin' season and the other Korean battles have not forgotten the price they paid for that war. It happened to Vietnam veterans who today continue to suffer from post traumatic stress disorder and from Agent Orange exposure, and it continues today as indicated earlier, for Persian Gulf veterans. I don't know exactly when this started, but I do know it's got to end now. If our government does not live up to its obligations to help those who defeated the fascist powers in World War II, if it forgets its Korean veterans, if it ignores the Vietnam veterans and does not help Desert Storm veterans, then it is not only not fulfilling its legal and moral obligations to veterans of past wars, but it is sending a very powerful and negative message to today's armed forces personnel, that our government will not be there when they might need benefits and help from the Veterans Administration. I believe that is a very bad message to send, because our best and most effective weapon system isn't some smart bomb or some high-tech missile system. It's that 19 year old grunt with his M-16 rifle. It's that sailor pulling watch right now at someplace far away from his home at nighttime. It's a 24 year old pilot prepared to enforce the no-fly zone in Bosnia. And all of us, no matter what service we served in, were taught one important lesson early in basic training and in boot camp, and that was that we were never to leave anyone behind. So let us not leave behind World War II veterans needing VA medical health care; let's not leave behind unemployed Korean War veterans; let us not leave behind any of the 250,000 Vietnam veterans who slept on the streets of America just last night; let's certainly not leave behind our most recent Persian Gulf veterans who suffer as a result of their service to America.

The book, *Shrapnel in the Heart*, is a compilation of letters left at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington DC. One of them was a love letter left by a widow for her deceased soldier husband that concluded: "The only way I know how to pay you back is to live my life as if it mattered, and to work everyday and in every way for what is right."

Well, working for fairness and respect for our veterans is right. That's what we've been fighting for and that's the message that should go from this convention. We have not yet begun to fight.

. . . Vice Commander Douglas A. Mason, Utah, assumed the chair.

PRESENTATION OF PLAQUE
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER MASON: Now is the time in the business of this Convention when The American Legion provides special recognition to the city of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. I am honored to be able to extend sincere appreciation to Pittsburgh for an outstanding job hosting the National Convention where Commander Bruce Thiesen was elected as your National Commander.

To help with this order of business, I would like to call on Immediate Past National Commander Roger Munson of Ohio. Roger, would you make this presentation.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER MUNSON: Thank you, Doug. It is a pleasure to be able to appear before you and join with National Commander Thiesen to extend sincere appreciation to the city of Pittsburgh for the outstanding job that they did in hosting last year's National Convention. At least they had some wonderful weather. I'm sure Pennsylvania had an awful lot to do with that. But I would like to ask Ron Conley, the President of The American Legion National Convention Corporation of Pennsylvania, to join me at the platform for this presentation, and Dr. Elmo Sebastanelli, the Honorary President.

RON CONLEY
President, The American Legion National Convention
Corporation of Pennsylvania, Inc.

Thank you very much, National Adjutant, Past National Commander Munson, fellow delegates, Pennsylvania American Legion, and the city of Pittsburgh. The Corporation was very proud to host the convention last year. On behalf of the city of Pittsburgh and the Department of Pennsylvania, we will make sure that the plaque is hung in the halls of City Hall with great honor and distinction, and to each of you, we hope you have fond memories of your convention in Pittsburgh. We wish you a successful convention here in Minnesota.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: I would like to say a special thanks to the Pittsburgh Convention Committee for having a great convention. Of course, I had a successful campaign at that convention and look where it brought me today. And so I am quite excited about that one.

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: The American Legion was founded to serve God and country. That was a direction forged from the first days following World War I. Over the years, that focus has never changed. For the past twelve months, I have found it a particular honor to serve this organization with a man dedicated to the highest ideals of service to God and country.

Monsignor Kozlowski served in the Air Force during Korea. He has served as Department Chaplain for New York for three terms. He has also served at the Post and District level during his 26 years of Legion membership. For thirty-two years this fine man has ministered to the physical and religious needs of people. He has provided this service in his ordained position on appointed boards and committees as a volunteer.

It is with great pride that I present to you, Monsignor Raymond Kozlowski, this Certificate of Appreciation for his caring and devoted service to The American Legion.

This certificate of Appreciation is presented to Monsignor Raymond J. Kozlowski, appointed and served as National Chaplain of The American Legion 1993-1994, given in recognition of faithful and honorable service to The American Legion.

It has been indeed an honor to have you serve for me, Father Kozlowski, and to say thanks for all the well-wishes and the prayers that you have given to myself and to my family this year.

MONSIGNOR RAYMOND J. KOZLOWSKI (NEW YORK)
National Chaplain

I would like to thank Department Adjutant of New York, Richard Pedro, for submitting my name for consideration for the high office of National Chaplain and to Commander Bruce Thiesen for this appointment. To all of our national officers and staff, my sincere gratitude and thanks to ensure the success of the Chaplain Program. This certainly has been a year of great satisfaction and I can assure you it was a great honor and a privilege to serve all of you as your National Chaplain.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: This has been a busy year for The American Legion. We couldn't have accomplished half of what we have accomplished if it were not for the nearly one million members of The American Legion Auxiliary, especially when it comes to our many programs and our community activities. The American Legion Auxiliary has been successful during this year because of the leadership and the guidance of my next guest.

Her special focus this year has been on youth of the nation. The youth of this nation has been helped by this next guest. She had particular interest in teen court, an innovative project utilizing a teenage jury of peers, working with community social service and corrections agencies, to deal with offenders. Teen court members look at the offense and help develop a contract with the offender to make restitution and to provide permanent rehabilitation through community service work and special educational programs. Teen court began in Helen's home town.

Please welcome the National President of The American Legion Auxiliary, a lady who truly has dedicated a year of her life and traveled this great country in service of that organization, one that I consider a true friend as we have traveled many, many miles together, Helen Holcomb.

MRS. HELEN HOLCOMB
National President
The American Legion Auxiliary

National Commander Thiesen, National Adjutant Spanogle, National Officers, Delegates and guests. It is an honor and privilege to bring greetings on behalf of The American Legion Auxiliary as you celebrate your 75 years of service to God and country. It has been my privilege to take part in many of your Diamond Jubilee events this year.

This year, being the 50th Anniversary of D Day, made it almost imperative that the National Commander and National President be at a lot of places at the same time. So Harvey and I traveled extensively with Bruce and Graetian, and on occasions their children

traveled with us. I'm so happy it turned out this way because we got to know and love the Thiesen family.

Bruce and I have been longtime friends. He served as Department Commander of California when I was Department President of Texas. We have been attending annual reunions of that group since 1981.

We have encouraged the Legion and Auxiliary to work together this year as a family. That's the way our founders intended it to be. The Commander has signed up a lot of new Auxiliary members this year and was instrumental in chartering many units throughout this nation. Another Legionnaire, Mr. Demery from South Dakota, signed up 300 members. At our session yesterday, he was presented a plaque to show our appreciation, and I wish to thank all of you for assisting in our efforts to reach that membership goat of 1.4 million. I regret we did not reach that goal, but we sincerely appreciate your support.

My theme this year was investing in youth, ensuring their future. With the combined efforts of The American Legion, the Sons of The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary, I hope that we have made a great impact on the lives of the youth throughout this nation.

As the Commander told you, a special project of mine this year was teen court. Legionnaires joined Auxiliary members in many Departments in helping us form teen court. Seventeen teen courts are in place, and over 40 teen courts are in the process. I really appreciate the help that you have given us.

Thank all of you for the many courtesies extended to me when I was in your Department, and thank you, Commander, for being a friend to the Auxiliary and for your support. Bob Spanogle and his staff have really been helpful in assisting us with our programs, and any time we called on them, they were there to help us.

Commander, my best wishes for your for a very successful Convention.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: Helen, thanks again for serving as my National President, and I appreciate the closeness and the friendship that's been drawn between these two families.

You are a great leader. It has been a pleasure to have served with you, and our success hopefully just lays the groundwork so those behind us can continue and keep those organizations moving forward.

PRESENTATION OF DISTINQUISHED SERVICE AWARD

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: Ladies and gentlemen, at this time it is indeed an honor to present the highest award of The American Legion, the Distinquished Service Award. The award is given to distinquished Americans in recognition of their outstanding service to the nation.

The recipient of the 1994 award is a unique American, a man who has served this nation in a multitude of capacities. Among the reasons for his selection for the award is that he has contributed the largest single gift ever to education, $500 million. The gift was given because of his belief that quality education is the great hope of the future.

He served as U.S. Ambassador to Great Britain. He served as a commander in the United States Naval Reserve. He founded the Annenberg School of Communication Graduate School at the University of Pennsylvania and at the University of Southern California, among other several advanced educational projects. He earned many honors and

awards for advancing and improving education, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom, awarded by President Ronald Reagan, for pioneering television for educational purposes. He has received distinguished honors for foreign diplomacy including Decorated Knight Commander, Honorary Order of Britain and the Legion of Honor from France.

The man we honor today supports the highest principles and purposes of The American Legion through extraordinary patriotism and public service which benefits the American educational system and expands opportunities for the students of our nation's schools. It is an honor to present the Distinquished Service Award to the Honorable Walter Annenberg.

THE HONORABLE WALTER ANNENBERG
American Legion Distinguished Service Medal

This is the beginning of the football season, and to be in the presence of so many true, honorable all-Americans. That is exactly what you are.

As a matter of fact, in this troubled world, it is overwhelmingly gratifying to know that we have so many thousands, hundreds of thousands, three million one hundred thousand who are wholesomely involved in true Americanism, and at this particular period, it is definitely welcomed because we need it in our country.

I'm going to take the liberty of saying just a few words of my gratitude. I want you to know it is a great honor for me to be saluted by The American Legion today, and in turn, permit me to salute all the members of The American Legion who served their fellow citizens and our country in a masterful manner. There is no role greater for a human being than serving in the house of others. This quality has been evidenced by American Legionnaires, and you have a right to be proud of your deeds.

I am humbled when I think of receiving this award in comparison with all those great Americans who have received it before me. This honor will remind me to do my best to strive to improve upon the quality of my own citizenship.

I thank all of you must sincerely for saluting me.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: At this time, I will also introduce to you to Mrs. Annenberg who is standing there with him now.

NATIONAL COMMANDER'S REPORT TO CONVENTION

Loyalty, pride, integrity, service, sacrifice, dedication, devotion, concern, commitment. There are many more words that I could use to describe members of The American Legion.

My year as National Commander is nearing an end. I am indeed a fortunate man to have had the honor to serve as your Diamond Jubilee Commander. For throughout this year I have experienced first-hand the tangible results of each of those descriptive words.

From each experience I have come away with a sense of awe. I've developed a deeper appreciation for the individualism that is so evident throughout this American Legion. As I stand before this National Convention, I must try to put into words the accomplishments and concerns of the past 12 months.

Teddy Roosevelt, Jr. provided some big footprints for any Legionnaire to fill. As your National Commander, I respect the trust that 3.1 million members placed in me. This past year, I alone did not fill those footprints. Each of you did your part to fill them as well.

During this year I've met many Legionnaires. Each of them, in their own way, was

busy making a difference in the lives of others. Yet, these dedicated volunteers seldom receive the recognition they deserve, and they usually are uncomfortable when recognized, as most veterans are.

I want you to take this message from Bruce Thiesen back to those you represent. The American Legion is great today because of what you do. And, more importantly, because of what they do at each and every post.

When the National Commander meets with the President of the United States, a governor, a mayor, or any of a number of elected officials, it isn't because of the individual who happens to be serving as Commander. No, it happens because our members are active at home, making certain elected officials understand the concerns of veterans. Because of those efforts, The American Legion is viewed as an organization with influence. These officials met with the National Commander for the exposure it brings to them.

That's why every member is important. I want you understand you are more important than anyone wearing a red cap, because what you do in your hometown reflects all the way up to this red cap. You and those you represent are, by far, the ones who make our organization what it is today.

That individual influence was very much on my mind a few months ago as, together with the National President of the American Legion Auxiliary, I took part in several wreath-laying ceremonies marking the 50th anniversary of D-Day.

As I walked the peaceful beaches of Normandy I looked out to sea and tried to picture myself as one of the young men who came off a ship, wading through water that was waist to chest high, carrying a 70 pound pack, struggling for 300 to 400 feet to get to the beach head. Then moving another 300 to 400 feet across the sand to the relative safety of a sheer cliff, all the time under heavy fire from machine guns, mortars and heavy artillery, not knowing if I'd make it to the cliffs. Of course, then you look at these cliffs and you wonder how they ever tried to scale many of the sheer cliffs that were presented before them.

Try as I would, I could not imagine the horrors of the D-Day invasion. Youngsters, just 17, 18, 19 years old, making that initial attack, would find its way to the pages of the history books. And as I am before you today, it brings back some memories of those times, and I just want to give you a picture of how young some of these soldiers were. As I was in one of the states making the same presentation, or close to the same presentation, a young lady approached me and said, "You know, my brother was one of those that never returned. He was 17. My mother and father would not sign for him, neither would an uncle, but a neighbor." So you can see the dedication that these young men had back then 50 years ago.

Over the past 50 years the veterans of D-Day, and the veterans of countless other battles in Europe and the far-flung islands of the Pacific, as well as upon the great seas, have done plenty for America and The American Legion.

Behind each and every accomplishment are the ideals set forth in the Preamble to The American Legion Constitution. You know the words, we recited them just a few minutes ago. You understand that our commitment to God and country is never ending. The words that were written in 1919 still provide focus for the Diamond Jubilee year of The American Legion.

The principles established by the veterans of World War I were well thought out and meaningful. Those principles were embraced by the veterans of World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Panama, Grenada, Lebanon and the Persian Gulf.

For as much as technology has changed our nation since the first National Convention here in Minneapolis in 1919, the steadfast human spirit of America's veterans continues to

provide a stabilizing influence for citizens, anchored in a commitment to God and country.

Among those principles established in 1919 is a pledge to preserve the memories and incidents of our association in the great wars. That's one reason I was at Normandy. Yet our remembrances never end.

Last Veterans Day we witnessed the dedication of a special memorial in Washington, D.C, a memorial that recognizes the impact of women veterans on the lives of countless Vietnam troops. The American Legion supported the efforts to bring the Vietnam Women's Memorial from a beautiful dream of Legionnaire Diane Carlson Evans and her friends, to reality. Just as Legionnaires did more than a decade ago for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, our members opened their wallets and checkbooks to help to preserve their memories of service.

The completion of the Vietnam Women's Memorial certainly has not marked the end of Legionnaire support for such endeavors. Today, Legionnaires are busy raising funds for the Korean War Veterans Memorial and the Women In Service To America Memorial.

In every case, the success of these memorial efforts could not be possible without the dedication of individuals. Men and women who continue to bring life to the Preamble to our Constitution.

Building memorials to help everyone remember the struggles of the past is important. Yet, you and I know that we hope there won't be a need to build new memorials to remember future battles.

You understand that war is the outward sign of failed diplomacy. That's why The American Legion cares about foreign policy and our national defense. The end of the Cold War was welcomed, yet with it came countless ax-wielding bureaucrats rushing to whack away at the defense budget. Take some money from this area, a little more from weapons development, and still some more from benefits. The cumulative total of the cuts certainly looks good in dollars and cents on a computer print-out. What I can't understand is, don't people realize why new weapons and equipment for the military are so important? The lives of young servicemen and women who will be asked to serve in future wars or peacekeeping missions are at stake. Someone's son or daughter, mother or father, is depending on our country to field the best force with the best equipment. That costs money.

What about the real life impact of these cuts on weapons systems and personnel? Let me share with you some concerns I had after visiting with our forces in Korea and other Far East areas. Our technical ability is not in question. Where the concern lies is in providing sufficient forces, men and women, who are willing to fight for their country, whatever the cause.

In our downsizing effort we're often jeopardizing our technical systems because we now have just 2.2 or 2.3 people per position. That figure should be 3 people per position at a minimum so they only have to work 8-hour days, 10 hours at the most. Right now, many troops are working 12 to 16 hours a day because of manpower shortages. That's just to accomplish our primary mission. The cumulative defense cuts by next year could reach $44 billion. That could place our national security at risk.

Couple the dollar cuts with a manpower reduction of a half-million and my concern deepens. Yet, faced with such cuts our nation seems anxious to commit our remaining forces to settle the affairs of other countries through the United Nations. Somalia, Bosnia, Haiti. Where will it end? How can we afford these operations? We can't.

America must decide whether it wants to be continually engaged in military

commitments across the world. If so, our military should be built up, not torn down. These far-flung peace-keeping actions also reveal another flaw in our nation's national security and foreign policy, a lack of a clear definition of our national interest in these endeavors. They also seem to lack real concern for the status of our men and women who are captured by hostile forces. Every time they set foot on foreign soil for peacekeeping duty they leave their safety in a policy vacuum.

How many more GIs will be killed because our foreign policy ignores the dangers of peacekeeping and foreign command of U.S. troops? How many more GIs will die because Congress is not involved in the commitment of U.S. forces to peacekeeping missions? When will America care enough about its troops that it will give POW status to every U.S. service person captured in peacetime? Until these questions are answered, no American service person should be sent into harm's way.

We must never forget that despite eloquent speeches about our government's commitment to "never leave its warriors on the battlefield," President Clinton announced earlier this year he was lifting the economic embargo against Vietnam. I believe, as many of you do, that he signed away the economic leverage that was America's best hope for persuading Vietnam to extend 100-percent cooperation to insure the fullest possible accounting of our Prisoners of War and Missing in Action.

I've been asked many times why The American Legion pursues the POW/MIA issue. My answer is: we're tired of having our POW/MIAs written off by the stroke of a pen as they were for World War II and Korea. America is not just another country. We are a nation that has a covenant with its people and a covenant with its defenders. To reward Vietnam is to declare our POWs to be acceptable losses. As our sons and daughters will find out, whenever we agree to acceptable losses, we usually get the losses we think are acceptable. The lives of America's POWs and their families must never be put in such a category.

Despite the cut backs, the long hours, and the normal hardships each of us knows come with military service, I know the morale of our men and women in uniform remains high. Still, you and I can do something to help. These young troops are doing a great job. Our job is to let them know that.

At the same time, let your elected lawmakers in Washington know that a head-long rush to downsize forces in the heady guise of a peace-dividend is not in the best interest of our forces and the nation those men and women have sworn to defend.

I don't have to tell you, that our nation's commitment to veterans doesn't end when the uniform is quietly hung in a closet. Caring for the special needs of veterans is a constant challenge for the Department of Veterans Affairs. You know, our government always seems to have enough money to recruit young men and women. Well, while they are paying those front end costs, perhaps they should set aside the funds for future care. It's the right thing to do.

Recent months have produced more than the customary amount of raised eyebrows among the veteran community. Today, the Department of Veterans Affairs is virtually buried under a backlog of claims, some 540,000. For some claims the process can take years to be resolved, all the while veterans deserving of compensation, sit and wait, and sometimes die.

As the VA struggles under the mountain of paperwork, *The American Legion Magazine* uncovered an investigation of two lawyers from the Board of veterans Appeals who apparently destroyed supporting documents in claims folders. Since that discovery, both lawyers no longer work for the VA. One has had a hearing, entered a plea bargain, and will

be sentenced on November 1. The other lawyer's actions are still under investigation. We believe up to 1,000 veterans files may have had supporting documents destroyed.

Toss into the mix the ongoing investigations into the health problems of many Gulf War veterans placing additional burdens on the VA Medical Care system and the Department of Defense and it is easy to see why the VA is struggling.

The American Legion believes the VA should not be allowed to delay treatment of veterans, or delay payments for their disability, while the agency tries to sort out the cause of the veteran's illness. At the same time, it is important to remember that as the nation's largest veterans organization we have a strong interest in keeping the Department of Veterans Affairs viable, especially in light of the on-going debate over a national health care system.

Unfortunately, after passing the crime bill, Congress went on vacation. Still sitting in their "in" baskets as they left was national health care reform. As it turns out, that's the good news, that nothing's been done on health care reform. The bad news is that some sort of health care reform is very likely and veterans are being pushed to the sidelines.

When this campaign to improve the nation's medical system began, the VA, veterans organizations and The American Legion were major players. Our input was sought. Our suggestions were included in the administration's formal plan for health care reform. But, as I'm sure you've heard, the White House's health care reform plan has died a noisy death in Congress. Now we hear rumors that when it returns to work, Congress will only have time before the November election for hasty, piece-meal changes to the health care system. We have no guarantee that VA will be included in any changes. In fact, the Veterans Administration and veterans are not mentioned in most of the health care proposals you've read about recently.

We cannot let this opportunity pass us by. This is a moment that The American Legion has been waiting for, and working toward, for a long time, the moment to cure the ills of the VA medical system and to ensure that America's veterans get the top-notch health care they deserve.

This is where you come in. Members of the Legion's national staff are doing an outstanding job working with the experts in Congress who track the fine details on health care reform. The leadership of The American Legion has joined forces with our friends in the other veterans service organizations to make sure that the VA health care system is preserved in any health care reform.

Still, it's an up-hill fight. The insurance industry, the doctors, the hospital administrators, the drug companies and other special-interest groups have hundreds of lobbyists knocking on doors on Capitol Hill, making sure lawmakers protect their interests.

Who's going to look after the veterans' interests? I've got an answer. In fact, as I look around this hall, I can see about 6,000 answers. Now is the time for you, for every one of you here today, to make your own contribution toward health care reform. Lawmakers listen to voters. I hope I can get a commitment from every one here that, before you leave Minneapolis, you'll send a message to the men and women who represent you in Congress. And when I say, "send a message", I'm not talking symbolically. Before you leave here Thursday, I'd like you to write a note to your representatives in Congress and drop it in the mail.

We're going to make it easy for you. Under the escalators outside this convention hall you will find tables and members of the Legislative staff ready to help you pen your personal letter to Washington.

What should you tell the folks in Congress? The main things they need to know are that you're watching and that you expect them to protect our veterans. Health care reform can, and should be, a vehicle for improving the VA, not an excuse for hurting it. Some good, solid information about the impact of health care reform upon veterans can be found on the health care table outside this convention hall.

While the debate continues, The American Legion must remain committed to the continuing existence of a strong VA medical care system. The American Legion was pressing for VA health care reform before the current administration began their national campaign. We worked with the administration and the VA was included in their health care bill. If legislation is enacted that excludes the VA we will take the lead in correcting that error. This is the right thing to do. Isn't that a concept that has motivated Legionnaires over the decades? Certainly it is. Taking care of our fellow veterans was the right thing to do in 1919, and it's the right thing to do in 1994. Taking care of the families of veterans was the right thing to do in 1919, and it's the right thing to do in 1994. Taking care of the nation's youth was the right thing to do in 1919, and it's the right thing to do in 1994.

This past year Legionnaires doing the right thing recorded some pretty impressive statistics:

1,847 Boy Scout Troops Sponsored
7,070 Scholarships Awarded
18,463 Boys State/Boys Nation Delegates
4,400 Baseball Teams
107,758 Units of Blood Donated
$21,675,250 Contributions to charity
$508,597 National Emergency Fund Contributions
533 National Emergency Fund Grants Awarded

I think you get the picture. While these statistics are not totals for the entire organization and for every program, they illustrate the commitment of countless Legionnaires. Our dynamic membership, led by men and women like you, has never faltered when it came to doing the right thing.

That's why The American Legion has waged a "quiet revolution" to protect the United States flag from physical desecration for more than five years now. That revolution has led to the adoption of memorializing resolutions in 44 states, representing nearly 94 percent of the population. Those memorializing resolutions ask Congress to adopt a Constitutional Amendment to allow the federal government and the states to enact legislation to protect the flag from physical desecration.

Now the "quiet revolution" is becoming more noticeable. With the formation of the Citizens Flag Alliance in mid-May, more than 65 other organizations have taken-up the call. The Citizens Flag Alliance can use the help of each of you.

The issue failed in 1990 because there weren't enough votes. Help get the votes in Congress this time. Write your congressional representative and your senators. Tell them that you want them to stand with The American Legion and the Citizens Flag Alliance and protect the U.S. Flag. You can also be a tremendous help by working to build the coalition in your community. The American Legion is strong, but we can't win the battle alone. You probably belong to other groups or clubs that could lend their voice and volunteer to lobby Congress on this issue. Speak about the issue. Talk to your friends. By building a coalition

of like-minded organizations, we can move Congress to act on behalf of Old Glory. And, don't forget to tell your children and grandchildren about the meaning of the flag and the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Just like every other program of The American Legion, the campaign to protect the flag will only succeed if Legionnaires are united and committed in achieving this goal. My friends, we must protect our flag from those who don't appreciate the sacrifices that were made under its inspiration, in wars that cost the lives of hundreds of thousands. The American Legion stands ready to restore honor to our flag and to those who died serving under it.

The flag is important to me because it represents the country of which I am a part. I learned early in my life that the flag was special. My military service deepened my understanding of the importance of our flag. Yes, it is a symbol, a symbol of all that we enjoy here at home, a symbol of the peace and freedoms that are afforded citizens because of the service and sacrifice of veterans.

It is because of our deep respect for the Flag of the United States that The American Legion founded the Citizens Flag Alliance this spring. That Alliance has brought together representatives of some 65 organizations, representing more than 25 million American citizens, in a campaign to protect the Flag of the United States from acts of intentional physical desecration. The campaign is extensive. It is a campaign that requires your direct involvement. You, and those you represent, must be aware of the Citizens Flag Alliance, what it wants to do, and how you can play a vital role. This afternoon, just minutes after this first business session of the 76th National Convention gavels to recess, a special meeting will be held, right here in this hall. You must be at this meeting. We will be joined by delegates to the American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion National Conventions. The information that will be discussed will put the efforts of the Citizens Flag Alliance into perspective for you.

The American Legion efforts to protect the Flag of the United States from willful acts of physical desecration has not wavered in the past five years. Now, as we look to the future, each of us must understand that the success of this campaign lies in total community involvement. You, and those you represent, must become active at home. Are we doing the right thing? There is no doubt in my mind that this is the right issue, this is the right time, and we are the right organization to get the job done.

In June of this year a Gallup Survey revealed that Americans widely believe people in our country are less patriotic than in previous decades. Is that survey sending a signal to each and every one of us? It could be.

I certainly believe that most Legionnaires would consider themselves to be patriotic. But are we failing to let others know of our feelings? Yes, my fellow Legionnaires, I believe we can, we must, do better in the future to instill in the youth a special love for this country, our freedom, and the living symbol of it all.

Loyalty, pride, integrity, service, sacrifice, dedication, devotion, concern, commitment, each and every one of those words do describe Legionnaires. Each and every one of those words should also serve as teaching points for the years ahead. For it is up to us, the war-time veterans of this great land, to renew our efforts to serve God and country.

The future, despite some dark clouds, holds our only hope. We cannot look back. We must look forward. There must be community involvement, and those you represent must become active here and at home. We cannot look backward, we have got to look forward. You, and those you represent, are the life-blood of our organization. For 75 years The

American Legion has looked to the future, met constant challenges, and made a difference. That is the legacy we inherited from the founders who met in the first national convention in Minneapolis.

It has been a great honor to serve you as your Diamond Jubilee Commander, and to say thank you for what you have given to this organization and to me, and all the support to keep me moving throughout this community and representing you as your 1993-94 Commander.

May God bless each and every one of you. God bless The American Legion, and God bless America.

INTRODUCTION

At this time, I will introduce my family. First of all, my wife Graetian, the one who has been very steadfast and very supportive during my last twelve months. Then my three children who have been giving me the strength and the encouragement from home to move forward and to stay on the road as long as I do, but then to spend a few days with them whenever time would permit. My daughter, Dianne Thiesen Zaro, sang for you in the opening. My son Kevin and daughter Sheryl have been ideal fans for me.

I think one thing that has been very important is the support you receive from your family as you travel around this country. My wife told me early on in this Diamond Jubilee Year to see if I could somehow find a diamond in the path. I found three diamonds in the path, our children. I would like to present to their mother a small token of my appreciation in remembrance of what she has meant to me as a stabilizer in our family.

MRS. THIESEN: They are diamonds!

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: Thank you all for allowing me the opportunity to recognize my children earlier than normal. They have to return home to continue a very important part of their lives, their education. The rest of my family will be introduced later on this week.

Lastly I must thank all those around the country who have given to my family their support and prayers.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: Delegates to this 76th National Convention, it is great to be gathering here in Minneapolis, just a few blocks from where the 1st National Convention of our organization was held. At the 1st National Convention in the old Minneapolis Auditorium at 11th and Nicolette Streets, many decisions were made that would shape the destiny of The American Legion.

Among those decisions was the selection of a city for our National Headquarters. *The American Legion: An Official History 1919 - 1989* by Tom Rumer details some of the political struggles that led to the selection of Indianapolis in heated competition with Minneapolis, Kansas City and Washington D.C. The major factor in selecting Indianapolis apparently was the city's central location and a major rail hub. What the official history doesn't report is the behind-the-scenes lobbying efforts of three men from Indianapolis, Walter Myers, Dr. T. Victor Keene and Robert L. Moorhead.

These individuals worked tirelessly to secure the National Headquarters for their city. They mounted a vigorous public relations campaign to convince delegates of the merits of the Hoosier capital city. They even had elevator operators dropping VIP's off on the Indianapolis floor of the hotel, when they asked to go to another hospitality room, and that

is where they often ended up talking to the people. People trying to call city hospitality rooms most often ended up talking to someone from Indianapolis, despite who they actually asked to talk with. It seems these tireless Indianapolis civic representatives had made a special impact on the telephone operators. Perhaps their biggest challenge was using parliamentary rules to have the majority report for another city tossed out and the minority report favoring Indianapolis presented to the delegates.

Such techniques wouldn't work today. Yet, because of these efforts The American Legion National Headquarters is located in the heart of Indianapolis, housed in a state-owned building that is free of rent. The American Legion Mall is a great community gathering spot in Indianapolis where a variety of events are staged in the summer months, and every month during the summer.

With us this morning is a gentleman who heard about the 1st National Convention from a great source, his father, a founder of The American Legion and one of the three men from Indianapolis who worked so hard to win the National Headquarters debate.

Robert G. Moorhead, or R.G. as he is know to his friends, is a retired Major General. He is a tremendous civic leader who served behind the scenes in a variety of efforts. He's a man who knows how to motivate people, bringing out the best in each as a variety of skills are brought together to meet specific community needs. He is a friend of The American Legion, having been a Paid-Up-For-Life member of Post 32 in Indianapolis for 47 years. Please join me in a rousing round of applause for Robert G. Moorhead, a distinguished military and civic leader, and a proud Legionnaire from Indiana.

ROBERT G. MOORHEAD (INDIANA)
Distinguished Military and Civic Leader

Indianapolis thanks you. We also thank The American Legion Headquarters for being such a great corporate citizen, in all of these years.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: At this time the Chair recognizes Herm Harrington of New York, Chairman of the National Convention Committee on Credentials and Internal Affairs for the purpose of making a report.

REPORT OF SECTION ON CREDENTIALS
AND OTHER INTERNAL MATTERS
(of Committee on Credentials and Internal Affairs)
Section I
Herman G. Harrington (NY), Chairman

To the Seventy-Sixth Annual National Convention of The American Legion, Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994.

Forty-six members and guests of the section on Credentials and Other Internal Affairs met at 9:00 a.m., September 4, 1994, in Room 103D, 1st Level of the Minneapolis Convention Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Herman G. Harrington of New York was elected Chairman, and Larry J. Besson of Illinois was elected Secretary.

It was regularly moved, seconded and carried to accept the Delegate Strength Report as reported by the National Adjutant certifying membership 30 days prior to National

Convention. It was regularly moved, seconded and carried that the report be based upon the provisions of Section 3, Article V, of the National Constitution: Five delegates for each Department, plus one additional delegate for each 1,000 members or major fraction thereof, whose current dues have been received by the National Treasurer thirty (30) days prior to the opening of the Convention (August 8, 1994); and one alternate for each delegate. In addition, in accordance with Section 3, Article VII, members of the National Executive Committee which committee includes the National Commander, who exercises his vote only in his capacity as Chairman of the National Convention, and five (5) National Vice Commanders are delegates to the National Convention. All living Past National Commanders are members of the National Executive Committee without vote and life delegates to the National Convention with vote, which is exercised in their respective Departments.

Motion was adopted by majority vote that the Committee Chairman and Secretary be authorized to sign the Committee report on behalf of the Committee.

In Accordance with the membership report certified to the Convention Committee on Credentials and Internal Affairs by the National Adjutant on August 8, 1994, and in accordance with Article V of the National Constitution, the voting strength of the 58 Departments is 3,425 allocated as follows:

Alabama	33	Missouri	74
Alaska	15	Montana	19
Arizona	43	Nebraska	71
Arkansas	34	Nevada	13
California	167	New Hampshire	32
Canada	7	New Jersey	95
Colorado	32	New Mexico	21
Connecticut	40	New York	226
Delaware	15	North Carolina	56
District of Columbia	10	North Dakota	35
Florida	129	Ohio	177
France	9	Oklahoma	41
Georgia	53	Oregon	38
Hawaii	10	Panama Canal	7
Idaho	17	Pennsylvania	284
Illinois	173	Philippines	11
Indiana	150	Puerto Rico	18
Iowa	89	Rhode Island	17
Italy	6	South Carolina	32
Kansas	66	South Dakota	36
Kentucky	40	Tennessee	44
Louisiana	51	Texas	106
Maine	35	Utah	17
Maryland	93	Vermont	24
Massachusetts	82	Virginia	59
Mexico	7	Washington	48
Michigan	109	West Virginia	37
Minnesota	139	Wisconsin	89

Mississippi	30	Wyoming	14

Mr. Commander, as a duly elected and registered Delegate from the Department of New York, I move for the adoption of this report.
. . . The motion was duly seconded and carried.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: Thank you Mr. Chairman. It has come to my attention that there is a matter of some urgency which requires the attention of the Convention Committee on Credentials and Other Internal Matters, Section 2. Therefore, as Chairman of The National Convention, I'm asking the Committee to reconvene this afternoon immediately following our recess. The meeting should require no more than about 20 minutes. Because of the nature of the material to be discussed, all members should be at this meeting.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: Earlier this morning Congressman Penny was in the audience, and if he is, we will recognize him at this time. It was a pleasure to have him up here on the stage.

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: Now I would like to make a special presentation to a good friend of The American Legion, and a person who I came to know many years ago. Please welcome to the Diamond Jubilee Convention a man who has come before you many times representing the Adolph Coors Company, Warren Hutchings. Warren it is a pleasure to have you here this morning, and have you come before us. I am sure that, all of you are aware of the great things that the Coors Company does. It does give me a great deal of personal privilege and pride to present on behalf of The American Legion a Certificate of Appreciation to Warren Hutchings, Soldier, Businessman, Veterans Advocate, and a friend of The American Legion

In grateful appreciation for his unceasing commitment to "Preserve the Memories and Incidents of our Associations in the Great Wars."

As demonstrated by the Commemorative Painting Series of the Adolph Coors Company which Memorializes the Service and Sacrifice of America's Fighting Forces

Warren, congratulations, and I thank you on behalf of The American Legion and its members for the great work that you and your organization have done for the many veterans of this country.

WARREN HUTCHINGS
Adolph Coors Company Representative

National Commander Bruce Thiesen, National Officers, Ladies Auxiliary, distinguished guests, fellow veterans and ladies and gentlemen, good morning, especially Colorado.
This is great to receive this kind of recognition for a country boy from the Bronx. I am

deeply honored to receive this award today. This would never have been possible without the support of a company that cares like the Coors Brewing Company. I retired in December, and they called me back for seven months as a consultant.

In one of my last meetings with Pete Coors, I'm going to strongly recommend they continue the support of the Congressional Chartered Service Organizations, especially The American Legion.

I want to personally thank a person that I've worked with the last ten years, who has been a great supporter and it has been a pleasure, Bob Spanogle. I also want to thank a group of people who have been my sounding board throughout the country for the last ten years, that is the group of people they call Steivos.

As I traveled throughout the United States, especially the last couple of years, something that I have noticed is that our benefits are slowly disappearing. Unless we become involved, we will lose everything that we fought for.

I leave you with this thought with you. Show me a country that forgets its veterans, and I will show you a country that will lose it's identity.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: The Chair at this time recognizes Charlie Pesso of New York, Chairman of the National Convention Committee on Legislation and Rules for the purpose of making a report.

REPORT OF NATIONAL CONVENTION COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATION AND RULES

Charles Pesso (NY), Chairman

Mr. Commander, Monsignor Kozlowski, Officers of The American Legion and my fellow Delegates. The Convention Committee on Legislation and Rules met at 11:00 A.M. on September 4, 1994, in Room 102C of the Minneapolis Convention Center in Minneapolis, Minnesota. There were 47 Delegates in attendance.

Following preliminary activities to officially organize the Committee, the Permanent Chairman and Secretary were elected. Charles Pesso, Delegate from New York, was elected Chairman and Claude Carpenter, a Delegate from Arkansas, was elected Secretary. The Committee then proceeded to the business agenda by considering the rules of this Convention.

A motion was approved by the Committee to recommend adoption of the Standing Rules of the Convention as they appear in the Uniform Code of Procedures for Organizing National Conventions of The American Legion. A motion was also approved to authorize the Permanent Committee Chairman and Secretary to sign the report on behalf of the Convention Committee on Legislation and Rules.

Deputy Commissioner of Veterans Affairs for the State of Minnesota, Jeffrey Olson, presented remarks regarding lobbying Congress on behalf of veterans at the state and national levels.

There were no resolutions referred to the Legislation and Rules Committee for consideration. However, the Committee wishes to offer the Delegates to this Convention a brief report on current Congressional developments affection issues of primary interest to The American Legion.

The 103rd Congress faces a busy schedule between now and adjournment. Appropriations bills will receive much attention as the fiscal year deadline, October 1,

approaches. This year The American Legion has already presented testimony to five appropriations subcommittees in both chambers and will continue to play an active role as funding proposals are finalized.

The American Legion is deeply involved in the debates concerning national health care reform. Congressional lobbying efforts have been stepped up to include the Department of Veterans Affairs' medical system in the reform movement. Repeatedly, The American Legion has reminded Congress that 27 million veterans and the government's largest medical system cannot and must not be ignored.

Specifically, the Legion seeks eligibility reform that provides all veterans with a guaranteed, comprehensive benefits package. The VA medical system must have a dependable funding source that will provide for needed services. The VA medical system must receive a "financial transfusion" to revamp its service delivery system and the VA medical system must retain its uniquely specialized missions, such as rehabilitation, prosthetics, spinal cord injury, blindness, aging, mental health and long-term care. Finally, the VA medical system must continue to be a national asset in medical education, medical and prosthetic research, while maintaining adequate support as a back-up operation to the Department of Defense medical system.

The American Legion played a key role getting Congress to address the health care issues of returning Persian Gulf veterans and their families. Passage of Public Law 103-210 gave these veterans access to VA health care. Now pending legislation would provide compensation for those whose medical conditions have not been adequately diagnosed and no disability ratings yet awarded.

As the November elections draw near, Legion legislative mandates are being addressed in political campaigns across the country. Candidates and incumbents are debating national security issues like downsizing of the military, deployment of armed forces personnel and POW/MIA concerns. With the passage of 44 state memorializing resolutions calling for protection of the American Flag from physical desecration, momentum is mounting for action early in the 104th Congress.

On September 19 and 20, Legionnaires from across the United States will accompany the new National Commander to Capitol Hill. Their mission will be to discuss the legislative mandates passed during this Convention with their Congressional members. The highlight of that event will be the National Commander's testimony before a joint session of the Senate and House Veterans Affairs Committees.

Mr. Commander, I as a duly authorized Delegate to this Convention of the great Department of New York, I move the adoption of this report and the adoption of the Standing Rules of the Convention as they appear in the Uniform Code of Procedures for Organizing National Convention of The American Legion.

. . . The motion was duly seconded and carried.

BLOOD DRIVE

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: For several years our organization has performed a vital community service in every convention city. That service comes in the form of the National Convention Blood Drive, a proud effort that provides critical supplies of life-giving blood at an important time of the year.

This year the National Convention Blood Drive is even more remarkable. We are working closely with three blood operations, benefiting not only the large VA Medical

Center here in Minneapolis, but more that 150 hospital in 4 states.

This is our eighth year for the National Convention Blood Drive. Saturday, the opening day of the drive, 63 units were collected. That's a good start, but in the next two days, I hope to see that number reach nearly 300 units of blood.

This year, besides the cap pin and year bar, the Veterans Blood Donation, Inc., a not-for-profit agency working with the VA Medical Center, is providing a coffee mug to the first 300 donors making this 76th National Convention Blood Drive. As we continue the very important business of this Convention, I urge each of you who is able to take the time to give a unit of blood.

THE AMERICAN LEGION DISPATCH

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: Whether it's the latest information on the plight of Americans missing in action, or former prisoners of war, or the most up-to-date news of the effort to obtain a Constitutional Amendment to protect the American Flag from physical desecration, the best way to keep up with the programs and challenges of The American Legion is by reading the *Dispatch*.

A special daily edition is being distributed during the Convention. But, to make it more valuable you should subscribe to the *Dispatch*. Until September 30th you can become a new subscriber for just $12. That's $4 off the normal subscription rate. You'll get 22 editions of hard-hitting, timely and thought-provoking information on issues of concern to the Legion and America's veterans.

Stop by the *Dispatch* booth here in the Convention Center and start your subscription today. I'd also like to remind you to pick-up a copy of the special *Dispatch* supplement on the GI Bill. The detailed coverage of this supplement illustrates the impact of the GI Bill, which was passed 50 years ago. It also documents The American Legion's role in the passage of the first GI Bill, and subsequent GI Bills for veterans of Korea, Vietnam and today.

The *Dispatch GI Bill Supplement* is something you should take back to your own Post so others can understand the role our organization played, and the positive impact the bill played in the lives of countless veterans.

BUICK PROMOTION

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: It's also appropriate to call your attention to this display of the beautiful 1995 Buick in the Exhibit Hall next door. Many of you have been stopping by, dropping off your donations and crossing you fingers. The qualification process is rather simple. Visit the display, give your donation to the people at the display, and be sure and deposit your slips in the container.

The money will be used for something special next year. You'll be hearing more about that today.

NATIONAL CONVENTION OPENING VIDEO

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: This morning for our opening the subject was "Though the Eyes of a Hero." This morning's Convention opening production about The American Legion's contributions to our nation was too good not to share with others.

That's why we captured the production on video tape. And within a couple of days that tape will be edited and ready to send to you. To get your copy, just simply stop by the Emblem Sales Counter, fill out an order blank, drop off $9.95 and we'll do the rest. Be sure to buy "Though the Eyes of A Hero" and share it with others in your home town. The story of The American Legion is a story that must be told. Show the production to potential members, civic leaders and other civic groups and your fellow members who could not be here.

CFA FORUM

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: Before we move on with the business of the National Convention, I once again want to remind you of a very important forum on the Citizens Flag Alliance that will be held this afternoon in this very hall, and will begin only about 15 minutes after we adjourn. I cannot emphasize strongly enough how important this campaign and your involvement is to this organization.

After the stirring words of our opening production this morning, you must be filled with new energy to see that this beautiful and living symbol that stands to our right, the symbol of our country, is protected from physical and deliberate desecration. Remember, the Citizens Flag Alliance needs your support, and all of our support. While you're thinking of that, stop by the Citizens Flag Alliance booth in the Exhibit Hall where you can get more information on this meeting. Many of the pamphlets and items are for sale to take back to your home towns and your Posts and to get you well on your way to become very involved in the Citizens Flag Alliance.

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: We are dealing with a wide-range of issues important to the veterans community during our 76th National Convention I don't want you to forget the charge I gave you during my report to the Convention. Stop by the legislative table outside this hall and take time to write a letter to your Congressmen and Senator. They must hear from you, you and I. They must know about the VA health care system, and where it fits in the national health care, and how the veteran needs to be included in it. Your letter will help put on the heat to lawmakers. We cannot allow the VA health care system to be tossed aside. Take time to write a short note. Do it for thousands of veterans who rely upon each and every one of us in the VA health care system. Do it for the future veterans who will continue to answer our nation's call long after we are gone.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: At this time, the Chair recognizes Eugene Lindquist of Minnesota, Chairman of the National Convention Committee on Children and Youth, for the purpose of making a report.

REPORT OF NATIONAL CONVENTION COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH
Eugene V. Lindquist (MN), Chairman

The Convention Committee on Children and Youth met at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, September 4, 1994, at the Minneapolis Convention Center, Room 103B, 1st Level. The meeting was organized by electing delegate Eugene V. Lindquist of Minnesota as Chairman

and delegate Elmer Fuhrhop of Ohio as Secretary. There were fifty members of the committee present.

There were nine resolutions considered by the committee.

RECOMMENDED ACTION ON RESOLUTIONS APPROVED

Resolution No. 392: Children in Pornographic Literature
Origin: Committee on Children & Youth
Submitted by: Committee on Children & Youth

WHEREAS, The very future of our country is being threatened by individuals who would use children in pornographic magazines and films; and

WHEREAS, National crime reports reveal that there is a strong correlation between those who read pornographic magazines and those who commit related crimes such as rape, incest, molestation, child abuse and even murder; and

WHEREAS, The use of children as subjects in the production of pornographic materials has a devastating effect upon these innocent children, which is a disgrace to our society; and

WHEREAS, Existing laws dealing with those who produce, sell and distribute pornographic materials are often weak and/cr inadequate; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That state legislatures be encouraged to evaluate and make appropriate improvements in existing laws aimed at those individuals involved in the child pornography business; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That we urge the strengthening of existing federal legislation by the United States Congress to make penalties severe enough to eliminate the production, distribution and sale of materials that use children in sexually explicit scenes, and we urge the Congress to provide adequate funding, when necessary, to accomplish these goals.

Resolution No. 393: Production, Sale and Distribution of Obscene Literature
Origin: Committee on Children & Youth
Submitted by: Committee on Children & Youth

WHEREAS, Since 1960, The American Legion has maintained a position of complete opposition to the production, sale and distribution of pornographic or obscene materials to children 17 years and under; and

WHEREAS, Present laws forbid the importation of such materials from foreign countries, interstate trafficking, the use of the United States Mail, and the use over public radio and television; and

WHEREAS, Any attempt to eliminate such protective laws from state and/or federal criminal codes would have a negative impact on our youth and society in general; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion strongly opposes any attempt to weaken our present laws governing the penalties for the production, sale and distribution of pornographic or obscene materials; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the United States Congress be made aware of our concern through proper legislative channels.

Resolution No. 394: Reaffirming Immunization Program
Origin: Committee on Children & Youth
Submitted by: Committee on Children & Youth

WHEREAS, The American Legion has long recognized that there is no place in civilized society for communicable diseases; and

WHEREAS, There are today vaccines and other specific medical treatment to protect children against communicable diseases; and

WHEREAS, There exists today in our country areas with extremely low levels of immunization against certain childhood diseases that may break out in epidemic proportions; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion reaffirms its position of supporting the fullest use of any licensed vaccine to combat communicable diseases; and be it further

RESOLVED, That local Posts of The American Legion provide leadership and support to stimulate local treatment and immunization programs so that children in every community may achieve the fullest protection against communicable diseases; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That sufficient federal and state funds be provided so that medically indigent children may be afforded an opportunity to receive the necessary treatment and immunization against all communicable diseases.

Resolution No. 395: Violence and Vandalism in the Schools

WHEREAS, Juveniles account for approximately 35 percent of our population and account for better than 50 percent of serious crimes as reported by the FBI Uniform Crime Reports; and

WHEREAS, Numerous government-supported institutions nationwide, specifically schools and housing, are experiencing serious, violent acts of crime and criminal damage and spend in excess of $500 million for acts of vandalism; and

WHEREAS, The impact of violence and vandalism affects the morale of students, teachers, administrators, and parents; impedes educational advancement; and fosters and perpetuates patterns of deviancy; and

WHEREAS, Violence and vandalism in the nation's institutions result in enormous loss of educational and domestic resources and human potential, and contribute to the high rates of juvenile delinquency within the United States; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion recommends school boards and state education agencies develop a balanced and effective program, and provide community support to reduce and prevent violence and vandalism in educational institutions; and, be it further

RESOLVED, The American Legion urges local law enforcement to implement effective programs for the amelioration of juvenile delinquency in coordination with the Department of Education, community citizenry and other agencies with the criminal justice system; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That local Posts urge and assist those in the educational community and criminal justice system to join together in efforts to reduce the development and prevailing patterns of juvenile delinquency in schools and our communities; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the Congress of the United States enact legislation through the

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention to establish a grant program to assist those public institutions and criminal justice agencies in bearing the financial burden of implementing pro-active delinquency prevention programs.

Resolution No. 396: National Family Week
Origin: Committee on Children & Youth
Submitted by: Committee on Children & Youth

WHEREAS, One of the principles guiding The American Legion's Children & Youth Program is to maintain the integrity of the family home; and

WHEREAS, The family is the center of our affections and the foundation of our American society; and

WHEREAS, No institution can take the family's place in giving meaning to human life and stability in our society; and

WHEREAS, It is fitting that official recognition be given to the importance of strengthening family life; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion urges the President of the United States and the Congress to establish "National Family Week" during Thanksgiving Holiday Week as an annual observance.

Resolution No. 397: School Nutrition Program
Origin: Committee on Children & Youth
Submitted by: Committee on Children & Youth

WHEREAS, There has been an expression of concern by health authorities and various national organizations with an interest in the status of proper nutrition among young people; and

WHEREAS, The Federal School Lunch Program and other federally-supported nutrition programs for children have demonstrated their effectiveness as evidenced by the reduction of health problems and improved performance among children; and

WHEREAS, There are many school systems throughout the United States which do not participate in the federal/state-supported school lunch program; and

WHEREAS, There are many schools and school systems throughout the United States that have never had a school lunch program or have dropped existing lunch programs because of the lack of funding, adequate facilities, excessive paperwork requirements, and the training of personnel; and

WHEREAS, Since 1941, The American Legion has supported the Federal School Lunch Program and other related programs of nutrition for children, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That the Congress of the United States be urged to appropriate sufficient funds for school nutrition programs to reflect the increased cost of food and to provide for needed facilities and trained personnel for the purpose of conducting an adequate school lunch program.

Resolution No. 398: Catastrophic Illness among Children
Origin: Committee on Children & Youth
Submitted by: Committee on Children & Youth

WHEREAS, There is an ever-widening crisis in many states relating to the delivery

and accessibility of health care and medical treatment to the children of this country; and

WHEREAS, Historically, it has always been The American Legion's position that all children should have adequate health services to assure their physical, mental and emotional well-being; and

WHEREAS, Several applications have been received by the National Americanism and Children & Youth Division from Departments requesting Temporary Financial Assistance for needy medical cases; and

WHEREAS, Many children are not receiving needed medical treatment because their families have been unable to afford the cost of the catastrophic illness to one of their children; and

WHEREAS, Many of these families have hospitalization insurance and even major medical insurance and yet they cannot meet the cost of a major illness; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion reaffirms its position in urging the federal and state governments to enact the necessary legislation to assist financially those individual families faced by the catastrophic illness of one of their children in order to maintain the integrity of the family; and be it further

RESOLVED, That in lieu of a better approach, the present federal Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant program be expanded to include catastrophic illness.

Resolution No. 399: Drug Trafficking
Origin: Committee on Children & Youth
Submitted by: Committee on Children & Youth

WHEREAS, The illegal trafficking of drugs into the United States is one of the greatest threats to the welfare and safety of our citizens, particularly our youth; and

WHEREAS, The enemies of our Nation and way of life hope to destroy us from within by debilitating our most precious resource for the future, our youth; and

WHEREAS, The economic and social costs of drug abuse annually exceeds the $100 billion mark; and

WHEREAS, The efforts to halt the entry of such illegal drugs may be seen as a war of will and resources – a war that at the present we are not winning; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion urge the President and Congress of the United States to fully support with adequate funding all border state, federal and military drug trafficking prevention programs through which our children and youth might secure a more stable and healthy future.

Resolution No. 400: Admission of Children of United States Citizens
Origin: Committee on Children & Youth
Submitted by: Committee on Children & Youth

WHEREAS, United States citizens now have greater access to the nations of the world for work opportunities, both in the public and private sectors, and travel; and

WHEREAS, many children in foreign countries are progenies of United States citizens; and

WHEREAS, Pubic law 97-359 was enacted to amend the Immigration and Nationality

Act to provide preferential treatment in the admission of certain children of United States citizens; and

WHEREAS, Public law 97-359 addresses only alien children from Korea, Vietnam, Laos, Kampuchea or Thailand born after 1950 and before October 22, 1982; and

WHEREAS, No child created by a United States citizen should be denied equal treatment under the laws of this country; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, By the American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota September 6, 7, 8, 1994, that The American Legion seek legislative action to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide equal treatment in admission of all children of United States citizens.

A motion was made and seconded to allow the Committee Chairman and Secretary to sign the report on behalf of the committee. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Commander, I move the adoption of this report.

. . . National Vice Commander John K. Mulkern assumed the chair.

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER MULKERN: Do I hear a second on the question? Hearing nothing on the question, all in favor? All opposed? Ayes for carry. The report of the Convention Committee on Children & Youth is adopted.

CHILDREN & YOUTH CHAIRMAN OF THE YEAR

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER MULKERN: The first annual Children & Youth Chairman of the Year, as determined by the Commission at this Convention, is Dennis Bolen, of the Department of Florida.

GARLAND MURPHY AWARD

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER MULKERN: At this time, it is appropriate to announce the winner of the Garland Murphy Award for 1994. Named for the man who was instrumental in the establishment of the Child Welfare Foundation, the award is given to the Department that has the most participation in the Foundation during the past program year. This year the winning Department raised $29,032.78 to help The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation in its work.

The winner of the Award is the Department of Florida.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is a pleasure for me to present this special plaque to Alan Hall, Florida's 1993-1994 Department Commander.

> The Garland D. Murphy, Jr. Award presented by The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation to the Department of Florida for the program year 1993-1994. In recognition of their designation as the number one Department in total contributions received from their volunteers, in support of our annual program designed to meet the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual needs of our nation's children through productive and meaningful grants.

It is signed by Udie Grant, the President of the Child Welfare Foundation and by Terry Woodburn, the Foundation's Executive Secretary.

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER MULKERN: The chair recognizes Ray Smith of North Carolina, Chairman of the National Convention Committee on Americanism, for the purpose of making a report.

REPORT OF NATIONAL CONVENTION COMMITTEE ON AMERICANISM
Ray G. Smith (NC), Chairman

Mr. Commander, National Officers, my fellow Delegates to the 76th Annual National Convention of The American Legion, Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994:

Forty-eight members of your Convention Committee on Americanism met at 8:30 a.m. on Sunday, September 4, 1994 in Room 103A, 1st. Level, the Minneapolis Convention Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota to discuss matters of Americanism-related resolutions assigned to the Committee.

The Committee organized by electing Ray G. Smith (NC), as Chairman; Joseph Caouette (NH), Vice Chairman and Daniel J. O'Connor (NY) as the Secretary.

After initial instructions to the delegates, the Committee of the whole recessed to three subcommittees with William J. Plowden, Jr. (SC) as Chairman of the Immigration and Naturalization and Counter-Subversive Activities Subcommittee, Ray G. Smith (NC), Chairman of the Flag Matters and Education Subcommittee and Gary W. Sammons (MI), Chairman of the Community Affairs and Youth Activities Subcommittee.

The Subcommittees and consequently the Committee of the whole assembled, and discussed at length a total of 59 resolutions assigned to the Committee. I wish to point out that the resolutions considered continue to reflect the desire by many Departments of The American Legion to address matters of patriotism and government, and to maintain strong general Americanism programs that compliment the organization and benefit the Nation.

Fifty-nine (59) resolutions were considered with twenty-three (23) being approved; two (2) approved as amended; three (3) being approved as consolidated; three (3) approved as consolidated and amended; eight (8) received and recorded; and thirteen (13) referred to the standing Commission.

RECOMMENDED ACTION ON RESOLUTIONS
APPROVED

Resolution No. 8: Urge All Government Agencies to Purchase and Use Only American-Made Flags
Origin: MA
Submitted by: Americanism

WHEREAS, The United States has been losing most of its manufacturing capabilities to foreign countries; and

WHEREAS, This cheap labor has caused the unemployment of countless members of Americans across this nation; and

WHEREAS, The United States government recognized the importance of stimulating the economy in order to capture some of the jobs lost to foreign competitors; and

WHEREAS, The American people must be made aware of how they can help themselves to restore the economic success they have enjoyed in the past; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, 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 further

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.

Resolution No. 46: Support the Traditional Rendition of the National Anthem at Sporting Events
Origin: NE
Submitted by: Americanism
Consolidated with 154 (CA), 235 (MN)

WHEREAS, The American Legion is an organization of wartime veterans who have dedicated themselves to the service of the community, state and nation; and

WHEREAS, American Legionnaires have been offended by the disrespectful and unconventional playing and singing of the National Anthem at sporting events; and

WHEREAS, These disrespectful and unconventional arrangements of our National Anthem bring disrespect and disgrace to our country and its flag; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion highly encourage and recommend the playing of the National Anthem at all sporting events; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the playing and singing of the National Anthem at these events be done in its original customary and traditional rendition; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion go on record as being opposed to any other rendition of our National Anthem.

Resolution No. 47: The English Language Be Declared the Official United States Language
Origin: NE
Submitted by: Americanism
Consolidated with 55 (NJ), 222 (DC)

WHEREAS, The United States has over the many years been a haven and in most cases a new home for people of many ethnic backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, These people, although keeping their ethnic background alive, were urged to take advantage of the educational system that taught them the English language and American history; and

WHEREAS, Many of preferred visitors and new citizens, although clinging to their ethnic backgrounds did with pride take advantage of learning the language of the United States; and

WHEREAS, Bilingual programs funded by the Department of Education are designed to teach students with the primary instruction in the student's home language, while English is subjected to a secondary status; and

WHEREAS, These programs tend to encourage separatism, rather than a unification of purpose; and

WHEREAS, There exists alternative bilingual education programs which provide a

more efficient transition to proficiency in the English language; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion encourage legislation which would establish English as the official national language; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion encourage Congress to pass a constitutional amendment to designate English as the official language of government in the United States; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion urge 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.

Resolution No. 159: Support the United States Bill of Rights
Origin: WV
Submitted by: Americanism
As Amended

WHEREAS, All rights contained within the Constitution of the United States reside with the National and State Governments; and

WHEREAS, The rights of individuals are contained within, and guaranteed by the first ten amendments to the Constitution of the United States; better known as the Bill of Rights; and

WHEREAS, The individual rights guaranteed by the Bill of Rights has been under constant attack for many years by misguided, naive, or ambitious individuals, groups or politicians who would weaken and reinterpret these rights to make them fit their personal ideologies and ambitions without regard to the background and debates that went into the development of these individual rights; and

WHEREAS, The weakening of any one individual right guaranteed by the Bill of Rights weakens all rights guaranteed by the Bill of Rights, and when guaranteed individual rights are gone, then all rights reside with the government; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion reaffirm its commitment to, and support for the Bill of Rights.

Resolution No. 165: Rename Scout of the Year Award
Origin: VA
Submitted by: Americanism

WHEREAS, The nomination for the "SCOUT OF THE YEAR AWARD" states as its second requirement for eligibility that the nominee must have achieved the rank of Eagle Scout; and

WHEREAS, Only two percent of all scouts achieve the rank of Eagle Scout; and

WHEREAS, The name "SCOUT OF THE YEAR AWARD" is misleading because of the Eagle Scout eligibility limitation which is generally unknown by most people and often misunderstood by persons implementing the program; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That the National "SCOUT OF THE YEAR AWARD" be renamed to read "EAGLE SCOUT OF THE YEAR AWARD."

Resolution No. 328: National Flag Day Foundation

Origin: MD
Submitted by: Americanism
As Amended

WHEREAS, The American Legion is an organization of war veterans who have dedicated themselves to the service of the community, state and nation; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion in its preamble pledges "To foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism"; and

WHEREAS, On August 3, 1949, the United States Congress designated June 14th of each year to be "National Flag Day"; and

WHEREAS, The Star Spangled Banner House, located in Baltimore, Maryland has been the official sponsor of Flag Day since 1952; and

WHEREAS, The National Flag Day Foundation Inc., located in Baltimore, Maryland was chartered in 1982 to conduct educational programs throughout the United States of America in the promotion of "National Flag Day" and to encourage national patriotism in the promotion of the annual "Pause for the Pledge of Allegiance"; and

WHEREAS, As a part of the National Flag Day Foundation's national student education program a deserving high school student from each of our fifty states is chosen by the governor of their state to represent that state during the full week of flag day activities held in Baltimore each year and to carry with pride the flag of their state during these ceremonies; and

WHEREAS, Support for this high school student selection program is in need from the states which are not sponsoring students at the present time, through the excellent youth programs of The American Legion, i.e. Oratorical, Boy State, Scouting, etc., outstanding high school students can be recommended to the governors of their states; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion encourage its Departments to work with the National Flag Day Foundation in its efforts to insure that each year a deserving high school student representing all of our fifty states is selected and present to take part in the Flag Day activities held in Baltimore (the birthplace of the Star Spangled Banner) in connection with the "Pause for the Pledge of Allegiance" and its week of Flag related programs.

Resolution No. 370: Illegal Aliens
Origin: Americanism
Submitted by: Americanism

WHEREAS, Current law, as established within "The Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986" (IRCA) has not achieved the results desired by The American Legion for addressing the many and varied problems created by illegal aliens: and

WHEREAS, The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) has reported that, even with IRCA regulations in effect, 1,258,482 illegal aliens were apprehended at our borders during 1992; and

WHEREAS, Illegal aliens in the United States create serious economic problems which include increased welfare costs, adverse effects on the American labor market, and the expense of detecting, detaining, processing and deporting of apprehended illegal; and

WHEREAS, Veterans are displaced from employment by the employment of illegal aliens; and

WHEREAS, There must be a broad exchange of information and related action among those Executive Departments responsible for dealing with various aspects of immigration law and illegal aliens; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion wishes to reiterate its opposition to any type of amnesty ("legalization") program, that excuses and rewards the law-breaking illegal aliens; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994 That The American Legion supports strict enforcement of employer sanctions as called for in current law that provide heavy penalties for employers who knowingly hire illegal aliens; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) be provided the monies necessary to ensure both the thorough performance of their duties and the security of the borders of the United States; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That aliens illegally in the U.S. should be denied Social Security, unemployment, and other types of public assistance programs; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That we urge the Congress of the United States not to extend or enhance the legalization program beyond what is specifically outlined in IRCA law; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the INS or other appropriate government agency develop a counterfeit-proof worker identification system; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion calls for legislation to guarantee a free flow of information and technical assistance between the agencies of government tasked with the various aspects of the illegal alien issue; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That, because certain industries within the U.S. face persistent and/or seasonal labor shortages, The American Legion would support a temporary workers program, provided a numerical quota would be established for such a program and that it would be tightly administered by the appropriate government agency.

Resolution No. 371: The English Language Be Declared as the Official United States Language

Origin: Americanism

Submitted by: Americanism

WHEREAS, In the United States the English language is undergoing gradual displacement in this era of high immigration; and

WHEREAS, While many immigrants want to learn English because it is the key to economic opportunity in the United States, some immigrant groups appear to minimize the English language concept, providing little encouragement to learn English and thereby discouraging newcomers from joining the mainstream culture in America; and

WHEREAS, Bilingual education programs funded by the U. S. Department of Education, in large, are designed to provide long-term instruction in a student's native language, while English is subjected to a secondary status; and

WHEREAS, The aforementioned programs and practices tend to encourage separatism rather than unification of purpose; and

WHEREAS, The cost to all Americans would be unaccountable to have all legal papers, ballots, court proceedings, and laws printed in foreign languages, and dialects; and

WHEREAS, English has been recognized as the official language by eighteen states that have enacted legislation or amended their constitutions to designate it as such; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994 That The American Legion strongly urges that by an Act of Congress, and acts by State legislatures, the English language be declared the official language for government in the United States; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion should work to develop in all Americans an appreciation for the role English plays in holding our society together and making this Nation strong; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion urges Congress, through legislative action, to increase support for and fund alternative bilingual education programs that will serve as short-term steps for immigrants to achieve proficiency in the English language.

Resolution No. 372: Oppose Foreign Manufacture of American Flags
Origin: Americanism
Submitted by: Americanism

WHEREAS, The Flag of the United States is a uniquely American symbol; and

WHEREAS, The Flag Code of the United States as listed in Title 36, United States Code, Chapter 10, subsection 176(j) states that: "The flag represents a living country and is itself considered a living thing"; and

WHEREAS, Thousands upon thousands of Americans have risked, and in many cases given, their lives in the defense of the Flag of the United States; and

WHEREAS, It has come to our attention that foreign manufacturers have begun making and importing United States Flags and/or merchandise which violate certain provisions of the United States Flag Code; and

WHEREAS, Resolution 191, 1982 National Convention, Chicago, Illinois resolves that The American Legion promote through its Posts and Departments the purchase of American manufactured goods; and

WHEREAS, Resolution 1, National Executive Committee, October 13-14, 1982, resolved that The American Legion urge the General Services Administration of the U.S. Government to purchase and lease American manufactured goods; and

WHEREAS, Resolution 157, 1987 National Convention, San Antonio, Texas, resolved that we support legislation to have the Army and Navy purchase United States steel and to void all contracts with foreign imports; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994 That The American Legion encourage its membership through the Departments and Posts to purchase and display only American manufactured Flags of the United States; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion seek legislation through the United States Congress to prohibit the importation of foreign made Flags of the United States; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion seek additional legislation to prohibit the importation of any item of merchandise bearing a design, in any shape, size or medium, which the average person might believe to represent the Flag of the United States.

Resolution No. 373: Flag Code Amendment
Origin: Americanism
Submitted by: Americanism

WHEREAS, The United States Flag Code, Title 36, United States Code, Chapter 10,

Subsections 173-178, 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 modifications of the Flag Code did not clearly state the intent of some procedures, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994 That The American Legion seek the appropriate legislation or Presidential proclamation to alter, amend, or modify, as indicated, the following provisions of the United States Flag Code, Title 36, United States Code, Chapter 10:

SS174. Time and occasions for display

(d) The flag should be displayed on all days, especially on New Year's Day, January 1; (Martin Luther King Day, third Monday in January;) Inauguration Day, January 20; Lincoln's Birthday, February 12; Washington's Birthday, third Monday in February; Easter Sunday(variable); Thomas Jefferson 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; (Aviation Day, August 19;) Labor Day, first Monday in September; /Constitution Day (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, 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.

SS175. Position and manner of display

(f) When flags (or pennants) of States, cities, /or localities, /or pennants of 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.)

(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 and Pearl Harbor Day - December 7th, 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/, (.) /as a mark of respect to their memory. 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, the Governor of that State, territory, or, possession may proclaim that the National flag shall be flown at half-staff.

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

SS176. Respect for flag

(c) (The flag should never be carried flat or horizontally, but always aloft and free.) 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.
(e) The flag should (shall) never be fastened, displayed, used, or stored in such a manner as to permit it to be easily torn, soiled, or damaged in any way.
(f) The flag should (shall) never be used as a covering for a ceiling.
(g) The flag should (shall) never have placed upon it, nor on any part of it, nor attached to it any mark, insignia, letter, word, figure, design, picture, or drawing of any nature.
(i) The flag should never be used for advertising purposes in any manner whatsoever. It should not be embroidered (,printed or used in a design) on such articles as cushions (,linens,) /or handkerchiefs (, clothing, labels,) and the like, printed or otherwise impressed on paper napkins or boxes or anything that is designed for temporary use and (disrespectfully discarded). 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.

Resolution No. 374: Injured or Disabled Non-Citizen Veterans Applying for Naturalization

Origin: Americanism

Submitted by: Americanism

WHEREAS, During our Nation's call to arms in the preservation of our liberty, our Nation has been blessed with the services of individuals from many nations who cherish liberty; and

WHEREAS, Our Congress has recognized that through service in our Armed Forces these servicemen have forged a bond with our Country; and

WHEREAS, Under the present Immigration and Nationality Act the non-citizen soldier is allowed to apply for naturalization only upon completion of three (3) years of active duty; and

WHEREAS, Some non-citizen servicemen were injured or became disabled while on active duty and were medically discharged from the Armed Forces for these said injuries or medical conditions prior to three years of active duty service; and

WHEREAS, Admitting men and women with service-connected disabilities into the U.S. does not increase the taxpayer's obligation, since all U. S. veterans, without regard to their citizenship or residence, are currently entitled to both disability compensation and medical care from the Department of Veterans Affairs; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994 That The American Legion support legislation that will amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to allow non-citizen veterans with less than three years of active duty – because of injuries incurred or aggrevated while on active duty with the U.S. Armed Forces -- to seek naturalization or admission to the U.S.

Resolution No. 375: Conscientious Objectors Tax Diversion

Origin: Americanism

Submitted by: Americanism

WHEREAS, The Constitution of the United States of America provides for the common defense of all citizens; and

WHEREAS, The freedoms we enjoy and the security of our Nation that we desire rests on the individual determination of each of us to help preserve it; and

WHEREAS, Legislation has been introduced in Congress that would allow conscientious objectors to elect to have their taxes spent for non-military purposes; and

WHEREAS, Implementation of such a practice could affect military strength and national security; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994 That The American Legion is opposed to legislation that would give conscientious objectors a voice in diverting monies from military spending.

Resolution No. 376: Opposition to a Constitutional Convention
Origin: Americanism
Submitted by: Americanism

WHEREAS, The American Legion remains committed to the defense of the Constitution of the United States of America, including any legal defense against those who intend to change the document's intent or expand its purpose; and

WHEREAS, The integrity of the Constitution is being challenged by persons who state that it does not meet the requirements or demands of modern society; and

WHEREAS, Efforts are underway to convene a Constitutional Convention ostensibly to mandate a balanced federal budget, although convening such a convention could result in radical Constitutional changes that would go far beyond budgetary matters; and

WHEREAS, The potential exists for any Constitutional Convention to yield to the demands of varied special interests, and, in so doing, to fundamentally alter the basic provisions of our nation's government document; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994 That The American Legion express firm opposition to convening a Constitutional Convention and to any efforts seeking to rewrite the U. S. Constitution beyond the existing procedures required for amending the document.

Resolution No. 377: Flag Amendment/Flag Education
Origin: Americanism
Submitted by: Americanism

WHEREAS, The American Legion has always advocated that the Flag of our Country be given full respect under all conditions; and

WHEREAS, There have been in recent years incidents of disrespect given to the Flag of our Country by burning it in public as an example of free expression and in other methods; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion has announced itself in support of an amendment to the Constitution of the United States that would make desecration of the Flag of the United States an illegal act; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion in its Americanism publications outlined the background, history, correct display and respect for the Flag of the United States; and

WHEREAS, This information is explicitly explained in the pamphlet, "Let's Be Right On Flag Etiquette," available from the Emblem Division of The American Legion; and

WHEREAS, It is essential that the knowledge of the correct respect to the Flag must be understood if it is to happen among the citizens; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994 That The American Legion announce itself in full support of an amendment to the Constitution of the United States giving Congress and the States the authority to adopt and enforce laws making it illegal to publicly desecrate the Flag of the United States by burning or any other method; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That Flag education materials be sent to school superintendents with clear expression that respect for the Flag of the United States be taught in primary, middle and secondary schools during each school year.

Resolution No. 378: American Citizenship Naturalization Ceremony
Origin: Americanism

Submitted by: Americanism

WHEREAS, Persons who become citizens of the United States through naturalization are reputed to appreciate that citizenship even more than native-born Americans; and

WHEREAS, A factor in their appreciation has been the traditional, impressive ceremony in a U. S. District Court as prescribed in Title 8, USC, Sec. 1448 (a), in which the prospective citizen takes an oath to uphold the Constitution of the United States and which marks his/her formal induction into citizenship; and

WHEREAS, A recent amendment to the Immigration and Naturalization Act now makes that ceremony optional and allows naturalization by mail thereby removing an integral and indelible step in the naturalization process; and

WHEREAS, Legionnaires and Posts of The American Legion have traditionally participated in naturalization ceremonies as part of the Legion's Americanism program; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994 That the U. S. Congress be urged to repeal that portion of Title 8, USC, Sec. 1448, that makes the court ceremony optional and reinstate language that makes a naturalization ceremony in a U. S. District Court a mandatory step in the process of acquiring U. S. citizenship.

Resolution No. 379: Filipino Veterans Citizenship Interview Requirement

Origin: Americanism

Submitted by: Americanism

WHEREAS, The intent behind the citizenship act for Filipino Veterans is to ease-up the stringent requirements of the U. S. Naturalization law; and

WHEREAS, One of the very sticky imposition of said act is the requirement that interviews for Filipino Veteran applicants shall be held in the U. S. which entails heavy extra-ordinary expense for them; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention asembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994 That The American Legion help the Philippine Department to get a ruling from the U. S. Government that the interview for Filipino Veteran applicants for U. S. Citizenship shall be done in the Philippines with mutual helpfulness extended to them.

Resolution No. 380: Office of the Director of Civilian Marksmanship

Origin: Americanism

Submitted by: Americanism

WHEREAS, The DCM Program supports citizen shooting teams through training and competition opportunities which ultimately leads to the formation of the U. S. Olympic Shooting Team; and

WHEREAS, The DCM Program sponsors nearly 2,000 junior clubs and reaches over 500,000 youth between the ages of 11 and 19 and nearly 100,000 adults in senior level shooting; and

WHEREAS, The DCM Program is also tasked with the responsibility of sponsoring local and national competitions, distributing surplus and obsolete firearms and ammunition to civilian rifle clubs; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion's Junior Shooting Sports Program (ALJSSP) affiliated clubs benefit from a relationship with the DCM; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion passed Resolution 296 at the 61st National Convention of The American Legion in Houston, Texas, which called for The American Legion to petition the United States Senate, the House of Representatives, the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of the Army to request the continuation of the Office of the DCM for the reason that said program is vital to this nation's ability to defend itself; and

WHEREAS, Efforts are once again underway in Congress to eliminate the Office of the DCM; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994 That The American Legion oppose efforts in Congress to eliminate the Office of the Director of Civilian Marksmanship and that it petition members of Congress to provide the authorization and needed funding to maintain the Office of the DCM, its programs and its services.

Resolution No. 381: Internal Security of the United States
Origin: Americanism
Submitted by: Americanism

WHEREAS, The American Legion has always recognized the importance of investigations that expose the truth about subversive activities that may harm or seek to destroy our Constitutional government; and

WHEREAS, The Central Intelligence Agency and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, both security agencies of this Nation, perform functions essential to the maintenance of our national security; and

WHEREAS, The U. S. Office of Personnel Management has virtually abandoned any investigation of government employment applicants for subversive activities, or membership in subversive organizations, to include membership in the Communist Party, which contributes to the weakening of the internal security of the United States; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994 That The American Legion urges all U. S. Congressmen to support and co-sponsor House legislation to restore the U. S. House Internal Security Committee; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion urge the President and the Congress of the United States to immediately take such action as may be appropriate and necessary to significantly strengthen both the Central Intelligence Agency and the Federal Bureau of Investigation and all other intelligence and security agencies that protect us for foreign espionage, organized crime and subversive activities; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion urge the President and the Congress of the United States to approve legislation and executive action necessary to deny communists the ability to infiltrate and subsequently destroy our government agencies and institutions through federal employment.

Resolution No. 382: School Prayer
Origin: Americanism
Submitted by: Americanism

WHEREAS, The majority of Americans have historically believed in seeking God's protection and guidance through prayer; and

WHEREAS, The value of expressing spiritual convictions through public prayer has

been recognized as a firm basis on which to conduct public proceedings; and

WHEREAS, Supreme Court decisions during the early 1960's have had the effect of severely restricting the practice of any manner of public prayer even though these decisions simply addressed prescribed or compulsory prayer; and

WHEREAS, This restriction is most evident in our nation's public schools where a concurrent moral and spiritual decline is clearly manifested; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994 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 further

RESOLVED, That Congress pass legislation to promote the concept of school prayer in order to insure that our Nation's public school children have a daily opportunity to pray.

Resolution No. 383: Senate and House Begin Each Day with Pledge of Allegiance
Origin: Americanism
Submitted by: Americanism

WHEREAS, The U. S. Senate and the House of Representatives begin each daily session acknowledging the presence and guidance of a Supreme Being through prayer; and

WHEREAS, It is customary in the opening of public meetings to recite the Pledge of Allegiance following the prayer; and

WHEREAS, By Act of Congress, dated August 3, 1949, June 14 of each year was designated "National Flag Day" and the Star-Spangled Banner Flag House Association in Baltimore, Maryland, has been the official sponsor since 1952 of National Flag Day for the United States; and

WHEREAS, On June 14, 1980, the Star-Spangled Banner Flag House Association developed a national campaign to encourage all Americans to Pause for the Pledge of Allegiance as part of National Flag Day ceremonies; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994 That The American Legion encourage the President of the U. S. Senate and the speaker of the House of Representatives or their designee to lead the members of their respective House in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance at the beginning of each daily session; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion urge the Congress of the United States to designate the Pause for the Pledge of Allegiance as part of the celebration of National Flag Day throughout the Nation; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That all Americans be urged to participate in Flag Day observances by reciting in unison, the Pledge of Allegiance to our Nation's Flag on June 14 of each year.

Resolution No. 384: National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
Origin: Americanism
Submitted by: Americanism

WHEREAS, The bombing without warning of Pearl Harbor, an American Naval base, on December 7, 1941, resulted in the United States entering World War II; and

WHEREAS, The news media gives little attention to this historical event which contributes to the public apathy and lack of knowledge as to the reason the United States became involved in World War II; and

WHEREAS, The people of our nation should never forget the sacrifices of those brave Americans or the folly of being unprepared to defend this great nation; and

WHEREAS, Children of school-age do not always have the opportunity through the study of history to learn the importance of this day; and

WHEREAS, Not all calendars designate December 7 as Pearl Harbor Day; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994 That The American Legion join with other concerned groups to include candlelight services in Pearl Harbor Day observances; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the United States Congress be asked to encourage all Federal agencies, interested organizations, groups and individuals to fly the flag of the United States at half-staff each December 7 in honor of those who died as a result of their military service at Pearl Harbor; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion petition Congress to name December 7 as Pearl Harbor Day.

Resolution No. 385: Patriotic Holidays

Origin: Americanism

Submitted by: Americanism

WHEREAS, The dates of certain patriotic holidays have been changed from their original dates to create "three-day weekends"; and

WHEREAS, The time-honored traditional observances of these holidays has been eroded; and

WHEREAS, The majority of Americans view Memorial Day as a time for relaxation and leisure recreation rather than as a solemn occasion and a time to reflect and pay tribute to the American servicemen and women who sacrificed their lives in defense of our Nation; and

WHEREAS, By urging the ringing of the bells in our communities for one minute on traditional Memorial Day, May 30, it will help Americans to realize that the true purpose of this day is to pay tribute to those who have given so much for their country; and

WHEREAS, Our hope for the future has been made possible because our servicemen and women have made sacrifices in order to secure freedom for America and the ringing of community bells is a fitting way to observe traditional Memorial Day in the years to come; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994 That The American Legion calls upon the Congress of the United States to restore the official observance of Washington's Birthday to February 22, Memorial Day to May 30 and Columbus Day to October 12 each year; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion urge 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 a.m. on traditional Memorial Day, May 30, in remembrance of the servicemen and women who died defending our Nation and our freedom.

Resolution No. 386: "Star Spangled Banner"

Origin: Americanism
Submitted by: Americanism

WHEREAS, "The Star-Spangled Banner" became our National Anthem on March 3, 1931, when President Herbert Hoover signed Public Law 823 of the 71st Congress; and

WHEREAS, We believe that many millions of Americans cherish and respect the currently accepted version, both words and music, of "The Star-Spangled Banner," such version being the "Service Version," prepared in 1918 by the War Department for use in Army and Navy song books; and

WHEREAS, We want no changes, omissions or tamperings with the words or music of our National Anthem as adopted by Public Law No. 823 of the 71st Congress; and

WHEREAS, The United States does not officially recognize a day to observe the adoption of "The Star Spangled Banner" as our national anthem; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994 That The American Legion is opposed to any changes in the words or music of our National Anthem, "The Star Spangled Banner," as adopted under Public Law 823 of the 71st Congress; and, be it further

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" and that of the Flag of the United States.

Resolution No. 387: Award Congressional Medal of Honor to the Four Chaplains
Origin: Americanism
Submitted by: Americanism

WHEREAS, The American Legion, Department of Maryland has received a resolution proposed by American Legion Arick Lore Post #274 and supported unanimously by their county and district organization, the object being the awarding of the Congressional Medal of Honor, posthumously, to U. S. Army Chaplains, Lt. John P. Washington, Lt. Clark V. Poling, Lt. George L. Fox, and Lt. Alexander D. Goode, based on the following; and

WHEREAS, On a frigid night of February 3, 1943, at approximately 12:55 a.m., the United States troop transport ship, Dorchester, was torpedoed 150 miles off the coast of Greenland throwing the total ship into complete darkness amid shrieks of escaping steam and the frantic blast of the ship; and

WHEREAS, The Four Chaplains moved quickly among the bewildered troops, calming them and directing them to lifeboats and urging and assisting them to escape the quickly sinking vessel; and

WHEREAS, When there were no more life jackets available, the Four Chaplains aforesaid took off their own life jackets and made others accept them and use them in escaping the sinking vessel and, further, the Four Chaplains remained on the ship's slanted aft deck with arms linked together, heads bowed in prayer as the Dorchester slipped beneath the waves; and

WHEREAS, By their heroic actions, the Four Chaplains have become a legend with memorials to "their three faiths and one God" arising around this nation to promote brotherhood, to fight bigotry, and to encourage interfaith and interracial unity; and

WHEREAS, The actions and at the personal sacrifice of their own lives they have become a beacon of faith for the young people of this country to emulate with their traits of compassion and understanding based upon interracial and interfaith lessons as illustrated by

the personal action of the Four Chaplains and is the basis for building bridges of understanding among all people of different faiths, religious and racial backgrounds; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994 That The American Legion requests the Congress of the United States, by special legislative action, award these four Chaplains, posthumously, the Congressional Medal of Honor for their heroism which cost them their lives on the night of February 3, 1943.

Resolution No. 388: English Language Be Used in Naturalization Ceremonies
Origin: Americanism
Submitted by: Americanism

WHEREAS, Resolution 567, entitled "Naturalization Ceremony," was passed by delegates to the 56th annual National Convention of The American Legion in 1974 and opposed any change in the Judicial Naturalization Ceremony for new United States citizens; and

WHEREAS, Resolution 543, entitled "The English Language Be Declared as the Official U.S. Language," was passed by delegates to the 74th National Convention of The American Legion in 1992 and urged Congress and the various state legislatures to declare the English language as the official language for government in the United States; and

WHEREAS, The Immigration and Naturalization Service conducted a Naturalization Ceremony in Tucson, Arizona, in July 1993 in a foreign language; and

WHEREAS, Local INS officials were quoted in an area newspaper as advocating that future Naturalization Ceremonies be conducted in a foreign language; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994 That The American Legion urge Congress, the U.S. Justice Department and the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service to require that all Citizenship Naturalization Ceremonies be conducted in the English language.

Resolution No. 389: Illegal Immigration
Origin: Americanism
Submitted by: Americanism

WHEREAS, The inability and/or unwillingness of certain government agencies to enforce immigration quotas, laws and policies has resulted in an influx of illegal immigrants in this country; and

WHEREAS, *TIME* magazine predicted in its May 14, 1990 issue that as many as 750,000 illegal immigrants will settle in the United States each year; and

WHEREAS, A 1993 study by Rice University economist, Dr. Donald Huddle, estimated that illegal immigrants during the previous year cost the nation, after taxes were subtracted, a total of $13 billion; and

WHEREAS, It has been estimated and reported in testimony in Congress that about one-fourth of criminals incarcerated in federal prisons are illegal immigrants costing the criminal justice system more than $800 million a year; and

WHEREAS, It has been reported that the smuggling of illegal immigrants by crime syndicates has increased dramatically during the past year and that terroristic acts by illegal immigrants has caused loss of life and millions of dollars in property damage; and

WHEREAS, The Immigration and Naturalization Service estimates that three to six

million illegal immigrants are in this country with 90 percent believed to be from Mexico; and

WHEREAS, Immigration and Naturalization Service figures show that the number of illegal Chinese immigrants intercepted by the U.S. Coast Guard has risen from 20 in 1991 to more than 1,650 during the first six months of 1993; and

WHEREAS, Many immigrants are permitted to stay in this country for long periods of time by requesting political asylum or through employment or educational visas; and

WHEREAS, The sovereignty of this nation is being lost to an immigration policy which, in the words of former Senator Eugene McCarthy, is making the United States a "colony of the world"; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994 That The American Legion is unalterably opposed to illegal immigration; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion urge Congress, the U.S. Justice Department and the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service to take necessary action to stop the invasion of illegal immigration in this country by means which include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Hire and train additional border patrol agents with employment preference afforded military personnel who are displaced by Defense Department budget cutbacks.
2. Initiate immediate deportation proceedings at major points of embarkation for those arriving in this country without valid passport visas.
3. Require that all legal aliens carry a counterfeit resistant registration card and that they be required to report, in a specified length of time, to local officials their location and place of employment; and be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion urge Congress to seek ways in which to ease the strain on federal, state and local forms of public assistance by reducing or eliminating demands on these services by illegal immigrants; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion initiate an informational campaign to alert its members, federal and state elected officials, and the general public of the invasion of this country by illegal immigrants which has reached crisis proportions.

Resolution No. 390: Constitutional Amendment to Protect the United States Flag
Origin: Americanism
Submitted by: Americanism

WHEREAS, The American Legion was the leader in a cooperative effort to establish the United States Flag Code and has always held the Flag of the United States in the highest regard; and

WHEREAS, The United States Supreme Court in Texas vs Johnson ruled on June 21, 1989, that public desecration of the United States Flag was behavior protected under the First Amendment of the United States Constitution; and

WHEREAS, The Flag Protection Act of 1989, passed by Congress to re-establish protection for the Flag of the United States from physical desecration was also ruled unconstitutional by the Supreme Court; and

WHEREAS, The Supreme Court decision effectively rendered flag desecration laws in 48 states unconstitutional; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion passed Resolution 355 (Flag Desecration) in 1989 and followed with Resolutions 537 (Flag Desecration), 532 (Flag Amendment/Flag

Education), 36 (Flag Protection) in 1992, and 208 (Oppose Desecration of the United States Flag) in 1993, all of which voice The American Legion's opposition with the Supreme Court's decision; and

WHEREAS, State Legislatures in more than three-fourths of the states have passed resolutions memorializing the U.S. Congress to propose a Constitutional Amendment to protect the United States Flag from physical desecration; and

WHEREAS, Public opinion surveys indicate more than three-fourths of the U.S. population believe a Constitutional Amendment is needed to protect the Flag and that the Congress should allow the citizens of the United States an opportunity to vote on whether an Amendment should be adopted; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994 That The American Legion encourage its members and other individuals, groups and organizations to join The American Legion in a campaign to establish a narrowly drawn Constitutional Amendment to protect the Flag of the United States from physical desecration; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That said Amendment be worded in such a way as to grant authority to the United States Congress and to the States to establish and enforce flag desecration laws.

RECEIVED AND RECORDED

Resolution No. 2 (MA) 1994 NC: **POW/MIA Flag Display at Postal Facilities**
Resolution No. 60 (MT) 1994 NC: **Restoration of Memorial Day to Original Date**
Resolution No. 157 (WV) 1994 NC: **Illegal Aliens**
Resolution No. 223 (DC) 1994 NC: **Illegal Aliens**
Resolution No. 287 (MD) 1994 NC: **Illegal Immigration**
Resolution No. 290 (WI) 1994 NC: **The English Language Be Declared the Official United States Language**
Resolution No. 315 (KS) 1994 NC: **National Child Protection Act 1993**
Resolution No. 359 (AK) 1994 NC: **Flag Amendment**

REFERRED TO THE STANDING COMMISSION ON AMERICANSIM

Resolution No. 24 (CO) 1994 NC: **Observance of Veterans Day by School Children**
Resolution No. 54 (NJ) 1994 NC: **Recognition and Support of Girl Scouts of America Gold Award**
Resolution No. 76 (MT) 1994 NC: **Civil Rights Protection**
Resolution No. 129 (SD) 1994 NC: **Authorize Fund Raising for South Dakota American Legion Baseball Hall of Fame**
Resolution No. 153 (CA) 1994 NC: **Flag Display**
Resolution No. 158 (WV) 1994 NC: **Civil Rights Protection**
Resolution No. 160 (WV) 1994 NC: **Political and Economic Refugees**
Resolution No. 226 (PI) 1994 NC: **Grant Special Immigration Status to Family Members of Filipino World War II Veterans**
Resolution No. 227 (PI) 1994 NC: **Certification of Filipino Service Records**
Resolution No. 234 (MN) 1994 NC: **Flag Protection Amendment Representation**
Resolution No. 289 (MD) 1994 NC: **High School Coaches and American Legion**

Baseball
Resolution No. 288 (MD) 1994 NC: **Control of Legal Immigration**
Resolution No. 369 (ME) 1994 NC: **Flag Code Revision**

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SMITH: Mr. Commander, as a duly elected Delegate to this Convention from North Carolina, I move that this report be adopted.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: It has been moved and seconded. Could we have microphone number one turned on, please? State your name.

DELEGATE RON McCLUSKY (TEXAS): I would like to ask the Chairman of the distinguished Americanism Committee, the Committee which has done, obviously, a great job and a lot of work, to clarify one thing on the English language resolution 371.

It's my understanding, Mr. Chairman, that the German language was defeated by the English language by one vote, and that's why this country speaks English.

I wonder if it's not redundant to ask the Congress to make this the official language when it already in the official language according to our history.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SMITH: It is our understanding that there is no actual law that make the English language the official language of the United States.

DELEGATE McCLUSKY (TEXAS): Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: Any further discussion? You have heard the motion to adopt the report of the Americanism Commission, and a second. All in favor signify by saying Aye. Opposed? The report of Americanism is adopted.

RALPH T. O'NEIL EDUCATION TROPHY

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: At this time I would like to announce the winners of two awards presented by the Americanism Commission.

The Ralph T. O'Neil Education Award is given to the Department within the United States showing the greatest Americanism activity in using The American Legion School Medal Program. This year's winner is the Department of Florida.

THE FRANK N. BELGRANO, JR. TROPHY

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: The Frank N. Belgrano, Jr. Award is given annually to the Department which has rendered the most outstanding serving during the twelve month period beginning August 1st to the Boy Scouts of America program. This year's winner is the Department of Maryland.

WILLIAM RANDOLPH HEARST AMERICANISM TROPHY

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: It is once again during the business proceedings of the National Convention to recognize the one Department that has achieved the most outstanding results in the conduct of Americanism programs. The winning Department is selected by the National Americanism Commission on the basis of total resources, manpower as well as financial, devoted to Americanism activities during the Legion program year.

The William Randolph Hearst Americanism Trophy is an impressive award named in honor of one of American journalism's most prominent and influential figures.

In what is becoming a tradition, our next guest is returning for the fourth time in an many years to make this special presentation. He is a man who has dedicated his life to his community and the publishing industry. A past president of the Michigan League of Home Dailies, a member of the Michigan Press Association, a member of the Midland Rotary Club and a member of the Music Society of Midland Junior Achievement, please welcome Otto Wick, Jr. for the purpose of announcing the winner and making the presentation.

PRESENTATION
WILLIAM RANDOLPH HEARST AMERICANISM TROPHY
Otto Wick, Jr., Vice President and Publisher
***Midland Daily News*, Midland Michigan**

Actually, I have made six presentations of which I'm very proud. The first was in New Orleans in 1978, but I never tire of it. In fact, because I, too, am a veteran and a member of The American Legion, I take heartfelt pleasure in addressing this great group each year. And because I, too, am a newspaperman, I consider it a great honor to represent a group of American newspapers that has such a long and colorful history, one so steeped in the American dream.

Americanism is on display in Hearst newspapers around the United States today. In fact, somewhere in the masthead of each of our newspapers is the American Eagle, a symbol of independence to all and for all who wish to remain free the world over.

All are legacies of one of the greatest newspapermen, William Randolph Hearst, who prided himself on his Americanism. It showed in his newspapers. Mr. Hearst proudly declared himself an American. I am an American. I know of no finer title, and I want no higher position than to be a citizen of the United States of American. Simple, but so is the freedom for which nearly all of us have given some part of our lives to defend.

We have defended the freedom to choose our elected representatives as good or as bad as they might be. We have defended the freedom to discuss or even to criticize our government without fear of reprisal from our government. We have defended the freedom to have a system of equal justice for all.

We live in a perplexing time, a time when the line between rights and privileges is becoming blurred with each passing day. Mr. Hearst addressed this too some 60 years ago when he said "but the great honor and advantage of being an American citizen carries with it an obligation just as great, that obligation is to preserve the rights and liberties and privileges which our forefathers won for us in blood and toil, that we may hand this precious heritage of freedom and independence down to our children and our children's children undiminished and unimpaired." The American Legion and the members have done their part in accepting their obligations and responsibilities, so it is only fitting that the two organizations are united in presenting the William Randolph Hearst Americanism Award to The American Legion Department of Vermont. Congratulations.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: For many years, I have attended National Conventions from coast-to-coast. One of the greatest moments of each convention is the time when we get to meet and hear from young men and women who have excelled in our programs, and men and women who, we are confident, will excel in the years ahead.

Once again we are at that time in the Convention. In the next few minutes, you will be meeting five individuals who have earned a special degree of recognition and who

represent thousands of other fine young Americans who take part in American Legion youth programs each and every year.

It is an honor to present to the Delegate of our 76th National Convention, the youth champions of the year.

1994 BOYS NATION PRESIDENT

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: The first youth champion is a senior at Brandon High School in Clarksdale, Mississippi. He has his sights set on attending the University of Notre Dame and someday entering the political arena. Naturally, he gained valuable insight into that career this summer when he took part in The American Legion Boys State and Boys Nation programs. Please welcome to Minneapolis the President of American Legion Boys Nation, sponsored by Brandon American Legion Post 20 in Brandon, Mississippi, Thomas Whitehead.

THOMAS WHITEHEAD (MISSISSIPPI)
1994 Boys Nation President

Commander Thiesen, distinguished guests and Delegates.

First off I would like to thank Ron Engel, Bob Caudell and Steve Short for all their hospitality that they have provided for us this whole trip. I would also like to thank, my fellow youth champions for providing me with the comfort for the whole week. Thanks also to my father for being there for me for this whole trip. But most importantly, I want to thank each and every one of you, for the kindness that you have demonstrated through this whole week, and also for all those services that you provide for the youth of our nation.

President Theodore Roosevelt once said, "Everybody cannot do everything, but everybody can do something." And you have demonstrated this through your abundance of programs that you have provided for the youth through the nation, that we may indeed find our something.

1994 SCOUT OF THE YEAR

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: Unless George Washington Bentley is with us this morning, no one in this room was in Minneapolis for the very first National Convention 76 years ago. As I present this next young man, it is important to reflect on the legacy of our organization on the Boys Scouts of America, for it was at the first convention when the Delegates saw the need for the type of community work scouting was involved with. And because of that community effort, the Delegates voted to encourage Legionnaires from every corner of the nation to support scouting.

For 76 years, Legionnaires have remained faithful to the commitment. During the last program reporting year, more than 1,847 scout units were sponsored or assisted by Legionnaires. These units worked with more than 65,000 young men and women, helping them learn today the skills that will serve them well for a lifetime.

Our 1994 Scout of the Year is a young man from Lansford, Pennsylvania. He is a sophomore at Panther Village High School in his hometown. His career objectives are diverse at this time, considering either law or radio or television.

Please welcome The American Legion Scout of the Year, sponsored by American

Legion Post 316 in Summit Hill, Pennsylvania, Matthew Heffelfinger.

MATTHEW HEFFELFINGER (PENNSYLVANIA)
1994 Scout of the Year

National Commander Thiesen, Officers, Commanders and staff, Director of Americanism and Children and Youth Programs, Department Commanders, Delegates and honored guests.

I am truly humbled and appreciative of the honor that you have bestowed upon me. I would like to thank Commander James Bennett, the members of American Legion Post 316, and Legionnaire William J. Nansberry, Sr., all of Summit Hill, Pennsylvania, who nominated me. I would also like to thank the members of Pennsylvania's 30th District, Legionnaires of Pennsylvania, the members of the National Selection Committee, Steve Short and also my fellow youth champions. Finally, I would like to offer a special thanks to my fellow scouts, scout leaders, church members, teachers, family members, parents, especially my parents, for the direction. They are sitting right down there now.

On behalf of all the scouts throughout the world, thank you for your time and continued support for the Scout of the Year Program, as well as the other youth leadership development programs.

Thank you for your programs and sacrifices to make leadership programs available to the youth of the United States. May God bless each and every one of you, and thank you American Legionnaires and Pennsylvania.

JUNIOR SHOOTING SPORTS PRECISION CHAMPION

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: Our next guest has already made her mark in athletic achievement. That mark was a score of 2,414 points out of a possible 2,500. When you consider those points are earned by shooting an air rifle at a small target 33 feet away, and the bulls-eye is the size of a pencil dot, you know she must have a steady hand and excellent eyes.

Our 1994 Junior Shooting Sports Precision Champion is a sophomore at North Salem High School in Salem, Oregon. She is considering a legal degree and plans to attend West Virginia University. This young lady also has the strong backing of her sponsoring Post, Mill City-Gates Post 159 in Gates, Oregon. Please welcome the 1994 Precision Shooting Champion, Stephanie Thompson.

STEPHANIE THOMPSON
1994 Precision Shooting Champion

Thank you. First of all, I would like to thank The American Legion, Sons of The American Legion, and my parents for the loving support they have provided. A very special thanks go to Steve Short for everything he has done for me.

Six years ago, my father introduced me to shooting, which has changed my life in so many ways. It has been a great honor to be here, because I have a chance to meet so many nice people. I would like to thank you again for everything you have done to make this trip so wonderful.

1994 NATIONAL ORATORICAL CHAMPION

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: Our next youth champion is a young lady who is developing critical skills that will assist her as she pursues a career in broadcasting or politics.

She is our 1994 National High School Oratorical Champion. A Senior at Jersey Village Senior High School in Houston, Texas, her plans call for attending Princeton University next year to pursue her college education. She is sponsored by Garden Oaks Post 560. Please welcome Lisa Tsai to Minneapolis.

LISA TSAI
1994 National Oratorical Champion

Commander Thiesen, Delegates to the 1994 American Legion Convention, Legionnaires, ladies and gentlemen, it is certainly my great pleasure to be able to thank you today for all you have done in this oratorical contest.

I will begin by saying that the National High School Oratorical Contest is one of the most fulfilling and enriching experiences that I have had in my life. Although I could not possibly thank everybody who has contributed and supported me throughout this contest, I would like to give it a try.

Thank you for the scholarship that is going to enable me to attend Princeton this fall, and later graduate school. Thank you for the knowledge that I have gained about the United States Constitution, and the knowledge and appreciation that I'm certainly going to pass on to my peers.

But perhaps more importantly, thank you for the friendships and the associations I have now made with The American Legion. I would like to specifically thank those people from the great state of Texas, Oratorical Chairman Maxine Feedler, Jim Heath, and everyone in the state of Texas. The national level, I would like to thank Steve Short and all those others for making the contest run as smoothly as possible and accommodating the needs of the contestants.

And lastly, I have taken away with me a new and a much deeper appreciation of not just the Legionnaires, but of our country's veterans. I don't only thank you for what you've done for me personally, but what each and every one of you has done for our nation, your service, your blood, the risking of your life. This is more than any American could ever ask for, and I sincerely thank you for that.

And in return, although I cannot fully repay you, you can be assured of one thing, that I offer to you my lifelong friendship, my unbreakable loyalty, and also my voice. I now feel it is my responsibility to tell my peers and those younger and older than me about the Constitution, and about our duties as a citizen. And in the future, as a policy-maker one day who can effect change I would like to help you pass such things as the Amendment to the Constitution to protect the Flag.

In the future, I would like to be one of the many voices out there for The American Legion. I hold a very special place in my heart for The American Legion, and every single Legionnaire.

Thank you for a great week in Minneapolis, and more importantly, thank you for the service to our country. I love you all.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: We sure have a lot to be proud of. Those that were selected went out and did their best to make the accomplishments they set for themselves.

Congratulations to each and every one on being champions.

Also thanks to the parents for providing us with such great young people to lead this nation in the future.

BASEBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: The American Legion is proud of its sponsorship of the nation's leading amateur baseball program, a program that provides solid training for future major league players.

Our Baseball Player of the Year will graduate from Rapid City Central High School in Rapid City, South Dakota next year. He is considering a career in psychology and has no specific college in mind right now. This young man was selected as the 1994 American Legion Baseball Player for his sportsmanship, character, citizenship and playing ability. Please give a warm American Legion welcome to a young man sponsored by American Legion Post 22 in Rapid City, the 1994 Baseball Player of the Year, Benjamin Thomas.

BENJAMIN THOMAS
1994 Baseball Player of the Year

I am honored to be here at the 76th Annual American Legion Convention, and I guess I would like to tell you a little about how much the Legion means to me, and what it has done for me.

Your sponsorship of baseball has opened many doors, giving me opportunities beyond my greatest dreams. In August of 1993, The American Legion Post 22 baseball team, on which I played, won the World Series in Roseburg, Oregon. As an added bonus, I received the National Player of the Year Award. I can't begin to tell you how I felt. I had a wonderful trip to Cooperstown, home of the Baseball Hall of Fame. I met some of the great people in baseball, for example, Ken Griffin and John Cruck. I really appreciate everything you have done for me.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: Thank you very much, Ben, we appreciate your effort in being selected the 1993 Player of the Year. Thanks again to all of the Youth Champions.

1995 BUICK LESABRE

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: Since we have just met these fine youth champions, I believe it is also an appropriate time to draw your attention to the current promotion that Buick is conduction with The American Legion.

First, a beautiful 1995 Buick LeSabre will be awarded to one lucky person on Thursday morning when we start the closing day of the convention. You qualify for an opportunity to ride around your town in this great car by making a donation, with a real purpose. These donations are providing the seed money for a brand new American Legion Baseball Scholarship Program. The Americanism Commission and The American Legion

Baseball Committee will be working in the months ahead to establish the details of the scholarship program. We hope the first scholarships will be awarded at the close of the 1995 American Legion Baseball season.

I also want to remind everyone of the latest Buick coupon promotion, which allows Legionnaires to make their best deal on a new Buick between now and October 31st, then present the coupon in the special Buick flier to get another $300 off the price. The coupon is in the September issue of *The American Legion Magazine*. It will also be in the October issue and you can even pick up some coupons at the special Buick display in the exhibit hall.

Of course, Buick will still give another $100 to the local American Legion Baseball team of the buyer's choice.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: Our next guest is a man that understands the commitment it takes to young Americans to shape the future of our nation. He is a man who had dedicated much of his life to serving others in a variety of ways. He has long history of civic and charitable involvement that would take too long to read. He has served in leadership roles with the Minnesota State's Human Rights Advisory Committee and the University of Minnesota Alumni Association. This distinguished gentleman was a member of the 1963 Boys Nation class, the same class as President Bill Clinton. For the past two years he has helped Boys Nation by speaking to the delegates, and bringing along members of his staff. They always take time to talk with the Boys Nation delegates, and answer many questions.

He served as United States Congressman from Minnesota's third district and he is on the House Judiciary and Small Business Committees as well as the Joint Economic Committee of Congress. He is also a veteran and a Legionnaire. Please give a warm welcome to a member of American Legion Wesphal Post 251 in Minnesota, Congressman Jim Ramstad.

THE HONORABLE JIM RAMSTAD
United States House of Representatives

Thank you very much, Commander Thiesen, for the nice introduction. Department Commander Galazen, Delegates to this great Convention, honored guests, fellow Legionnaires, as a proud member of Wesphal Post 251 in Robinsdale, Minnesota, it is an honor and a privilege to welcome all of you to the great state of Minnesota.

As a third generation member of my family to be a Legionnaire, it is great to have you in Minnesota to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of The American Legion. It is a real honor for me to be here today before you. It is a real thrill to be welcomed just like I was welcomed when I came back from the service by the men and women from Westphal Post 251. The same people who welcomed me back then welcomed me here. Thanks to Jim Baker, Amos Anderson, Ralph Anderson, Commander Zoll, and my present Commander from Wesphal, Commander Dave Wendt. Good to see District Commander Paul Peterson and my very good friends with whom I work very closely in Washington on issues affecting veterans, Steve Robertson, Legislative Director and Jerry May. They do such an incredibly competent job for all of us who are in The American Legion and the Auxiliary.

For 75 years now, the United States has called upon The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary, the Sons of The American Legion to serve our nation and keep America strong. For 75 years you have delivered. It hasn't always been easy. In fact, as

one fellow Legionnaire put it, it's been a long, hard road to hoe. That brought back a story as I was walking in. I saw a little bouquet of flowers back in the foyer reminding me of my very first election to Congress, a hard-fought campaign. On election night I received a bouquet of flowers with a card saying, "May you rest in peace." I was a little puzzled. True it had been a hard-fought campaign, but nevertheless, I called the florist the next day, and expressed my puzzlement. The florist came back a couple of minutes later and said, "Ramstad, if you think you're puzzled, how do you think about the guy who is buried in the cemetery who got the card which said, 'Congratulations on your new position. You have a long road to hoe.'"

Well, for 75 years, The American Legion has hoed that road well, and has delivered. You have served a great nation in war and peace. In war, the Legion has saved lives. In peace, the Legion has enriched lives.

For 75 years, your programs have taught Americanism to our young people, and believe me, without the opportunities you gave me in 1963 to attend North Dakota Boys State and Boys Nation, I would not be standing before you today. Last year President Clinton and I hosted the 30th Anniversary Reunion of our Boys Nation Class of 1963.

I will always be grateful to men like Ron Engle, Director of Boys Nation, who give so much of themselves to this wonderful program. I know that when this year's Boys Nation's participants, have their 30th year reunion, they will look back as Members of Congress, maybe as Supreme Court Justice, school teachers, civic leaders, leaders in The American Legion, or maybe as the President of the United States, as the opportunity of a lifetime. For 75 years, you who are The American Legion have stood behind all our veterans and worked hard for their just and equal treatment. You have meant support, friendship and hope for veterans and their families during crises and sorrow. For 75 years, the Legion has meant patriotism and service with honor. Your ideals and your values have made America great and kept America free.

The American Leigon's priceless legacy of pride and patriotism for God and country represent the very heart and soul of America. The American Legion is our nation's conscience, and I salute each and every one of you, all 3,300 Delegates and all 20,000 of your extended families, who had the good sense to choose Minnesota for this year's Convention.

Minnesota is the proud home of my good friend George Washington Bentley. As you know he is one of the three living founders of The American Legion. Thank you, George, for all you mean to The American Legion, 96 years young, and 137 pounds trim, what an incredible American, what an incredible Legionnaire. to us.

As I stand before you today, I feel very grateful that I was born into The American Legion, and the Legion is part of me. My earliest childhood memories go back to the Ernest Denoet Robertson Post, Jamestown, North Dakota, where I was born and raised, and where my grandfather, Oscar Folte, was Post Commander. My beloved grandmother, Amelia Folte, served as President of the Auxiliary. My grandparents, my parents who are here today, Legionnaire Marv Ramstad, Auxiliary Delarea Ramstad, taught me Legion values early, taught me service to God and country, and the responsibilities to keep American strong, prepared and free. My responsibility is to help keep America prepared, strong and free.

I remember as a small child, the Auxiliary dinners, Legion pancake breakfasts, poppies, Memorial Day parades and processions to the cemetery on Veterans Day. Today, mom and dad, I salute you for preserving and promoting the Legion heritage and traditions in our

family and in our community.

You see, nobody ever had to tell me that it was wrong to burn the American flag. Nobody ever had to tell me that it was right to serve my country in the United States Army as a Vietnam veteran. Nobody should have to keep telling the politicians in Washington that we must never forget the 2,200 brave Americans still missing in action in Southeast Asia.

We won't forget, the American people won't forget, and the Congress and the President of the United States must not forget. We must have a full accounting of each and every American MIA and POW. We must also never forget the many other soldiers, many of whom are here today in this Convention Hall, who have sacrificed so much for our country, and for freedom-loving people around the world. That is why Congress must not forget our veterans while reforming our health care system.

We need to use health care reform as a vehicle for improving the VA system. To do one without the other would be a disservice. Congress also needs to send a message, needs to pass a very narrow, a very specific Constitutional Amendment that outlaws desecration of the American Flag in any way, shape or form.

I have been a strong supporter of the Flag Amendment, even before I was elected to the Congress in 1991. I share your outrage and your grief that anyone would make this Amendment necessary by desecrating our treasured national symbol. This summer, as all of you know, marks the fifth anniversary of that very unfortunate Supreme Court decision. After Congress failed to pass a Constitutional Amendment, many people, many observers thought the issue was dead, but thanks to a nationwide grassroots campaign, The American Legion truly has waged a quiet revolution, a very effective quiet revolution.

During the early stages The American Legion alone collected more than one million signatures on petitions in just two months. Thank God for The American Legion. We all know there is tremendous public support for this effort, but more importantly, we know it is the right thing to do.

During a recent rally held by the Citizens Flag Alliance in Washington, DC, I was struck by the words of Dave Smithens, a member of one of the 65 national organizations making up the Alliance. For Dave Smithens and his family, who left Soviet dominated Latvia, the American Flag has always stood as a symbol of hope and freedom. At that rally Dave said, "If we do not respect the American Flag, we do not respect America. We lose respect for everything we stand for. A Flag is more than a piece of cloth, it represents all the values that a nation has."

As a member of the House Judiciary Committee, I pledge to you my continued active, strong support in passing that Constitutional Amendment. I sincerely believe that with many new faces in Congress after November's election, you will have much more support.

This convention and the campaign of the Citizens Flag Alliance is a tribute to the brave men and women who gave their lives for our country. We should all be reminded today of the tremendous price that our courageous men and women gave to protect the freedom we cherish as Americans. Since the birth of our great nation, more than one million Americans have died in war. They gave their lives because they believe in the basic goodness of America. They believed in the dream of liberty. They believed in the equality of opportunity. They believed, as we believe, in freedom. When we visit our nation's cemeteries, and see the thousands of tombstones, and the sacrifices those tombstones represent, the message of the Flag is clear.

In Minnesota, when we see a young, suddenly widowed wife and baby in her arms during Operational Desert Storm, the message of the Flag is clear. When we see the walls

of Communism come tumbling down, the message of the Flag is clear. That message is the legacy we should remember and celebrate, and not just on Memorial Day or Veterans Day, but everyday. Our troops from all wars deserve great gratitude and praise. They, you, are America's true heros. We must never forget the brave men and women from World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Grenada, Lebanon, Panama, and Operation Desert Storm, who sacrificed so much for our country and for freedom-loving people in our world.

I salute The American Legion here today. I would like to turn back to the pages of history to the year 1914, at a ceremony dedicating a Civil War Monument. One of the surviving prisoners of a Union Prison camp told a story of a father who had lost three sons to war. This father had just lost his fourth and last son at the Battle of Stone River. The fourth son had served under his uncle, and it was his uncle who discovered the boy's lifeless body on that bloody field. As he sought to console his grieving bother, the uncle wrote the following message from the front lines:

> Dear Brother Jacob, this will be a sad blow to you, this being the fourth boy that you have given to your country, but in your sorrow, always remember, they died fighting for the greatest country on which this sun has ever shown.

So, Legionnaires, those words were true in the 1860s and they are true in 1914, and they are true here today. They are true today because you have kept them alive. You have kept alive the message of freedom and the meaning of patriotism. You have been there for 75 years to make right the master of might, and may The American Legion continue to be there for many years to come, for God and country.

May God bless all of you and your families. Thank you and God bless America.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: Preserving the memories and incidence of our great associations with the great wars has been a principle which has provided a firm anchor for The American Legion for 75 years. This year it was a particular honor for me to represent so many of our members as the world paused to remember the tragedy and triumph of June 6, 1944.

The American Legion has, by resolution, been a willing promoter of a variety of events to mark the 50th anniversary of World War II battles. Joining us today is a man who understands better then others the scope of the nationwide remembrances of World War II. He has coordinated this nationwide effort of commemoration of World War II as a Special Assistant to the Secretary of the Army.

He is a retired Lieutenant General of the United States Army. He saw duty in Vietnam, Iran, Europe, and many stateside location. Ladies and gentlemen, please give a warm welcome to a member of The American Legion Post 141 in Richmond, Virginia, Claude Kicklighter.

LT. GENERAL CLAUDE KICKLIGHTER
World War II Commemorative Committee

Thank you for those kind remarks, National Commander, Madam President, Congressman, National Officers, distinguished guests, members of the Auxiliary, fellow veterans, and fellow Legionnaires. It is a great to be here in Minnesota for the Legion's National Convention, especially as we come to the end of our Diamond Jubilee.

As all of you know, 75 years ago on the first anniversary of Armistice Day, November 11, 1919, the Legion held its first National Convention right here in Minneapolis. We are proud that women have been full members of our Legion since that time. They were voting for our National Commander of the Legion, before they could vote for the President of the United States, our Legion setting the example.

Since 1919, The American Legion has provided and proved time and again, their great support for our veterans, for those serving on active duty, and for their families and have supported our great nation in so many ways.

From the very start of the 50th anniversary of World War II, the Legion has been in the forefront in helping our nation commemorate this important historical event. Our National Commander, Bruce Thiesen, has provided leadership, vision and strong support during the past year. He has helped in so many ways. He was always there to provide advice and counsel throughout this period, and as he mentioned, he recently returned from participating in commemorations of battles in Italy and the D-Day events in Normandy and France.

Our previous Commander, Roger Munson, helped get this program off the ground and to a great start, when he accepted the World War II Commemorative Flag from General Colin Powell, making our Legion, our National Headquarters, one of the very first Commemorative Communities in our nation.

Commander Munson and Bob Spanogle have been major forces in getting the Auxiliary and the Post involved, and through them, our communities across America, and I thank you very much for that.

This afternoon, I would like to give you a very brief update on our nation's effort to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of World War II. As you know, the purpose of this program is to help our nation, a grateful nation, to thank and honor our World War II veterans, their families and especially the families who know the price of freedom and for the families who lost loved ones in that war. We also want to remember those who served on the homefront, who turned America into the arsenal of democracy, and supported our forces around the world. We also want to encourage the study of history of this very significant period so that we can learn, and we can use this knowledge and develop our young leaders, so that we can have a safer and better world for our children, our grandchildren, and our great, great grandchildren.

Education is a very key ingredient, and an important part of this commemoration. Support for our schools, and for our children has always been important to the people, the Legion and the Auxiliary. As we all know, this year marks the 50th Anniversary of the GI Bill, which one of our former National Commanders drafted. The Legion played a major role in getting this bill passed and turning it into a reality.

Nothing has helped our nation's education programs like this bill. It has been said that one of the best things that ever come out of Congress was the GI Bill. It has produced many of the great leaders, both nationally and internationally, and the Legion can take a lot of credit in that accomplishment. In fact, the greatness of our nation is the result in a large part of those opportunities generated by the GI Bill. It has touched many of the lives of those of us here this morning, and so, the Legion again sets the example.

One of the programs that is helping us reach grassroots America, where we find more than eight million World War II veterans, is the Commemorative Community Program. We continue to request that communities, veterans and civic organizations across America to volunteer and to get involved, and to participate and to sponsor at least three events each

year that honor our veterans, their families and to support education in our local schools.

Once the community or organization volunteers, they are officially designated as a World War II Commemorative Community. They are presented a certificate signed personally by the Secretary of Defense, and authorized by Congress. They receive a World War II Commemorative Flag which they are allowed to display either in their chapter room, or outside. In addition, and very importantly, they receive many educational items for the local schools. They are more than 4,000 World War II Commemorative Communities today. They include all the states and all the territories. The Commemorative Communities continue to grow thanks to The American Legion, at about 200 per month. The American Legion has done a great job in helping make this happen across our nation. In fact, about 500 of our Legion Posts and Auxiliaries are World War II Commemorative Communities and are leading their communities. I wish I had time this morning to mention the great things that are happening across American.

As we come to this final year of Commemoration, we need all of our Legion Posts and all of our Auxiliaries to get involved to ensure that we reach those World War II veterans who need help, no matter where they are. And unfortunately, many are getting older now, and many are in nursing homes, retirement communities, and retirement homes, and some are in hospital. We want to make sure that not one veteran goes without knowing that his nation has not forgotten his or her sacrifice and service 50 years ago.

We have got application blanks in our World War II booths and examples of educational materials outside in the Exhibit Hall. I hope you will have a chance to stop by and chat with us and pick up some of those.

Next, I would like to give you a brief update on another key program, and that is education. We have superb educational materials available for all our schools, at no cost, but we need you to assist us in getting these materials, along with our World War II veterans, into the classroom to assist our teachers in teaching this important subject. If we study what we did 50 years ago, if we learn, if we prepare, maybe, just maybe, World War II will become known as the "Last World War."

Next, I would like to brief you on another key area, that is the media. If we are going to reach young America, we must keep the media involved. The Legion's media data bank has greatly helped. More than 1,000 of our Legionnaires have volunteered to share their military experiences by filling out a detailed questionnaire. This information has been input into a computer data bank, and dozens of news organizations everyday are reaching to this information to use, such as *The New York Times, CNN* and the *BBC, ABC, NBC, CBS*, and many others. They are relying on this information so that they can put a human face on World War II campaigns of half a century ago that they are recording. If you haven't done that, I would encourage you to fill out this questionnaire, and let us have that data.

We have also produced some 30-second TV spots which are currently airing on stations across our nation. Also, the media has produced more than 50 major television programs and movies in the past three years that are thanking and honoring our World War II veterans. Many more television programs and movies are in the making that will be aired during this final year. This is such a key program, that we must continue to work together to ensure that we keep the media involved.

What I would like to do now is to show you a sample of a couple of TV spots that are appearing across the nation and in these you will see several Legionnaires participating.

. . . At this time a short video was shown.

The last part of this update will cover commemorative dates. As you know, we began

this program on December 7, 1991, when we covered the 50th Anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, in Honolulu. The American Legion was very much involved in that first event, and they have been since that date.

We have commemorated many events since the start, but due to time, can only highlight the remaining events of this commemoration going into the last year. The commemorations normally take place on battle sites overseas, with others also in many locations simultaneously across America.

In June 1994, we commemorated the battles in Italy, D-Day landings in Normandy, the liberation of Saipan and Tinian in the Pacific. In July 1994, we commemorated the liberation of Guam and about 1,200 of our veterans from that battle returned. In August 1994, we commemorated the landings in southern France and the Liberation of Paris. This month, September we will commemorate the Liberation of Belgium, Luxenburg, and the Netherlands, and then we go back to the Pacific this month for the battle of Peleliu. During October 1994, also in the Pacific, we will commemorate one of the great battles of the war, Leyte Gulf and General McArthur's return to the Philippines.

In December of 1994, we commemorate the Battle of the Bulge in Belgium, and also in St. Louis, Missouri will begin the final year, 1995.

In February through March 1995, we will commemorate the epic Battle of Iwo Jima, and we will do this in Washington, DC taking three visits back to that island during that period. In March 1995 we commemorate the crossing of the Rhine River at the Remagen Bridge in Germany. This will be the first time we have commemorated an event in Germany. In April through June 1995, we will commemorate the Battle of Okinawa, one of the bloodiest and fiercest battles of that war, and we will do that in Washington in March, and also on the island of Okinawa. Also in April we will commemorate the United States and Russian armies linkup on the Elbe River and we will do this in Germany, Moscow and Washington. May the 8th, 1995 marks the end of the war in Europe. Victory in Europe Day will be commemorated across the nation and throughout Europe. On July 27, 1995, we will all be in Washington, DC for the unveiling of the Korean War Monument.

September 2, 1995 is the end of the Pacific War. We will have events across our nation commemorating the end of the war in the Pacific and the end of World War II. Then we will end our commemoration on Veterans Day, November 11, 1995, as the curtain comes down on the 50th Anniversary of World War II.

No generation of Americans have ever been given a tougher job than were the World War II generation. They fought the most destructive war in history, the war that we were not prepared for. We had to buy time to prepare for that war with the lives of young Americans. But they fought and won that war, and literally saved our nation and saved the world. It is appropriate that we remember and thank them as we come to the 50th anniversary of the war. But no matter what we do to honor this very special generation, it won't be enough and it won't be adequate.

Everyday when we wake up and look around at this strong and free and beautiful America, we should always remember that this nation didn't just happen. Brave men and women, our veterans, answered their nation's call 50 years ago, as they have answered that call since the founding of this great nation, and as they will always answer that call.

It's been said that any nation that forget its veterans ceases to be a great nation. America will never forget its veterans. A grateful nation does remember our great Americans who served our nation.

God bless the Legion and our families. God bless America.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: It's a pleasure to have been working so closely with General Kicklighter and his committee this past year, and to see how dedicated they are in preserving those memories of World War II.

SOCIETY OF AMERICAN LEGION FOUNDERS

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: In this city 75 years ago the founders of The American Legion saw the first fruits of countless hours of work involved in forming The American Legion.

The Society of the Founders of The American Legion, Incorporated, today has just four men living who were present at the 1st Caucus. While three of them cannot be with us today, their spirit is still very much a part of the 76th National Convention.

I am deeply honored that one of these men is here today, and I want each and every Delegate to rise and greet a man from right here in Minneapolis, George Washington Bentley.

GEORGE WASHINGTON BENTLEY
Society of American Legion Founders

FOUNDER BENTLEY: You tell me what to do.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: You can talk to these men and women out here who are members of The American Legion.

FOUNDER BENTLEY: I see. I see. Okie-doke. He says I can say anything I want to say out here. Well, okay. I'm George Washington Bentley, and I'm one of the young fellows of the Founders of The American Legion. I'll be, oh gee, what will I be? I'll be 96 next February.

Well, you may want to know a little about the founding of The American Legion. Of course, I was in World War I, and stationed over in Paris, France. And I was there when they were being bombed at night and then being shelled during the daytime. Well, when they were shelling us during the daytime, the enemy was shelling Paris, why, a shell would land, oh, about once every hour in the streets of Paris and explode, but the people didn't pay attention to it. They went about their work as usual, you see. Then at night when the bombers would come over, of course they would drop their bombs, too. That didn't do much damage.

Well, I was stationed in a little old hotel or something, but when the signal was on, that a plane was coming over, we were supposed to get down from the upper floors, fifth or sixth floor I think it was, That's about as high as the buildings were. We were to get down from the fifth or sixth floor and get down on the ground floor so that in case the bomb did come over and land on the building we would be a little safer downstairs. So we get down there on the main floor and then we were supposed to stay in there until it was all over. Sure. We would get down there but that wasn't enough for me. I opened the door and I would sneak outside, so I could watch the planes going over and the exploding of the bombs as they went over. The planes were trying to get the cathedral. I forget what the name of it was now [Editor's note: Notre Dame], but anyway, they never did succeed, and the cathedral is still standing there today.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN:: Well, thank you, sir.

FOUNDER BENTLEY: Now let's see. Is there anything else you want me to tell

them?

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: I appreciate your coming by to the 76th National Convention. Let's hear it.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: Look at them stand up for you.

FOUNDER BENTLEY: Well, did I tell them I live in Minneapolis?

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: We told them that, but you can tell them.

FOUNDER BENTLEY: Oh, yeah, well, I'm still living in Minneapolis. I came up here the year right after World War I, so I've been a resident of Minneapolis ever since that time. Even at my age now, I expect to live another three years, three and half years I guess it is, so I'll reach the old ripe age, or young age, of 100 years.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: Thank you, sir. Boy, you can see those World War I veterans have still got a lot of fight in them, and I can assure you that Mr. Bentley still has a lot of fight left.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: At this time I would also like to introduce another gentleman who lives right here in the Minneapolis area. He is the only survivor of the raising of the flag on Mt. Suribachi in Iwo Jima. His group raised the flag a half hour before the pictures were taken. Charles Lindberg, would you please come to the speaker's platform?

MR. CHARLES LINDBERG: Commander, distinguished guests, Delegates, it's quite an honor for me to be here, something I didn't expect, but I would like to give you my version of that flag raising 49 years ago. It was a proud moment when they raised that first flag to the cheers of the thousands of troops down below. The ships' whistles and the whole island just came alive But over the years everybody says of the survivors that, there's only one left. I disagree. I think every man on that island raised that flag.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: It is an honor for me to introduce a man who served in the Royal Canadian Navy during World War II. During this active duty time he first served in the North Atlantic on convoy, then volunteered for motor torpedo boats. He is retired from a career with the Canadian Pacific Railway Company and C.G.T.X., Inc. He has been actively working for veterans in Canada since joining the Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans in Canada in 1958. Among his awards are the Canadian Centennial Medal, The American Legion Friendship Award and the Queen Elizabeth Canadian Silver Jubilee Medal.

Please welcome to Minneapolis the Dominion President of the Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans in Canada, W. T. Russ Ward.

W. T. RUSS WARD
Dominion President
Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans in Canada

National Commander, distinguished guests, Legionnaires, comrades all. It gives me a great deal of pleasure for this opportunity to bring to you greetings from our country, Canada, and from its oldest veterans association, the Army, Navy, and Air Force Veterans

in Canada Association.

We have had a long and fruitful association with you, both as a nation and as a veteran's association. We share the common concerns and we appreciate the same successes. Our association with you dates back to the Miami Convention in 1948. As you may know, we have a branch of our association with your Legion called ANAVICUS, the Army, Navy, Air Force Veterans in Canada United States Unit.

At this time, I would ask the Indiana people to take our respects to Colonel Frank Kossa on your return to Indiana. I am thankful also for the opportunity to meet your National Commander and your Executive Officers and to be able to discuss with them the concern in maintaining veterans' benefits.

Our thanks also go to Jim and Richard for looking after us these past few days. We couldn't have asked for anybody better, and thank you very much.

In view of your busy schedule, I shall limit my remarks, but I would be remiss if I did not demonstrate the esteem with which we hold The American Legion. We, the Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans in Canada, also feel very strongly about our flag, and support you with your flag.

I would ask Commander Thiesen to join me and to accept this small token of that esteem.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: Thank you very much.

DOMINION PRESIDENT WARD: It's been a pleasure to be here.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: Well, thank you for coming and thanks for the long association and the friendship that's been developed between our two organizations.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: It is fitting that these friends of ours from Canada also are marking their 50th anniversary of their wartime service.

Our next guest served in the Royal Canadian Army Service Corps. in England, Sicily, Italy, and elsewhere in Europe during World War II. He has served as a member of the Royal Canadian Legion Dominion Executive Council in a variety of capacities. Today, he is the Dominion First Vice President. A retired Canadian Immigration Officer, please welcome to the 76th National Convention of The American Legion, Joseph Kobolak.

JOSEPH KOBOLAK
Dominion First Vice President
The Royal Canadian Legion

Thank you for your kind introduction, Bruce. National Commander, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, my comrades all. It gives me great pleasure to be with you today and to have this occasion to bring greetings from The Royal Canadian Legion. We wish you every success in your discussions and deliberations at this great Convention.

The American and Royal Legions have many common objectives, programs and problems, and we have much to learn from each other. That is the primary reason that I am here with you today. I'm not here to deliver an inspiring message.

Our great organizations share the need to provide a service to those who served in time of war, and those who are still in need of assistance. Our common objectives in veterans' matters are based on common beliefs and experiences. Many Americans served in the Canadian forces, and many Canadians served in the American forces at various times in our history. Our organizations appreciate the continuing efforts of The American Legion to have

their government enact legislation which assists those persons who served in the Canadian forces in World War I and World War II in Canada, and other reciprocal arrangements that benefit the veterans of both nations.

Overall, we found that both our Legions have served our comrades well, but even though we in Canada are said to be approaching the end of the fight for improved benefits for veterans and their dependents, it is far from over. And certainly we are struggling with our government to fill in a number of gaps. We must, for example, continue to search out all veterans and their dependents. They may be entitled to, but are not aware of, benefits earned because of their service and to ensure that they are receiving their just benefits. This search activity must go on until the needs of the last veterans are met, and that will take a long time.

A recent 1994 example of what we are involved in was a pension award for a 98 year old gas victim of World War I. He should have been receiving that pension since 1918. Clearly, our great organizations must continue to be involved in national military affairs, and even more general areas such as the needs of our youth and seniors for the good of our countries. Our programs on these other areas, such as for seniors, are being greatly expand to the benefit of veterans and their dependents, as well as the general population of Canada. We were fortunate to play a leading role in Canada in training medical practitioners in gerontology and geriatrics, then developing low-cost housing projects and improving medical facilities and in various other community levels of programs to the benefit of all seniors, and in particular, the veterans. This work is still growing.

Veterans and seniors are not the only concern of the Canadian Legion. Like The American Legion, we feel a great responsibility for our youth and the nation in general. Remembrance is also an area that requires careful attention, especially in this 50th anniversary of the end of World War II. People tend to forget. And in Canada, we have very few leaders that served in the war and many do not even remember Canada ever having been at war. This demands great effort on the part of knowledgeable Canadians to ensure that the sacrifices of the past are not forgotten.

I can see from a review of your program and the many activities of The American Legion, that you have no intention of fading away. Neither do we. Our obligations to our nations will remain for many years to come, and The Royal Canadian Legion, the Army Navy and Air Force Veterans in Canada, and other veterans' organizations in Canada must maintain strong and active organizations that will pursue our common interests.

In closing, I offer you the best wishes of the 600,000 members and affiliates of The Royal Canadian Legion for a successful Convention and offer these tokens of best wishes of longstanding mutual friendship to the outgoing and incoming National Commander of The American Legion.

Now, before I say my thank you, I would like to make a presentation on behalf of The Royal Canadian Legion to your National Commander, Bruce Thiesen, for his many years of work and his great leadership of The American Legion. Bruce, would you please accept this with our best wishes.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: Thank you very much. It's been a pleasure.

DOMINION FIRST VICE PRESIDENT KOBOLAK: Thank you very much and God bless.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: Our next guest is no stranger to the Delegates to an American Legion National Convention. He is a man that set an example of

the worldwide need for veterans to take care of their own.

He served the Republic of China in uniform for many years in such positions as Infantry Division Commander, and Army Corp Commander, Commandant Central Police College and Vice Commander-in-Chief of the Taiwan Garrison Command.

Now he continues to serve his fellow veterans as the Chairman of the Vocational Assistance Commission for Retired Servicemen in the Republic of China.

Please welcome Chou Shih-pin to our National Convention.

GENERAL CHOU SHIH-PIN
Chairman, Vocational Assistance Commission
for Retired Servicemen, Republic of China

On behalf of the Vocational Assistance Commission for Retired Servicemen (VACRS) and the veterans of the Republic of China, I extend to you our most sincere congratulations on the occasion of the National Convention of The American Legion. I am very pleased to be with our old friends from The American Legion here at Minneapolis.

As veterans who have endured the horrors of war, we long for the peace and quiet. Unfortunately, even today, with the near-demise of communism as a force of evil in the world, we still have many troubled spots which could erupt into widespread violence and possible world war at any moment. In Bosnia, Rowanda, Haiti, Somalia and in a host of other places around the world, the embers of hate are fanned by greed until they rage into a roaring fire of death and destruction.

We believe that it is the special responsibility of the veterans of the free world to unite in our efforts to promote a spirit of justice which may calm the propensity toward war and violence. As we know, the devastation of war can only lead to economic dislocation, hardship and suffering, not only for the military forces, but also for non-combatants within the nations and the people of neighboring countries.

The American Legion has always been a close friend of VACRS and the Republic of China. We share many common goals and mutually beneficial interests in veterans' affairs. We both promote the best quality home care, health care, education and training and job placement that can be provided for our veterans. We understand that veterans' benefits are not merely grants from the government, but rather compensation for service rendered to the nation on which no one can place a price tag.

In the areas of foreign relations and national defense, our two countries likewise share common aims. We are committed to expanding liberty, democracy, national security and prosperity for all people of the world. We believe that the cooperation of freedom-loving people will triumph over dictatorship and slavery. As the iron and bamboo curtains continue to fall, we are all hopeful that nations around the world can finally enjoy peace.

For two decades, The American Legion has shown its endorsement of the Republic of China through resolutions at the Department and National levels. You have supported the diplomatic recognition of the Republic of China, our return to the United Nations, and the continued supply of advanced military equipment for our armed forces. For this support, our people are truly grateful.

We also hope that the relationship between The American Legion and VACRS will continue to grow and prosper in the years to come so that we will be able to foster the spirit of veterans' brotherhood between our organizations.

In closing, I give you my best regards for health, happiness, and a most successful

Convention in 1994. Thank you.

PRESENTATION

. . . The following was translated through interpreter:

On behalf of the National President of the Republic of China, General Chou has a presentation, and I have the honor to read the certificate, the certificate accompanying the Award of the Cloud and Banner Medal.

> Mr. Bruce Thiesen, National Commander, The American Legion, has distinguished himself by his outstanding contributions to the promotion of friendly relations to the people of the United States of America and the Republic of China, and to the enhancement of ties and cooperation between the veterans of our two countries. In appreciation of his meritorious service, National Commander Thiesen is presented the Order of the Cloud and Banner with Cravat by the Government of the Republic of China, in accordance with Article 11 of the Armed Force Decoration Regulations. Signed by Lee Ten-hui, President; Lien Chan, Premier; Sun Chen, Minister of National Defense.
>
> And also a plaque is presented by the General himself.
>
> Presented to Mr. Bruce Thiesen, National Commander of The American Legion, in appreciation of his outstanding contributions to the enhancement of friendship and cooperation between The American Legion and VACRS. Signed by Chairman Chous Shih-pin Vocational Assistance Commission for Retired Servicemen, Republic of China, September 7, 1994.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: Thank you very much. I would like to say thanks to the General for all that he has given, not only to the veterans of his community and the organization that he represents, but also for being such a gracious host to many National Commanders, and National Presidents who have had the opportunity to visit his country. I do want to extend my heartfelt thanks again to the General for all of the courtesies extended to myself and my family while we visited Taiwan this Past December.

PRESENTATION
LEGION OF HONOR BRONZE MEDALLION AWARD
THE CHAPEL OF FOUR CHAPLAINS

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: At this time, it is my pleasure to introduce to the Delegates of our 76th National Convention, Eugene Mattinoi, representing The Chapel of Four Chaplains in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, for the purpose of a presentation.

EUGENE MATTIONI
The Chapel of Four Chaplains

It is my honor to be before you as a Trustee and Representative of The Chapel of Four

Chaplains. The work of the Four Chaplains and the 668 servicemen, sailors and merchant seamen who died when their vessel was torpedoes in the North Atlantic is today carried on by 40 chaplains, via some 800 commemorative services each year in recognition of their selfless service. Someday we hope to invite each of you to a commemorative service dedicating their chapel at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. Each of you is to be commended for your own selfless service to our men and women in the United States Armed Services, your fellow veterans, the families and the communities in which we live. Your National Commander, Bruce Thiesen, represents selfless service to the community of veterans since 1966 to the present time.

It is our honor to present to him the Legion of Honor Bronze Medallion Award for selfless service. Chaplain Henry Reinhold presents the award. The award reads:

> The Legion of Honor Bronze Medallion presented to Bruce Thiesen, National Commander 1993 - 1994, Chapel of Four Chaplains in recognition of outstanding service to all people regardless of race or faith, this award symbolizes for all Americans and for all time the unity of this nation founded upon fatherhood of one God.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: Thank you very much.

. . . At this time Vice Commander Curtis O. Twete (North Dakota) assumed the Chair.

BLOOD DRIVE

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER TWETE: We are about to bring this Opening Session of the 76th National Convention to a recess. A reminder of the National Convention Blood Drive is in order. The American Legion has conducted a blood drive for seven years. Be sure to make your donation. Stop by the collection point in the main lobby before you leave today. Our plan is to give the gift of life tomorrow morning before the session begins.

DISPATCH INFORMATION

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER TWETE: For the fourth year in a row, *The American Legion Dispatch* is providing gavel-to-gavel coverage of the Convention activities. *The Dispatch* is available outside the Convention Hall. *The Dispatch* is an excellent way for you to carry the news of the Convention home to fellow Legionnaires.

You can stay up with the latest news of the Legion throughout the year by subscribing at a special subscription rate until September 30th. For just $12 you can receive a year of *the Dispatch*. See the information booth in the Exhibit Hall and sign up. Don't forget to also pick-up a copy of the special supplement on the GI Bill. It's great reading and is something to share with other veterans.

BUICK PROMO

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER TWETE: Before we bring this day to a close, I want to remind you of the display of the 1995 Buick in the Exhibit Hall. Be sure to enter the drawing for the 1995 Buick LeSabre. Ticket books were included in your registration. You can also purchase additional tickets at the display booth. Let's make certain that the seed

money for a new American Legion Baseball Scholarship Program is larger than anyone expects.

LEGISLATIVE REMINDER

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER TWETE: As you prepare to leave today, I want to remind you to stop by the legislative table outside the Convention Hall and write notes to your Congressmen and Senators. If you and I fail to take action now, we may find the very VA health care system we fought so hard to establish and maintain is tossed aside in the rush to a national health care system. Veterans cannot allow any national health care system to be enacted that fails to include the VA health care system. Act now. It's important not just to me or to you, or to those you represent, it's important to future veterans.

CONVENTION OPENING VIDEO ORDER INFORMATION

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER TWETE: The moving opening program has been captured on videotape. "Through the Eyes of a Hero" can be ordered at the Emblem Sales Counter in the lobby. The cost is just $9.95, and it includes shipping and handling. Be sure to order your copy and share it with your non-Legion friends.

CITIZENS FLAG ALLIANCE BRIEFING

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER TWETE: For the last five years, you and the thousands you represent have had considerable success in convincing citizens and lawmakers in your state of the need to take action to protect the Flag of the United States. We do not seek to restrain free speech. What we seek is to lay the first step in rebuilding the foundation of our great nation. A nation that thrives on the freedoms and the responsibilities of its citizens. The men and women of The American Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary and the Sons of The American Legion have been quietly at work since 1989 seeking protection of the Flag of our country from physical desecration. The campaign has been difficult, as it should be, and the campaign is far from over. Excellent progress has been made now, and the intensity must be stepped up a couple of notches.

This afternoon, just after we recess this business session, a special Citizens Flag Alliance Forum will be held. I consider this to be perhaps the most important gathering of this Convention. You need to be there. The ladies of the American Legion Auxiliary and the Delegates of the Sons of The American Legion will also join you.

This special panel discussion on the Citizens Flag Alliance will stress the role of each and every one of you in advancing the cause. This panel will provide essential information to you about the history of our Flag protection efforts, and more importantly, the future of the campaign.

I know that many of you are eager to return to your hotel and rest before this evening's social events, but I want you to do one last favor for me. Be here for this seminar. The success of the Citizens Flag Alliance depends upon the success of you and those you represent in working tirelessly at home for the constitutional amendment giving the federal government and the individual states the right to enact flag protection legislation. This seminar will provide a wealth of information to help you explain the complexity of the effort to your membership back home, and to the citizens of your community.

Thank you for your dedication. Your presence, your leadership, is critical to the success of the Citizens Flag Alliance.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER TWETE: Delegates, will you join me in a salute to the Flag of the United States of America?
. . . The delegates stood and saluted the Flag.

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER TWETE: The Convention will stand in recess until 9:00 a.m. tomorrow morning.

. . . at 2:30 p.m., the Convention recessed to convene the following day, Wednesday, September 7, 1994, at 9:00 a.m.

PROCEEDINGS
SECOND DAY

Wednesday, September 7, 1994

The Convention was called to order by National Commander Bruce Thiesen at 9:05 A.M., EST.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: The Convention will come to order. Please stand and render a right-hand salute to the Flag of our country.

. . . The Delegates stood and saluted the Colors.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: The Invocation will be given by Monsignor Raymond J. Kozlowski.

INVOCATION
Monsignor Raymond J. Kozlowski (NY)
National Chaplain

Let us pray, almighty God, far above us and yet deep within us, we pray for quiet hearts, wise minds, and resolute wills and bodies fit for labor. We thank you for the goodly heritage and the lands of our fathers, loved and bought by sacrifice and suffering. Make us believe in our America, in our day to be so consecrated to human betterment that by the spiritual death, the moral rectitude, the strength and stamina of our character we may help the peoples of the world, through which they will discover their emancipating truth, the light of true freedom and the brotherhood that binds us together, we pray in Your name, Amen.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: Remain standing and uncover while we recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

. . . At this time, the Delegates recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: The Convention is now in session.

Our first guest this morning is the Junior Senator from Minnesota. A man who was sworn in, in 1991 and quickly made a name for himself in Washington, DC.

He was a political science professor, who had never held public office, before his election to the Senate in 1990. Today, he serves on the Energy and Natural Resources, Labor and Human Resources, Small Business, and Indian Affairs Committee in the Senate.

I had the opportunity to visit with this Senator while I served as National Commander on a few of my visits to Washington, DC, and then, once more, on my tour through Minnesota, where he was holding a forum on those veterans who were affected by atomic radiation. He is a man who cares for the veterans, and a man I consider a personal friend, Senator Paul Wellstone from the state of Minnesota.

THE HONORABLE PAUL WELLSTONE
United States Senator

National Commander Bruce Thiesen, whom I also consider to be a personal friend,

outgoing Department Commander Raymond Galazen, incoming Department Commander William Barbknecht, and the incoming National Commander, VA Secretary, Jesse Brown, members of The American Legion, and the American Legion Auxiliary from all across the country; my American Legion friends from Minnesota, their family and friends, and other distinguished and honored guests, on behalf of the state of Minnesota, welcome back. We are pleased that the world's largest veterans organization chose to come back to the site where the first National Convention was held 75 years ago, 75 years of advocacy, 75 years of service, and 75 years of accomplishments.

David Goslin, from Post 1 in Galford Heights, California, had it right, The American Legion has connections to the past, commitment to the present, and the safeguards for the future.

With the connection to the past, you have been vigilant in reminding each and everyone of us, whether we are in public office or not, that we must honor the men and women who served our nation in time of war and peace.

With the commitment to the present, you have been vigilant in reminding each and everyone of us in public service and out, that we must live up to our commitment to veterans, that promises made must be promises kept, for they are safeguards for the future.

As a teacher for 20 years before becoming a United States Senator, let me thank you for the work you do with young people: American Legion Baseball, Boys State and Boys Nation. Post 37 in Ames, Iowa, you had it right, I love athletics, wrestling was my sport. I was in Division One at the University of North Carolina and it made a huge difference in my life. But all to often, we don't recognize our young people for academic accomplishment. You did that in Ames, Iowa. However, you had award banquets for those young men and women who did well in school. We have to continue to emphasize that. Thank you for what you did, Post 37 in Ames, Iowa.

I didn't come here to give hurrah, hurrah speeches, I have too much respect for The American Legion. I came here to talk about children.

I want to make an appeal to you, we can do better! Every five seconds a child drops out of school in America. Every 30 seconds, a child is born in poverty. Every two minutes, a child is born to a woman who has never had any prenatal care. Every two minutes, a child is born severely underweight.

I have two grandchildren. I have a five week old grandson who has been living with me for sometime. I know and you know that these children need to be born by mothers who have had decent nutrition, otherwise they don't have a chance.

Every two minutes, we are talking about children that are in trouble; every four minutes a child is arrested, in an alcohol-related incident. Every two hours a child is murdered in the United States and as a father and a grandfather, I can't accept this last statistic. Every four hours, a young person, 18 years of age and under, commits suicide.

We can build the prisons and those who commit the crimes should be in the prison, but it will not be enough. We will never stop this cycle of violence until we learn that we must invest in the health skills and character of our young people in the United States. We must get that right. These are our children and grandchildren.

Now the Legion has 75 years of advocacy, 75 years of service, and 75 years of accomplishments. You successfully fought to establish the agency that would administer and coordinate all veterans programs. You successfully fought for the GI Bill, which provided education and housing benefits to war veterans returning to civilian life.

You successfully led the fight to help the victims of Agent Orange. You are still

leading that fight, and others, such as assisting the Persian Gulf Veterans.

A quick note about Agent Orange. I was very pleased that Secretary Jesse Brown has expanded the list of Agent Orange diseases. Tim Gilmore is a constituent of mine. He is dying of complications from exposure to Agent Orange. And only because the VA changed their rules, only because of the work you do at the grassroots level, did Tim and his family recently receive the compensation and benefits that they would not have had. As a matter of fact, Tim Gilmore and his family were almost homeless, and because of the support from the Veterans Administration, they moved into their first home. I say as a United States Senator, that when a young man is dying from Agent Orange, who served his country, he should not have to worry about support of his family.

Thank you for the work you have done for Agent Orange victims. I personally and publicly thank Secretary Jesse Brown and the VA for their sensitivity and assistance in dealing with a very tough and very painful constituent case, but we can do better.

Commander Thiesen and I were recently together in a public forum in Minnesota. Let me say to everyone around the country, it was painful. The atomic-test veterans stood up and spoke. Your National Commander spoke eloquently about the importance of our government not forgetting these veterans and honoring the commitment. We had members of the Army 216th Chemical Services Company, half of whom were Minnesotans. The 216th went to ground zero in Nevada. Where they measured the radiation. The government never told them they were in danger. Many are dead, mostly from cancer, and those who survive call themselves, "The Forgotten 216th."

I will never separate the legislation I introduce, or the way I live, from the words I speak. I don't like speeches for the sake of speeches. I will never give up. I will never quit legislating. I will never quit speaking for those atomic-test veterans until they finally have the compensation that they deserve.

We are not here as Republicans, and we are not here as Democrats. We are here because we believe that politics is not about money, and politics is not about power games. Politics is about the improvement of people's lives.

Here at this Convention, you're hammering out your resolutions and your agenda. But I would just like to conclude by talking about our common ground.

Our common ground is that I support funding for veterans' programs. Everybody is saying, cut, cut, cut, cut. I don't agree. Let's cut where there is waste. Let's cut programs we don't need, but let's not cut assistance for children, education, or our veterans who have served their country.

Why are we spending all that money for space stations. When we have veterans right here on earth who can't get into the hospitals they need, or are waiting too long to have their needs met. Let's honor our veterans in the United States.

I didn't say we would agree on every issue, but I am here to reaffirm the many issues that we do agree on, a common ground.

We must make sure that the Veterans Administration is an independent health provider. I introduced one of only two health care bills that recognized the uniqueness and independence of veterans' health care system, but if we are going to keep it independent, separate, let us make sure that we have the resources for dignified health care for veterans. That is the key goal for all of us.

We must eliminate homelessness among veterans. I wish that I didn't have to talk about this issue, because I think it is shameful. Last month, I spent a time on a Sunday afternoon at The Minnesota Stand Down which provides direct assistance to homeless veterans, and

those at risk of becoming homeless. I introduced legislation to expand services for those veterans suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, one of the causes of homelessness for veterans. Jesse Brown deserves to be recognized for making that an essential issue, and for holding the first national summit dealing with veterans' homelessness. It is an outrage, it is unconscionable, and it is unacceptable that the men and women and their families who defended our country should be out on the streets homeless. We must do better than that in the United States of America.

I introduced and will support any legislation, whether it has my name on it or not, to streamline the VA claims and appeals system, so that veterans who are entitled to benefits, receive those benefits in a timely manner. Justice deferred is justice denied. We have a historical obligation to honor our commitment to veterans. We agree on that.

The VA medical system must be fully supported. Right now, it is inadequate. Our VA center here is a model, but as I traveled around the country, and visited some of our hospice facilities, we can do better, and we agree on that. Promises to veterans must be kept.

When we look at small children, we want to know that each of these infants, regardless of their race, or where they live, or their religion, or the income of their families, are going to have a chance in the world, to be all that they can be.

We agree that the United States can be a great country if we understand that real strength begins at home. Let's honor our commitment to our citizens, let's build better communities. Leadership is not appealing to the fears and frustrations of people, leadership is calling people to be their own best self.

I am a Senator from Minnesota because the people of Minnesota supported me, even when I took controversial positions on issues. I think people support me because I am so determined to be as honest as I can. I am now 50 years old, I am now a grandfather. While I may no longer believe in a heaven on earth, I do believe that we can make this a better earth on earth. And that is why all of us are here, to make this a better earth on earth.

Come back to Minnesota, come back often, and thank you for honoring me by letting me address you today.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: Thank you Senator, and I appreciate your efforts. As you travel back to your family please relate to your wife the prayers of this Convention with the loss of your mother-in-law yesterday. Our sympathies are with you at this time. We appreciate you being here on our behalf.

Each of you know the ideals of our founders who wrote in the Preamble to The American Legion of the need to "preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the Great War."

Last November the 11th, the Vietnam Women's Memorial was dedicated in Washington, DC. That dedication marked the continuing effort of the men and women who have served our country in uniform to remember those who died in that service.

There is another memorial that continues to move forward, with very little fanfare. I believe it is important that each Delegate here, understand the progress and importance of our dedication to the Korean War Memorial.

Our next guest is a Legionnaire who has done much to see that the interests of The American Legion have been protected throughout their efforts to build that memorial.

Please welcome, from the Thomas J. Roberts Post 78 in West Roxbury, Massachusetts, Past National Commander, John P."Jake" Comer. We in The American Legion know full well his abilities as a fund raiser, and I want to compliment him personally on behalf of all

the members of this organization for the excellent job he has done.

Now I will make a presentation on behalf of The American Legion to Jake and the memorial fund. He has d one an excellent job to raise money. This check is in the amount of $357,000. The money comes from donations, large and small, sent in by the men and women of The American Legion.

JOHN P. "JAKE" COMER
Past National Commander
Member, Korean War Memorial Advisory Committee

Thank you very much, Commander, National Officers, Past National Commanders, Delegates and Alternates to the 76th National Convention of The American Legion, my fellow veterans of the Korean Conflict, ladies and gentlemen, and my fellow Americans all.

Another outstanding day in the history of the Legion's dedication to the Korean War Memorial and I accept with gratitude the check for $357,000 from the National Commander, Bruce Thiesen, who has done an outstanding job throughout this year.

Many thanks to those that have dug down deep whenever I asked.

As I approached the Distinguished Guest Room here this morning, I saw two individuals standing there with more checks. And as I leave this podium, I am sure that there will be more checks. But for now I can report from the Department of Iowa, an additional check for $1,457.02. From the Department of Connecticut, their first District, a check for $2,429. And last night, when I was privileged to attend a small gala for the Department of Illinois, they presented me with a replica of our Korean Pin. It was a great honor to receive this. I will have it displayed in an honored place in my office on Monday. The pin was designed by Jack Cover of Illinois. He proudly gave me permission to use it as the national pin.

And to the Commander of Illinois, to Dick Quendal and Jim, and to all the members there was another check for $10,000 coming.

The figure we now have which is still growing is $613,004.02. By July 27th, next year, The American Legion will be the largest contributor to the Korean War Memorial Project, as we have the largest organization, and the most giving organization in America.

I ask you to please come out today and tomorrow to look at the booth and the George Skypath painting. It is very beautiful. Here is the print. For $25 or $50 framed you can have this print. Every unit that served in Korea is depicted on this beautiful print. You can put it on your Post Wall, and be proud of it, as you did the Vietnam painting. Make sure that all America will never forget the "Forgotten War" or those that served in the trenches of Korea. It can be shipped to your home for another five dollars.

Is it really going to happen on July 27, 1995? Yes it will happen on July 27, 1995! It will happen!

We have a four to five-day program, but you will hear about it from you adjutants through out the year.

The Capitol Hilton Hotel in Washington has been assigned to The American Legion which will host a mammoth, beautiful parade on July 29th. I know you all want to be there. This will be a major parade of veterans of the units you served with. There will also be meetings and reunions. There will be services at the Tomb of the Unkown Soldier, and on and on. It is going to be outstanding.

Remember also that we need money for the continual maintenance of this project

because we're not through.

I hope that next year at our Convention we will be proud to give a final report of great success.

Don't foregt the Women's Vietnam Memorial, either. They continue to need money.

Thank you, God bless you all:

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: Jake, thank you very much for those stirring words.

As we continue the business of The American Legion at this 76th National Convention of The American Legion, it is a pleasure to introduce to the Delegates our next guest. He is no stranger to The American Legion, addressing the 75th National Convention in Pittsburgh and talking with us again during the Washington Conference earlier this year. He is a decorated combat veteran of the Vietnam war who today heads the second largest government Cabinet, responsible for our system of health care services and benefit programs for fellow veterans and their families. This has been a busy year for him in dealing with a complex array of challenges, foremost among them, providing quality of health care services to some of our sickest, oldest and neediest veterans.

At this time, it gives me a great deal of honor and pleasure to present to you, a member of Post 72 in Warrenton, Virginia, Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Honorable Jesse Brown.

THE HONORABLE JESSE BROWN
Secretary of Veterans Affairs

Thank you so very much, Commander, for those very kind remarks.

I do want you to know that I am, indeed, very honored to be with you here today, and especially at a time when we have a great Senator such as Paul Wellstone representing our interests. The farther and farther that we get away from times of national conflict, we need to make sure that we have people in Congress that understand the sacrifices and the contributions that our nation's veterans have made for this country. We do not have a better Senator than Senator Wellstone looking out for our interests. So let's give him another round of applause.

Distinguished officers, fellow members of The American Legion, and its Auxiliary, of course, honored guests, ladies and gentlemen, and a very special acknowledgement of one of the founders of The American Legion, a World War I veteran, an American hero, our good friend, George Bentley.

I'm going to also indulge on your patience to ask you to acknowledge some of our very special VA employees. Whenever I travel around the country, I always ask those employees who have distinguished themselves in putting our veterans first, to come out and share in the fellowship and comradeship with our fellow veterans, many are here with us this morning, and I'm going to ask them to stand and to be recognized.

This is indeed a very special Convention for The American Legion. It is our 75th anniversary, 75 years of serving God and country. President Henry Truman once said, "The American Legion should live forever in the hearts of all of those who love justice and of all those who seek the triumph of freedom and the right." These are powerful words that they are supported by powerful deeds.

In the last 75 years, The American Legion has written the original draft of the 1944 GI

Bill, contributed millions of dollars and hours to Legion baseball. Boys Nation and the VA volunteer service, helped to establish and maintain veterans' preference, fought to maintain a strong military during peace and wartime, and the lists of accomplishments goes on and on. It is no accident that The American Legion is so outstanding, it has been outstanding because of its leadership. That tradition of leadership was started 75 years ago and has endured the test of time.

Our great National Commander, Bruce Thiesen, our wonderful National Adjutant Bob Spanogle, our Executive Directors John Sommers and Bill Jackson, and of course, Auxiliary President Helen Holcomb, all do a tremendous job. They and the rest of the staff are there for me, giving me advice and counsel on the issues that effect veterans and their families. It is because of this relationship and the Legion's dynamic leadership, that we have been able to respond to the issues that we face today, issues such as health care reform.

Our National Commander has worked very hard to make comprehensive health care available to all veterans. Although the future of health care reform is uncertain, I want you to know that I will continue to fight to ensure that this nation's VA hospitals will be maintained as an independent system for our veterans. I will fight to ensure that our service-connected veterans, former prisoners of war, and low income veterans continue to pay nothing for their care. I will fight to continue to make sure that our doors will open to all veterans who want access to the VA's health care delivery system, and I will fight to ensure that when a veteran comes to a VA hospital, he or she will receive full comprehensive care, everything that is needed to remain healthy. No more questions about conditions that are not service-connected, just service, thats medical care as it should be.

We know that this is a time of great challenge for the VA's health care system, but I believe deep in my heart that with The American Legion's support, the VA will rise to the challenge.

Health care reform is not the only challenge that you and I face today. Over the years the VA and veterans' organizations have made important advances in problems involving former prisoners of war, Vietnam veterans, Gulf War veterans, women veterans, and veterans who are homeless. We have met with your leaders and they told us of your concerns. You expressed concerns about how you were treated when you came to a VA facility. That is why we spent over a million dollars last year training all 260,000 VA employees on how to treat our veterans with dignity and respect when they come to our facilities. You told us that the VA should be more aggressive in looking out for the best interests of veterans. That is why, last year, the VA wrote to nearly two million veterans inviting them to refinance their home loans. This saved them more than $450 million a year in interest payments.

We also wrote to 40,000 Vietnam veterans suffering from the effects of Agent Orange. We informed them that the VA is now paying compensation for chloracne; non-Hodgkins lymphoma; soft tissue sarcoma; Hodgkins disease, the liver disorder PCT; multiple myeloma and respiratory cancers. And of course, we have not forgotten about our Gulf War veterans. We are providing immediate medical care, engaging in extensive research. I believe, very strongly that we have a moral obligation to compensate those with undiagnosed illnesses. I have told Congress so, and I have written to all 535 members of Congress asking them to support legislation to accomplish this goal. The House has now done its job, and I will personally go to Capitol Hill next week to ask the Senate to pass that bill and pass that bill now.

The Legion has a long history of helping homeless veterans, and it is one of the reasons

why we made helping homeless veterans a top priority. We increased spending by $20 million. We held the first national homeless summit, and we established a new $5.5 million grant program for public and non-profit organizations.

Like you, my friends, we are also very concerned about the needs of our women veterans. We have not done a good job in the past, but I promise to you that we will do better, and that is why we appointed a national coordinator and established comprehensive health centers all around the nation.

You also told us that it takes too long to adjudicate claims, and you were right. That is why we established task forces to include The American Legion, to help us find ways to reduce our backlogs and process our claims in a timely fashion. And because of your efforts, we have already achieved significant reductions in all areas, especially on compensation and DIC.

Like you, we continue to look for ways to make sure that veterans are treated fairly, and that is the test. That is why we're going to compensate, for the first time, former prisoners of war who developed ischemic heart disease secondary to wet beriberi. We are now compensating eligible veterans who participated in nuclear tests in the United States, and we want to do the same for our veterans who took part in tests conducted by other nations. And we are also compensating veterans exposed to mustard gas who suffer from various types of cancers.

Like The American Legion, the VA has always demanded the highest integrity from our employees. And you may have read recently that two VA employees were accused of illegally removing documents from veterans' files. This is a betrayal of the trust that you have placed in them. As a national service officer, and while many call me the Secretary now, in my heart I will always be a national service officer. I understand, and they must understand, that we need those records to establish claims for service-connectibility, increased compensation evaluations, educational benefits for our children and medical care for our veterans. Therefore, we are not going to tolerate that kind of behavior, and I want you to know that anyone caught destroying your records will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

As I look back to these and other issues, I feel that we can be proud of what we have accomplished together. I do not suggest to you that all of VA's problems are resolved. We continue to face many challenges, but we have proven, working together, that we can get things done, and I know that this progress will continue.

There are those who may have forgotten why The American Legion and the VA exist; why this nation has a sacred obligation to help our veterans. Unlike some of those bureaucrats and politicians in Washington, DC, when we think about veterans, we think about our friends, our fathers, our mothers and our sons and daughters. We think about the veterans who come to the VA for care. We think about the mother and the father whose son shall never, ever come home. We think about a young wife learning that her husband will be disabled for life. We think about their families and their hopes and their dreams that change forever. For all these reasons, The American Legion and the VA understand the price of freedom, the sacrifices that veterans and their families have made for this nation, and that we have a sacred obligation, "To care for those who have borne the battle."

Together we will continue to fight to make certain that those who have served, those who have been wounded and disabled, and those who have died, receive the respect and honor they deserve from a grateful nation.

May God bless The American Legion and each and every one of you.

PRESENTATION
EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR AWARDS

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: While the Department of Veterans Affairs continues to do so much for America's veterans, each of us understands that this is the day and age that the government cannot do everything. That is why the awards to The American Legion Employer of the Year are important ones.

These awards are made on the basis of companies hiring veterans with the right skills and the can-do attitudes. It is an important role for businesses to play, and those we honor today have demonstrated an understanding in the hiring of veterans. This morning we recognize three such organizations as the 1993 Employers of the Year.

The awards are given in three categories: one for companies employing 50 or less people; another for companies employing 51 to 200 people; and a third for companies with more than 200 workers. Each is nominated by a Post and advances through Department and National competition levels.

The award in the more than 200 employees category this year goes to Schneider National Carriers of Green Bay, Wisconsin. Here to accept their award is Bill Matheson, Vice President of Operations for Schneider Motor Carrier. The award reads:

> The American Legion National Award, Outstanding Employer of the Year 1993, presented to Schneider National Carriers, for an exceptional record in the employment of veterans. Presented at the 76th Annual National Convention, Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 7, 1994.

BILL MATHESON
Schneider National

Thank you. It's an honor to have Schneider National to be recognized by such a distinguished organization. It's also an honor for me personally to be associated with the 5,600 veterans employed at our organization. Clearly an aggressive recruiting program targeting military personnel benefits the veteran, but it also benefits the employer. We can attribute a good deal of our success because of the leadership, commitment and skills brought to us by veterans.

To us, success means growth. Growth means new opportunity for future veterans. That's why it's a permanent, long-term business strategy for our organization.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: The award for the 51 to 200 category this year goes to Morton International, Inc. of Seabrook, New Hampshire. I would like to have the award at this time, and it reads:

> The American Legion National Award, Outstanding Employer of the Year, 1993, presented to Morton International, Inc., for an exceptional record in the employment of veterans. Presented at the 76th Annual National Convention, Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 7, 1994.

Here to accept the award are Donna Barber, Director of Human Resources, and Marcy McWilliams, Eastern Regional Manager for Human Resources.

MARCY McWILLIAMS
Morton International, Inc.

I would like to thank everybody here today for this award. It really touches me, but in some ways I feel a little guilty accepting the award, because quite frankly, these weren't just my efforts. As a matter of fact, right now, in Portsmith, New Hampshire, is a veteran who left the Air Force and eventually found a job with the Department of Employment Security. He made a commitment that he personally would make certain that veterans were able to get work And he, along with other representatives such as the veterans employment representatives in the Portsmith Office in New Hampshire, have made certain that employers, such as Morton International, are referred high-quality veterans to help us with our employment efforts.

It's also important to point out that the people such as yourselves, individuals who were either the NCOs, or officers, anyone who led and who trained military veterans, are the ones who taught them teamwork, who taught them commitment, and taught them that in order to truly succeed, you need to work at a task and make certain that it's done right. These are the people that we are employing.

So I wish the rest of the team were here with us today, and I wish the veterans that we are employing were here with us today because they are the ones that are making Morton successful.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: This next award goes to the Employer of the Year with the Under 50 category, and this award reads:

> The American Legion Award, Outstanding Employer of the Year, 1993, presented to American Classic Charter and Tours, Inc., for an exceptional record in the employment of veterans. Presented at the 76th Annual National Convention, Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 7, 1994.

Here to accept the award on behalf of American Classic Charter and Tours, Inc., is Eddie Woodall, the Company Secretary.

EDDIE WOODALL
American Classic Charter and Tours, Inc.

Thank you very much, and it is with great honor that I accept this award on behalf of American Classic Charter and Tours. We are doubly honored because we are such a small company, but we don't have a small commitment to veterans. Quite frankly, this award comes to us for doing something that, quite naturally, is easy for us to do. We hire veterans because it's easier to hire veterans. We get a skilled trained labor force coming to us, and to be honest, being recognized in this way for doing something, which is simply good business, is what makes it all the better for us. Thank you very much.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: I would like to say to these three companies, it is indeed a pleasure to have them recognize that as they employ veterans, that they really do get the best America has to offer. Thank you very much for your interest in veterans and working with veterans. And now let's give them a great big round of applause.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: I would like to take a few minutes to read something that has been given to me, something here that happened to the way to the convention, and it's going to be of interest, I think, to all of you. It shows the dedication of Legionnaires and Auxiliary members as they are enroute to a National Convention. This is the statement:

> Enroute to the National Convention via I-94 in Monroe County, Wisconsin, Commander Clifton Lee Harvard of Post 79, Brewton, Alabama, along with Auxiliary President Virginia Mowyer, took a sniper round from an unknown assailant. The round passed through the shoulder of President Mowyer and lodged in Commander Harvard's neck touching his thyroid and jugular vein.
>
> The Commander's wife, Frankie, immediately wrote a distress sign on the rear window of the motor home with lipstick, which said 'Police, help, Police, shot.' She also had the presence of mind to write the distress sign in reverse.
>
> Friendly truckers immediately put the motor home in the saddle, "of course that's called boxed-in,' and notified the Wisconsin Highway Patrol who escorted them some 18 miles to a hospital. The Sheriffs of Blackwater Falls and Monroe County immediately gave pursuit by helicopter and quickly apprehended the shooting suspect.

Six hours after receiving treatment, the delegation proceeded to Minneapolis, arriving on Sunday at 1:00 a.m. at the Hyatt House. Both Commander Harvard and President Moyer were present at the opening of the 76th Convention and are here today. They are sitting in the Alabama section.

Would you please stand up and be recognized, we sure appreciate your dedication. Thank you very much.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: At this time the Chair recognizes Allen Titus of Indiana, Chairman of the National Convention Committee on Economics for the purpose of making a report. Chairman Allen, it's a pleasure to have you here this morning.

REPORT OF THE NATIONAL CONVENTION COMMITTEES ON EMPLOYMENT AND VETERANS' PREFERENCE AND OTHER ECONOMIC MATTERS

Allen L. Titus (IN), Chairman

Commander Thiesen, all Delegates, Alternates and guests to the 76th National Convention of The American Legion.

At 9:00 a.m. on September 4, 1994, 81 delegates assigned to the Convention Committees on Employment and Veterans' Preference and on Other Economic Matters convened in Room 102D&E of the Minneapolis Convention Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota, to consider 94 resolutions assigned to the committees for action. Allen L. Titus of Indiana was elected General Chairman and Earl Patrick of Indiana was appointed Secretary. Henry Field of South Carolina was elected Chairman of the Convention Committee on Employment and Veterans' Preference, and Wayne Slade of South Dakota

was appointed Secretary. James McMahon of Maine was elected Chairman of the Convention Committee on Other Economic Matters and Leonard Shaw of Iowa was appointed Secretary.

In response to a call by the National Adjutant, a screening committee composed of five members of the National Economic Commission and its affiliated committees convened in Room 102D of the Minneapolis Convention Center on Sept. 2 to make recommendations to the Convention Committees on Economics. Members of this committee were Allen L. Titus (IN), Chairman, James McMahon (ME), Henry J. Field (SC), William Christoffersen (UT), and Leonard Shaw (IA). The report of the screening committee was presented to the Convention Committees and was adopted with four resolutions set aside for separate consideration. Resolution 236-IN had been recommended for referral to the standing commission by the screening committee. The convention committees voted to approve it. Questions regarding Resolution 99-UT and Resolution 350-OH were resolved without a motion being made. Resolution 97-UT had been recommended for approval by the screening committee. The convention committees voted to refer it to the standing commission. A motion was made, seconded and approved to authorize the Chairman and Secretary to sign the Committee report on behalf of the Committee. A motion was made, seconded and approved to allow the staff to make technical corrections with the concurrence of the Chairman.

EMPLOYMENT AND VETERANS' PREFERENCE
RECOMMENDED ACTION ON RESOLUTIONS
APPROVED

Resolution No. 6: Support Funding and Continuation of the Service Members Occupational Conversion and Training Act (SMOCTA)
Origin: MA
Submitted by: Employment and Veterans' Preference
Consolidated with 61 (MT), 116 (UT), 188 (TX), 297 (WI), 345 (OH), 353 (WA).

WHEREAS, In 1992, Congress enacted the Service Members Occupational Conversion and Training Act (SMOCTA) which became P.L. 102-484; and

WHEREAS, SMOCTA is a transition tool designed to provide job training and employment to certain veterans discharged from the military after August 1, 1990; and

WHEREAS, The SMOCTA program provides financial incentives to employers who hire and provide training to eligible veterans; and

WHEREAS, To be eligible for participation in the SMOCTA program, the veteran must meet at least one of the following criteria:

*Have a primary or secondary military occupational specialty that the Department of Defense has determined is not readily transferable to the civilian work force; or
*Be entitled to compensation (or would be entitled to compensation but for the receipt of military retired pay) for a VA service-connected disability rating of 30 percent or more; or
*Be unemployed and have been unemployed for at least eight of the last 15 work weeks before filing an application; and

WHEREAS, The veterans eligible for job training under SMOCTA are precisely those

individuals who need the most assistance in making a successful transition to the civilian work force; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Defense (DoD), Veterans Affairs (VA), and Department of Labor (DoL) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in March of 1993 which defined their roles and responsibilities in the implementation of SMOCTA; and

WHEREAS, DoD provides funding for SMOCTA while the VA and DoL are responsible for administering the program; and

WHEREAS, Under the terms of the MOU the SMOCTA program will terminate when all of the funds provided by DoD are expended or at such time as agreed upon by all parties; and

WHEREAS, This country's unemployment problem is being exacerbated by the drastic downsizing of the military; and

WHEREAS, SMOCTA can help to alleviate the employment problems faced by many veterans who are being separated from the military; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, that The American Legion seek continuation of the Service Members Occupational Conversion and Training Act program until the employment picture improves and the downsizing of the military is completed; and be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion seek adequate funding for Service Members Occupational Conversion and Training Act so that it can achieve what it was designed to do.

Resolution No. 25: Maintain the Veterans' Employment and Training Service
Origin: CO
Submitted by: Employment and Veterans' Preference
Consolidated with 111 (UT), 133 (SD), 184 (TX), 300 (WI).

WHEREAS, The American Legion historically has been a strong support of veterans' employment and veterans' preference in the work force; and

WHEREAS, The proposed elimination of the VETS field staff would abolish the needed effective oversight and monitoring of all federal DOL employment and training programs for veterans including the State Employment Service Agencies program for veterans, the DVOP and LVER programs, enforcement of Veterans' Reemployment Rights programs, enforcement of veterans in the federal work force and with federal contractors, enforcement and monitoring of the Joint Training Partnership Act programs for veterans, the NVTI, the Transition Assistance Program, the Disabled Transition Assistance Program, the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program, the Federal Agency Veterans' Preference Program and veterans' preference overall, and result in the elimination of over 3,000 positions in government, all of whom are veterans, most being disabled veterans; and

WHEREAS, The Vice President's National Performance Review Team has submitted a draft recommendation to abolish the regional, state and assistant state director positions of the VETS, netting in the loss of all above programs; and

WHEREAS, The same proposal also recommends transferring all functions of the VETS back into ETA, which ignored veteran programs prior to passage of congressional law to create a separate agency for veterans, thus ending DOL's commitment and emphasis to our nation's veteran population, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, that The American Legion strongly

oppose any and all efforts to move or transfer the Veterans' Employment and Training Service to any branch within the Department of Labor or to transfer the Veterans' Employment and Training Service to any other existing department in the government. The Veterans' Employment and Training Service should remain as it is, intact, serving our nation's veteran population; and be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion oppose any efforts to diminish or water down the scope, objectives and purposes of the Veterans' Employment and Training Service or any factors that would compromise its ability to carry out its congressional mission to serve the veteran or diminish the total quality of services that veterans have earned through their sacrifices and their service to the United States of America.

Resolution No. 94: Change Title 38 Allocation of Department of Labor Recaptured Funds
Origin: UT
Submitted by: Employment and Veterans' Preference
Consolidated with 303 (WI)

WHEREAS, Title 38 of U.S. Code deals with the employment of veterans; and

WHEREAS, The money to support these programs has never been adequate to meet the needs of veterans; and

WHEREAS, The current law now calls for the money recaptured to be sent back to the general fund where it is spent on non-veteran programs; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, that The American Legion strongly recommends changing Title 38, U.S. Code, to allow any money recaptured by the U.S. Department of Labor to be rolled over into the next year to support the employment of veterans.

Resolution No. 95: Support Veterans Preference in Department of Labor Programs
Origin: UT
Submitted by: Employment and Veterans' Preference
Consolidated with 117 (UT), 302 (WI)

WHEREAS, Section 652.120, 20 Code of Federal Regulations, established a priority of referral for qualified applicants to job openings and training opportunities, and provides for maximum employment and training in accordance with Title 38, United States Code; and

WHEREAS, The Ready Reserve is the major source of manpower augmentation for the active forces and includes selective reserve units, retrained individual reservists, individual mobilization augmentees, inactive National Guard, and individual Ready Reserve; and approximately one-third of the individuals in uniform serving our country are Ready Reserve and National Guard; and

WHEREAS, There are approximately 27.8 million veterans living in the United States and Puerto Rico, and this number is expected to decline to 24 million by the turn of the century, and that approximately 300,000 veterans are discharged annually of whom an estimated 20,000 are disabled; and

WHEREAS, Employers of the future will be confronted with severe labor shortages requiring them to look beyond traditional recruiting systems to seek out new reservoirs of qualified employees; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in

Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, that The American Legion supports preferential employment and training services in the following priorities in all the Department of Labor's programs and services including the United States Employment Service:

1. Special Disabled Veteran
2. Disabled Veteran
3. Conflict Veteran (receipt of campaign/expeditionary medal)
4. Eligible Veteran
5. Other Eligible; and be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion supports amendment of Title 38, United States Code, to include a subsection that would define members of the Ready Reserve and National Guard and active duty service members within 180 days of separation as "eligible persons" for special consideration in receiving employment service assistance.

Resolution No. 99: Extend the Veterans Readjustment Appointment (VRA)
Origin: UT
Submitted by: Employment and Veterans' Preference
Consolidated with 308 (WI)

WHEREAS, This country has traditionally provided those who served during a time of war with an advantage in federal employment and retention; and

WHEREAS, The Veterans Readjustment Appointment (VRA) authority was established by Executive Order in 1970 to assist veterans of the Vietnam era to make the transition back into civilian life; and

WHEREAS, The VRA program provides for non-competitive entry into federal employment along with educational and training benefits for those who are compensable disabled and/or educationally disadvantaged; and

WHEREAS, Another goal of this program is to provide federal agencies with more flexibility in hiring; and

WHEREAS, The use of the VRA program as a hiring tool is discretionary rather than mandatory with some agencies utilizing it while others completely ignore it; and

WHEREAS, Through the use of this authority over 180,000 Vietnam era veterans have been hired with nearly 85% being converted to career appointments; and

WHEREAS, Any financial investment that has been made by the federal government for the education and training of those who have been converted to career appointments has been or will be repaid in the form of higher taxation on their incomes; and

WHEREAS, More than two-thirds of those veterans who are 60% or more compensable disabled have completely dropped out of the labor market because some employers in both the public and private sectors have refused to make the necessary accommodations for their employment; and

WHEREAS, Many of these severely disabled veterans could benefit not only from employment, but also from the educational and training benefits offered by the VRA program thus making them productive, taxpaying members of society; and

WHEREAS, There is an ever-growing number of dislocated workers, many of whom are veterans, who have lost their jobs through no fault of their own; and

WHEREAS, Many of these dislocated workers do not have the necessary financial resources to obtain the training or retraining that would make them employable; and

WHEREAS, The VRA program could be used to put many of these veterans back to

work; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, that The American Legion support the permanent extension of the Veterans Readjustment Appointment program past its scheduled expiration date of December 31, 1995, for Vietnam veterans and December 31, 1999, for post-Vietnam era veterans; and be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion continue to urge the Office of Personnel Management to support and promote fully the use of Veterans Readjustment Appointments by all federal agencies under its jurisdiction.

Resolution No. 101: Veterans' Vocational Training and Retraining Program
Origin: UT
Submitted by: Employment and Veterans' Preference

WHEREAS, The United States Department of Labor has conducted a study entitled, "Workforce 2000: Work and Workers for the 21st Century"; and

WHEREAS, The Congress of the United States conducted a study entitled, "Technology in Structural Unemployment; Re-employed Displaced Adults"; and

WHEREAS, Neither of these studies specifically addresses the employment and training needs of veterans; and

WHEREAS, There are 27.8 million veterans living in the United States and Puerto Rico as of March 31, 1986, a number which is expected to decline to 24 million by the turn of the century; and

WHEREAS, Veterans represent a significant portion of our national labor force; and

WHEREAS, Current and proposed legislative initiatives to develop employment and training programs to meet the dynamic changes that are taking place within our nation's labor force do not address the needs of veterans; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, that The American Legion supports the establishment of a Veterans' Vocational Training and Retraining Program that will:

1. Facilitate veteran worker adjustment to relocation and new occupational skills;
2. Provide temporary income support during training and retraining;
3. Oppose obsolescence through ongoing basic adult education;
4. Stimulate employer participation through tax credits for employee training programs and incentives to defray the cost of training similar to the current Veterans' Job Training Act;
5. Provide flexibility to the service provider to tailor program assistance to the needs of the veterans and geographic area served;
6. Establish a Veterans' Vocational Training and Retraining Entitlement Program administered by the Assistant Secretary for Veterans' Employment and Training, U.S. Department of Labor; and be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion urge the Congress to appropriate not less than $60 million per year for the purpose of administering this Veterans' Vocational Training and Retraining Program.

Resolution No. 104: Veteran Preference and Spouse Preference in Department of

Defense Jobs
Origin: UT
Submitted by: Employment and Veterans' Preference

WHEREAS, Public Law 99-145 provides for a hiring preference for spouses of military personnel stationed overseas and in certain other areas where the dominant local culture and language tends to present a barrier to employment on the open market; and

WHEREAS, The Congress envisioned that this public law would offer relief to spouses of military personnel in those areas by facilitating their employment in federal jobs, and that such employment could be achieved without detracting from or placating the intent and spirit of the federal hiring preference provided to veterans under earlier law; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Department of Defense implementation of the spouse preference program in several locations overseas and in Alaska and Hawaii stateside has resulted in a disproportionate number of spouses being hired for federal jobs at the expense of qualified disabled and other preference eligible veterans; and

WHEREAS, It clearly was never intended that the spouses program created under Public Law 99-145 would be implemented in such a way as to reduce the federal job opportunities of qualified veterans who reside overseas and in other areas where the spouse preference program is in wide use; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, that The American Legion urge the U.S. Department of Defense and the Office of Personnel Management to review the implementation of spouse preference and veterans' preference at selected sites within Department of Defense hiring activities with particular attention given to whether an adverse impact is caused to the latter program as a result of the inappropriate use of spouse preference; and be it further

RESOLVED, If such review determines that the integrity of veterans' preference has been and is being compromised, The American Legion urge that management standards be adopted and put in place at all Department of Defense hiring activities so that those violations may be immediately stopped.

Resolution No. 105: Military Pre-separation Employment Programs
Origin: UT
Submitted by: Employment and Veterans' Preference
Consolidated with 292 (WI)

WHEREAS, The downsizing of the military is placing a large number of veterans in the ranks of the unemployed and underemployed; and

WHEREAS, A very high percentage of separatees do not have the basic skills and knowledge need in order to conduct a successful job search; and

WHEREAS, There are two successful pilot programs presently being conducted specifically for the purpose of teaching necessary skills to cope with the demands of the civilian labor market such as resume writing and job search and interview techniques; and

WHEREAS, This employment related program should be conducted when needed most, prior to separation from the service; and

WHEREAS, These programs are absolutely essential to make a smooth transition into the civilian labor force; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, that The American Legion hereby

supports the establishment of a permanent pre-separation employment program at all military discharge facilities, which will be staffed in cooperation with the Department of Labor's Employment and Training Service personnel; this program to commence for separates not less than 60 days prior to discharge; and be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion request the Assistant Secretary for Veterans' Employment and Training to make a concentrated effort to coordinate with the Department of Defense in order to expand these programs to all military installations throughout the country.

Resolution No. 108: Targeted Jobs Tax Credit Program
Origin: UT
Submitted by: Employment and Veterans' Preference

WHEREAS, The Revenue Act of 1978 authorized the Targeted Jobs Tax Credit (TJTC) program to assist individuals from targeted economically disadvantaged groups, with one such group being Vietnam era veterans; and

WHEREAS, TJTC offers employers a tax credit of forty percent of the first $6000 of qualified wages, or a maximum of $2400 per eligible worker; and

WHEREAS, Most veterans' employment specialists consider TJTC one of the most effective tools for job placement, with over 30,000 Vietnam era veterans obtaining meaningful employment in 1987 alone; and

WHEREAS, Continuation of TJTC will encourage more employers to consider hiring more eligible veterans, will provide eligible veterans an opportunity to attain economic independence, and will help turn federal liabilities into productive taxpayers; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, that The American Legion supports action to have the Targeted Jobs Tax Credit made a permanent federal program.

Resolution No. 109: National Veterans' Bill of Rights for Employment Services
Origin: UT
Submitted by: Employment and Veterans' Preference
Consolidated with 293 (WI)

WHEREAS, The nation has in this century recognized the special needs of veterans for employment, vocational education and training; and

WHEREAS, There is now a statutory requirement for priority of service for training under the Job Training Partnership Act, vocational educational services to individuals with disabilities, and other state funded or state administered vocational training, vocational education and apprenticeship programs; and

WHEREAS, The State of New York by executive order created the "New York State Veterans' Bill of Rights for Employment Services" which serves as a model for the nation; and

WHEREAS, The New York Bill of Rights declares veterans, particularly Vietnam and other combat theatre veterans, disabled and minority veterans, to be a "special emphasis priority group" for the receipt of services under JTPA in the Governor's Special Services and Coordination Plan; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, that The American Legion supports a

"National Veterans' Bill of Rights for Employment Services."

Resolution No. 113: Raise Salary Caps for Veterans in Affirmative Action Programs
Origin: UT
Submitted by: Employment and Veterans' Preference
As consolidated with 298 (WI), 343 (OH).

WHEREAS, The veterans emphasis under federal contracts law requires that all employers who have federal contracts of $10,000 or more list their job openings with the Public Employment Service; and

WHEREAS, There are many government contractors who do not list their job openings with the Public Employment Service offices as required and their failure to comply with the law can and does cause a serious reduction in employment opportunities available to many qualified veterans; and

WHEREAS, 41 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Chapter 60, Section 60-250.4 Para. (H), which permits employers to withhold listing of job openings that are compensated at more than $25,000 per year, is considered obsolete by contemporary standards; and

WHEREAS, When Congress enacted the Veterans Affirmative Action Program, it intended that veterans be given priority consideration for employment in a wide range of areas including, but not limited to, jobs in production, non-production, plant and office, laborers, mechanics, supervisory and non-supervisory, technical, executive, administrative, and professional; and

WHEREAS, Fair market compensation for many jobs such as those described herein is substantially above the $25,000 threshold level established in 1978 and needs to be brought in line with present day salaries; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, that The American Legion supports the repeal of all references to the $25,000 threshold with respect to the listing of job openings in conjunction with the Veterans Affirmative Action effort, and that appropriate language which does not specify a salary cap be inserted in its place.

. . . At this time Henry Field of South Carolina assumed the podium and the reading of the report.

Resolution No. 115: Unemployment Compensation and UCX Benefits for Those Released from Military Service
Origin: UT
Submitted by: Employment and Veterans' Preference

WHEREAS, The U.S. Employment Service was established under the Wagner-Peyser Act in 1933 to provide uniform employment and job seekers with a service committed to help veterans find meaningful employment; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion has been a leader in supporting and proposing improvements to veterans' programs in the U.S. Employment Service over the years; and

WHEREAS, Uniformity of services has been a primary concern in the establishment of the U.S. Employment Service except for eligibility rules in the payment of unemployment compensation to veterans (UCX) being discharged from the military service; and

WHEREAS, Unemployment compensation for ex-service members is not uniform for the same branch of service, with the same pay grade, same allowance and the same period

of time, as they receive different UCX benefits depending on the state in which they file; and

WHEREAS, Thousands of military personnel are being separated early before retirement due to downsizing of the military, and some are paid severance or separation pay, only to find it as disqualifying income that exceeds their UCX entitlements; and

WHEREAS, The federal government reimburses the state for UCX expenditures and tells the states which ex-service members are eligible to use their military separation eligibility; and

WHEREAS, Separation or severance pay should be viewed by UCX as remuneration for time served and vested in military retirement, had the veterans been allowed to stay long enough to qualify; and

WHEREAS, Under current law, the federal government cannot override state laws and issue guidelines for UCX claims in deciding how to treat military separation eligibility for a state to file for UCX, regardless of residence or of job search; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, that The American Legion supports a nationwide uniform unemployment compensation program for personnel leaving the military service, which would include provisions where separation, severance and/or vacation pay will not be used as disqualifying income for unemployment compensation purposes; and be it further

RESOLVED, That federal regulations on unemployment compensation for ex-servicemen may allow individuals to work part-time, in work that could lead to full-time, earning up to half of their weekly unemployment compensation benefit amounts without losing their unemployment compensation benefits.

Resolution No. 118: Tax Credits for Certain Employers
Origin: UT
Submitted by: Employment and Veterans' Preference

WHEREAS, More than 230,000 members of the Armed Forces Reserves and National Guard have been called to active duty as a result of the Persian Gulf crisis known as Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm; and

WHEREAS, The vast majority of these people left jobs and careers in the civilian community to answer the call of their country; and

WHEREAS, Some of these people suffered economic hardship as the result of their service since salaries paid while on active duty with the military were lower than salaries paid while in civilian employment; and

WHEREAS, While in some cases employers were able to make up the difference between the active duty military salary and the salary paid by the company, in other cases employers either were not able or chose not to make up the difference; and

WHEREAS, There is no incentive for employers to make up the difference between regular salary and active duty pay; and

WHEREAS, The financial disadvantages suffered by members of the Armed Forces Reserves and National Guard who are called to active duty could very possible serve as a major impediment to the recruitment and retention of a competent reserve component to the military total force; and

WHEREAS, The planned 25% reduction in the armed forces will result in increased reliance on the Armed Forces Reserves and National Guard units for future military operations; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, that The American Legion supports tax credits to employers who either pay regular salaries or make up differences in salaries for members of the National Guard and Armed Forces Reserves who are called to active duty to support military operations.

Resolution No. 134: Veterans Preference
Origin: SD
Submitted by: Employment and Veterans' Preference
As amended and consolidated with 7 (MA), 62 (MT), 98 (UT), 102 (UT), 119 (UT), 168 (VT), 185 (TX), 187 (TX), 295 (WI), 307 (WI), 309 (WI), 310 (WI), 317 (KS), 344 (OH), 346 (OH), 347 (OH), 348 (OH), 349 (OH).

WHEREAS, Our federal government specially selected as mentally, morally and physically fit, certain members from its society, specially trained this group, subjected them to stringent rules and regulations, removed them from home, family and employment, asked of them a special sacrifice, and required some of them to suffer wounds they will live with forever; and

WHEREAS, A grateful nation through its representatives in the Congress of the United States and state legislatures, has in recognition of that special service and loss of employment opportunity while defending the country in time of need, extended a long history of employment the returning veterans by enacting the Veterans Preference Act as contained in Title 5, USC, and Chapter 3-3, South Dakota Code; and

WHEREAS, The term "veteran" includes every category of society -- sex, age, religion, ethnic group, race and creed; and

WHEREAS, Absence from the highly competitive job market due to military service creates an unfair and unequal burden on veterans in competing for federal and state jobs; and

WHEREAS, The Veterans Preference Law accomplished the legislative purpose of honoring veterans and provides a small advantage in competing for federal and state jobs; and

WHEREAS, There are prominent groups and individuals in the United States today who ignore the employment disadvantages accrued by individuals due to military service, who blindly allege that veterans preference is "discriminatory", who blatantly overemphasize the advantages of veterans preference although presumably aware of the fact that approximately 38 million veterans in our population have not chosen or have not been successful in obtaining a federal or state position; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, that the President of the United States and governor of each state be informed that this organization deplores each and every attempt to degrade, dilute or modify the historical precedent of giving job eligibility preference to those who are taken from their communities to serve their country in time of war, and that the President and governors reject any and all proposed legislation that would reduce employment opportunities for veterans in the federal or state work force; and be it further

RESOLVED, that The American Legion strongly support veterans' preference in federal, state, and local employment, as provided by a grateful nation, and oppose any effort to reduce this preference; and be it further

RESOLVED, that The American Legion reaffirms its strong opposition to any and all efforts to nullify or circumvent existing veterans preference statutes.

Resolution No. 186: Adequate Funding of National Veterans Training Institute (NVTI)
Origin: TX
Submitted by: Employment and Veterans' Preference
As amended and consolidated with 100 (UT), 306 (WI)

WHEREAS, P.L. 100-232 established the National Veterans Training Institute (NVTI) as the primary training center for veterans program staff and state employment security agency staff nationwide; and

WHEREAS, The National Veterans Training Institute has had an immeasurable impact on the quality of services provided the disabled American veterans of this national by improving the level and quality of services provided; and

WHEREAS, The NVTI has trained over 12,000 SESA staff, VETS staff and DOD staff which has resulted in improved job opportunities for veterans with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, The current downsizing of the armed forces will force many disabled veterans into the work force who will need the services of those individuals currently trained by NVTI; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, that The American Legion petition the United States Congress to support full funding of the National Veterans Training Institute as required by P.L. 100-232.

Resolution No. 189: Support DVOP and LVER Programs
Origin: TX
Submitted by: Employment and Veterans' Preference
As amended and consolidated with 10 (MA), 143 (IL), 183 (TX)

WHEREAS, Chapter 41, Title 38, U.S. Code, provides for a veterans employment, counseling and training program to be administered by the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training within the Department of Labor; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 41 provides for the appointment of a State Director and an Assistant Director for Veterans' Employment and Training; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, that The American Legion hereby go on record requesting that the Secretary of Labor shall:

1. Submit to Congress an adequate budget for the operation of the Veterans' Employment and Training Service, including funds for the national staff, regional administrators, state directors, assistant directors and program assistants/ secretaries for the states, and that such budget shall also include funds for the Local Veterans Employment Representatives and Disabled Veterans Outreach Program positions, which should be equitably distributed; and
2. Require fiscal accountability to insure that funds for the Veterans' Employment and Training Service and for the State Employment Service agencies are used for veterans' services.

Resolution No. 195: Support State Employment Service Agencies
Origin: TX
Submitted by: Employment and Veterans' Preference

WHEREAS, The State Employment Service Agencies which were established by the

Wagner-Peyser Act of 1933 have been the only agencies dedicated and mandated to provide disabled veterans and veterans preference in job referrals, placements, job counseling and training activities on a nationwide basis; and

WHEREAS, The State Employment Service Agencies have been successful in accomplishing these mandates for disabled veterans and all veterans for over fifty years; and

WHEREAS, Over the past eight years these agencies have endured budget cuts which have adversely affected the quality of services provided disabled veterans and other veterans due to a drastic decrease in Emploument Service staff positions; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, that The American Legion petition the Congress of the United States to support full funding of the nationwide Employment Service Agencies and oppose any effort to reduce these agencies further.

Resolution No. 236: Residential Setting for Homeless Veterans at Marion, Indiana
Origin: IN
Submitted by: Employment and Veterans' Preference

WHEREAS, A great concern has been expressed by all veterans' organizations for the estimated 18 to 20 percent of homeless veterans in Indiana; and

WHEREAS, The Veterans Affairs Secretary, Jesse Brown, has increasingly called to our attention our obligation to those veterans who once left their homes to serve their country and now find themselves homeless; and

WHEREAS, It is the duty of the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide medical care, rehabilitation, and other benefits to homeless veterans so that they may regain their rightful place as productive citizens; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Veterans Affairs' Medical Center at Marion, Indiana, with its soon to be completed geropsychiatric building, has the facilities for domiciliary care and is ideally located within range of several institutions of learning and training; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, that the Department of Veterans Affairs consider its Medical Center at Marion, Indiana, as a residential setting for homeless veterans.

Resolution No. 296: Reemployment Rights and Benefits of Veterans
Origin: WI
Submitted by: Employment and Veterans' Preference
As consolidated with 114 (UT)

WHEREAS, Recent military operations have required the call-up of National Guard and Military Reserve forces; and

WHEREAS, Many of these people called to active duty have experienced hardships in resuming their civilian employment and reestablishing their lives after their return from active service; and

WHEREAS, The government should encourage non-career service in the armed forces by eliminating the disadvantages of civilian careers which can result from such service; and

WHEREAS, One method of minimizing the disruption to the lives of people performing service in the uniformed services as well as their employers, their fellow employees, and their communities is to provide for prompt reemployment of such people upon completion of their service under honorable conditions; and

WHEREAS, It is desirable to provide for the prohibition of discrimination against people because of their service in the armed forces; and

WHEREAS, One of the lessons learned from the Gulf War was a recognition that Title 38 USC falls somewhat short of accomplishing the goal of minimal disruption to people's lives as a result of active service; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, that The American Legion supports amendment of Title 38 United States Code to improve reemployment rights and benefits of veterans, and other benefits of employment of members of the uniformed services.

Resolution No. 299: Federally Funded State Agencies
Origin: WI
Submitted by: Employment and Veterans' Preference
As consolidated with 112 (UT)

WHEREAS, Title 38, Chapters 41, 42, and 43 of the United States Code provides that maximum employment opportunities be made available to America's military veterans; and

WHEREAS, The provisions of Title 38 are to be interpreted liberally on behalf of the veteran; and

WHEREAS, Federal contractors and federal agencies are required to carry out the policy of providing maximum employment opportunities to veterans by listing their employment openings with the State Employment Security Agency in order that referrals of veterans are made with priority; and

WHEREAS, The responsibility of federally funded state agencies to list openings with the State Employment Service has been ignored; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Federal Contract Compliance, through administrative fiat, has exempted federally funded state agencies from the responsibility of listing openings with the State Employment Service; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, that The American Legion supports a requirement that federally funded state agencies list job openings with the State Employment Service as is required of federal agencies and federal contractors.

Resolution No. 301: Veterans Preference and the Job Training Partnership Act
Origin: WI
Submitted by: Employment and Veterans' Preference
As consolidated with 110 (UT)

WHEREAS, The American Legion is interested and involved in the economic well-being of all veterans; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion acts as the guardian of the veteran's interest in employment and training issues; and

WHEREAS, Disadvantaged and homeless veterans do occur in our society in numbers which warrant the nation's attention; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Department of Labor operates programs for the general population and specific groups of disadvantaged persons and dislocated workers; and

WHEREAS, There are many veterans being left out of the vast programs of employment and training operated by the U.S. Department of Labor; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in

Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, that The American Legion supports the amendment of the Job Training Partnership Act, Public Law 97-300, to provide for veteran preference in all programs operated under Job Training Partnership Act as is now the case under employment and training programs operated under Chapters 41 and 42 of Title 38 of the United States Code; and be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion interact with the National Governors' Association and the National Council of State Legislatures and individual state components thereof, to cause governors and state legislatures to identify veterans as special emphasis target groups within the Governor's Job Training Partnership Act Coordination and Special Emphasis Plan, each year, and appoint strong veteran representation on the State Job Training Coordinating Councils and Private Industry Councils for the specific purpose of reviewing plans for significant veteran service provisions.

Resolution No. 304: Support Veterans' Employment and Training Service
Origin: WI
Submitted by: Employment and Veterans' Preference
As consolidated with 93 (UT)

WHEREAS, It is the intent of Congress to provide a Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS) to carry out the purposes of Chapters 41, 42, and 43 of Title 38 United States Code so as to provide eligible veterans and eligible persons the maximum of employment and training opportunities, with priority given to the needs of disabled veterans of the Vietnam era, veterans, and others eligible; and

WHEREAS, The duties of the VETS have been expanded to include the technical assistance, investigation, and negotiated settlements of the Reemployment Rights for Veterans, National Guard, and Reserve members; and

WHEREAS, After VETS absorbed the Labor Management Services Administration (LMSA) and the Office of Veterans' Reemployment Rights (OVRR), the employees of LMSA and OVRR who retire or quit had their positions remain vacant, and their duties absorbed by the mandated positions of VETS, and this has hampered the delivery of the maximum services mandated by federal law; and

WHEREAS, The mandated personnel allocation formula for personnel in each state was originally established as one Assistant Director for each 250,000 veterans and eligible persons residing in the state and is still at that formula; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, that The American Legion supports adequate funding of the operation of the Veterans' Employment and Training Service in accordance with the mandates of Title 38 United States Code to include funds for the National staff, Regional Administrators, State Directors, Assistant State Directors, and clerical and technical support staff personnel; and be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion supports amendment of the personnel allocation formula in Title 38 United States Code, Chapter 41, to allow for the appointment of one Assistant Director for each 175,000 veterans and eligible persons residing in each state.

Resolution No. 305: Local Veterans' Employment Representatives (LVERS)
Origin: WI
Submitted by: Employment and Veterans' Preference

As amended and consolidated with 4 (MA), 103 (UT), 142 (IL), 190 (TX)

WHEREAS, Public Law 100-323 established the criteria for the assignment of LVERs on a full and half position basis with allocation based on veteran applicants available throughout a full program year; and

WHEREAS, The allocation is one LVER for 1100 veteran applicants available during the program year plus one additional LVER for each additional 1500 veteran applicants available, with one-half of an LVER position for offices with 350 to 100 veteran applicants available; and

WHEREAS, No consideration for veteran population served by a local office, as was intended originally in S.999, is covered under P.L. 100-323; and

WHEREAS, Veteran applicants available can vary by large numbers relating to plant closures, economic and weather conditions and other unknown circumstances; and

WHEREAS, The local labor market conditions alter the need for LVERs in varying degrees; and

WHEREAS, The State Job Services, or other like named employment service delivery agencies, with the concurrence of the Directors of Veterans' Employment and Training, are in a position to use best the allocated LVERs in their particular state; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, that The American Legion supports changing the present Local Veterans Employment Representative allocation to a formula based on 1,000 veteran applicants available and/or a 5,000 veteran population in the area served by the local State Employment Security Office; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a minimum of 1600 Local Veterans Employment Representative positions be funded nationwide for distribution according to the proposed formula, ensuring that no local office with 350 veteran applicants available has less than a one-half-time and that no Local Veterans Employment Representative grant position is split to less than one-half; and be it further

RESOLVED, that The American Legion petition the Secretary of Labor to adhere to the requirements of Title 38, Chapter 41, Section 2004, and assign Local Veterans Employment Representative positions on the basis required by law.

Resolution No. 311: Title IV-C of the Job Training Partnership Act
Origin: WI
Submitted by: Employment and Veterans' Preference

WHEREAS, The Job Training Partnership Act was enacted to prepare veterans, youth, unskilled adults and others for jobs in the labor market; and

WHEREAS, Title IV established federally administered programs for special target groups, including veterans, Native Americans, and migrant and seasonal farm workers; and

WHEREAS, Title IV-C is the only provision of JTPA which provides for specific services to veterans; and

WHEREAS, The $10 million in funds provided under Title IV-C are entirely inadequate to address the pressing employment and training needs of veterans of all eras; and

WHEREAS, Employment and training programs for Native Americans and migrant and seasonal farm workers are annually funded at an adequate level; and

WHEREAS, Inadequate funding for veterans' programs and failure to identify veterans in other Job Training Partnership Act programs prevented programs under this act from

adequately addressing the employment needs of the nation's veterans; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, that The American Legion supports an increase in funding for veterans' employment and training programs under Title IV-C of the Job Training Partnership Act to at least $160 million per year.

Resolution No. 312: Dislocated Workers
Origin: WI
Submitted by: Employment and Veterans' Preference
As consolidated with 96 (UT)

WHEREAS, During the past decade the nation has been in a state of transition from an industrial to a post-industrial economy, resulting in substantial economic turbulence, with widespread plant closures, loss of family farms, and unemployment; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Labor estimates that over five million workers have been dislocated from their jobs since 1979, of whom some 26 percent are veterans; and

WHEREAS, Many veteran dislocated workers are also older workers, whose careers have been interrupted and who are experiencing additional job finding difficulties associated with age discrimination; and

WHEREAS, Recent studies have also shown that recently discharged service personnel have difficulty in translating military skills and experience to civilian experience, with consequent job finding difficulty and delay in entering the economic mainstream; and

WHEREAS, Veterans have been underserved by the dislocated workers program authorized under Title III of the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA); now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, that The American Legion supports the targeting as a critical segment of the work force, dislocated workers who are veterans in any national program for dislocated workers; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment (1) conduct research into the causes of job dislocation among veterans; and (2) develop a pilot program under Title IV-C of Job Training Partnership Act which specifically addresses their employment needs; and be it further

RESOLVED, That recently discharged military veterans be included as an eligible group to be served under any national programs for dislocated workers.

RECEIVED AND RECORDED

Resolution No. 106 (UT) 1994 NC: **Exempt Federal Unemployment Tax Act (FUTA) from Gramm-Rudman-Hollings**
Resolution No. 107 (UT) 1994 NC: **Support Free, Fair and Open Competition in High Technology Market Places**

REFERRED TO THE STANDING COMMISSION ON ECONOMICS

Resolution No. 97 (UT) 1994 NC: **Increase Funding for Title IV-C of the Job Training Partnership Act**
Resolution No. 294 (WI) 1994 NC: **De Facto Quota Practices**

Resolution No. 350 (OH) 1994 NC: **Establish Educational Requirements for Case Managers**

REJECTED

Resolution No. 203 (NY) 1994 NC: **Civilian Conservation Corps**

. . . At this time, James McMahon of Maine assumed the podium and the reading of the report.

COMMITTEE ON OTHER ECONOMIC MATTERS
RECOMMENDED ACTION ON RESOLUTIONS
APPROVED

Resolution No. 79: Federal Funding Allocations to Non-profit Organizations to Help Homeless Veterans
Origin: PA
Submitted by: Economics
As amended

WHEREAS, The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has been committed to help relieve the homeless veteran problem; and

WHEREAS, The Federal Government has passed laws authorizing millions of dollars to be spent on relieving the homeless veteran problem; and

WHEREAS, The money is available to non-profit organizations with a Par. 501(c)3 tax status; and

WHEREAS, The VA held a seminar in February of 1994 on how to access this money; and

WHEREAS, People were instructed on how to start a non-profit organization and apply for this money; and

WHEREAS, Veterans organizations cannot apply for this money unless they are a 501(c)3 tax status organization; and

WHEREAS, There are non-profit organizations being formed so they can apply for this money and then most of the money received is used for salaries of the people working for the non-profits; and

WHEREAS, Some people have written a book on entrepreneurship of non-profit organizations; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, that the Congress of the United States restrict the amount of money received from the Federal Government to pay for salaries of staff or expenses of the board but that the money be used to help homeless veterans.

Resolution No. 87: Veterans Affirmative Action for Federal Contractors
Origin: UT
Submitted by: Economics

WHEREAS, It is the intent of Congress to provide affirmative action to veterans under Chapter 42, Title 38 United States Code (USC) in their employment and advancement with federal contractors; and

WHEREAS, The mandated VETS 100 reports indicate that the majority of the employers covered under the section cited above have ignored or failed to implement the requirements of hiring and advancement of covered veterans; and

WHEREAS, The Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP) is charged with the responsibility for the compliance investigations and reviews of the above cited section, and is empowered under law to bring sanctions against contractors and subcontractors who willingly violate the Veterans' Affirmative Action clause, including imposition of contract termination and debarment; and

WHEREAS, OFCCP has been lax in seeking contractors' compliance with the above-cited requirements, and this laxity has had the effect of undermining this important program for assisting veterans; and

WHEREAS, Enforcement of the requirement of Title 38, United States Code, that any private contractor or subcontractor with a government contract for the procurement of property or services of $10,000 or more shall take affirmative action to employ and advance in employment qualified disabled veterans and veterans of the Vietnam era, has been vested in the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs of the Department of Labor; and

WHEREAS, There has been no meaningful and effective enforcement of this requirement in the OFCCP, and qualified veterans have been denied employment opportunities within the private sector, contrary to the intent of Congress in providing such benefit; and

WHEREAS, Responsibility for veterans' employment programs within the U.S. Department of Labor has been assigned to the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training, with appropriate staffing and funding, with the exception of the cited provisions of law required of federal contractors; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, that The American Legion urge the U.S. Department of Labor, the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs, and Congress to review current enforcement procedures being employed with regard to compliance with the Veterans' Affirmative Action provisions of Chapter 42, Title 38 United States Code; and be it further

RESOLVED, That following such review of enforcement methods and procedures, The American Legion urge the Department of Labor, the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs, and Congress to take appropriate steps within each agency or body to ensure that the Veterans' Affirmative Action provisions of the above cited law are vigorously enforced in a manner consistent with the letter and spirit of existing laws; and be it further

RESOLVED, that The American Legion recommends placing in the office of the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training all responsibility for implementing and enforcing the requirement of the law that private contractors or subcontractors with federal contracts shall take affirmative action to employ and advance in employment qualified disabled veterans and veterans of the Vietnam era; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Assistant Secretary for Veterans' Employment and Training shall be provided sufficient funds for additional staff and other administrative expenses necessary to carry out this mandate, with employees of the Department of Labor administering provisions of this law administratively responsible to the Assistant Secretary for Veterans' Employment and Training.

Resolution No. 88: Amend the Internal Revenue Code for Qualified Veteran Definition
Origin: UT
Submitted by: Economics

WHEREAS, The States of Oregon, Alaska, Wisconsin, California, and Texas have established veterans' home loan programs; and

WHEREAS, The States of Oregon, Alaska, Wisconsin, California, and Texas have authority in the Federal Tax Code to issue Qualified Veteran Mortgage Bonds to finance their respective veteran home loan programs; and

WHEREAS, Veterans' eligibility under current federal tax law restricts the eligibility to veterans who served on active duty prior to January 1, 1977; and

WHEREAS, The Directors of Veterans Affairs of the states of Oregon, Alaska, Wisconsin, California, and Texas are desirous of extending their respective veteran home loan programs to include the men and women of the United States of America dispatched to participate in the conflicts in Lebanon, Grenada, Panama, and Southwest Asia (Persian Gulf); and

WHEREAS, Veterans of these aforementioned conflicts should receive benefits consistent with the benefits available to veterans of previous armed conflicts; and

WHEREAS, Those veterans have been qualified for eligibility into congressionally chartered veterans' organizations by prior acts of the Congress of the United States; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, that The American Legion supports amendment of Paragraph 4 of Section 143(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to read: "Qualified Veteran.-- For the purpose of this subsection, the term 'qualified veteran' means any veteran who meets such requirements as may be imposed by the state law pursuant to which qualified veterans' mortgage bonds are issued."

Resolution No. 89: Strong Support for the VA Home Loan Guaranty Program
Origin: UT
Submitted by: Economics

WHEREAS, During the past 44 years, the VA Home Loan Guaranty Program has provided nearly 13 million veterans with the opportunity to own their own homes, thereby assisting not only the veteran, but the home building industry and the national economy as well; and

WHEREAS, A small number of veteran homeowners default on their VA guaranteed loans, resulting in the VA either paying off the statutory guaranty or acquiring the property through the offering of "vendee" loans on which it subsequently sells; and

WHEREAS, The VA Home Loan Program is, by its very nature, a veterans' entitlement; and

WHEREAS, Program deficits, prior to 1984, were offset by rising inflation in home prices or by supplemental funding from VA Direct Loan Program income; and

WHEREAS, High inflation and rising interest rates, as well as national and regional recessions, have generated increasing deficits in the VA Home Loan Guaranty Program; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, that The American Legion reaffirm its strong commitment to a viable Veterans Administration Home Loan Guaranty Program; and

be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion supports action to develop and maintain supplemental income sources, such as portfolios of direct and vendee loans, sufficient to generate income to support periodic deficits incurred by the Home Loan Guaranty Program; and be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion oppose any down payment or increase in funding fees for veterans and work to abolish existing funding fees enacted in Public Law 101-237; and be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion oppose any change in the net value calculations formula at foreclosure which would make the Veterans Administration Guaranteed Loan Program less attractive to mortgage investors; and be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion supports a policy of strengthening the solvency of the Manufactured Home Loan Program by raising quality standards and weather resistance of manufactured homes to insure dollar value received in each veteran's purchase of a manufactured home under the Veterans Administration Home Loan Guaranty Program; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion supports the restoration of entitlement to a veteran whose loan defaulted after assumption by another party and that no debt be incurred in such cases and no taxes should be assessed against the veteran.

Resolution No. 90: Support Continuation of the Small Business Administration (SBA) and its Office of Veterans Affairs (OVA)

Origin: UT

Submitted by: Economics

As consolidated with 3 (MA), 5 (MA)

WHEREAS, Federal assistance to veteran-owned small business is a traditional veterans' benefit that dates back to the passage of the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944; and

WHEREAS, The Small Business Administration was created by Congress in 1953 and was given responsibility for administering a veterans' program including both direct and guaranteed loans; and

WHEREAS, In 1974 Congress passed P.L. 93-237, which mandated that SBA to provide "special consideration" to veterans, their survivors and dependents; and

WHEREAS, The SBA's Office of Veterans' Affairs has in recent years worked very closely with veterans' service organizations and has kept them apprised of its efforts on behalf of veteran entrepreneurs; and

WHEREAS, The SBA's OVA is considering several initiatives that would enhance its loan programs as well as its other services to veterans to include a small loan program for direct loans, a 90% guaranty on surety bonds, and a special set-aside program for veteran-owned businesses that provide goods and services to the federal government; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, that The American Legion continue its strong support of the Small Business Administration and its Office of Veterans' Affairs; and be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion fully support any proposals that would increase the effectiveness of the Office of Veterans' Affairs or strengthen its veterans'

programs.

Resolution No. 126: Help for Veteran Owned Businesses
Origin: UT
Submitted by: Economics
As consolidated with 11 (MA)

WHEREAS, Assistance to veterans who have honorably served our country is a veterans' benefit that dates back to the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944; and

WHEREAS, Benefits to veterans have always included assistance in creating and operating veteran-owned small business; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, that The American Legion encourages the amendment of applicable Federal statutes to require a reasonable set-aside of federal procurements and contracts for businesses owned and operated by veterans and for those veteran businesses affected by base closings and reduction in our military forces.

Resolution No. 132: Amend Title 38 USC to Provide Restoration of VA Home Loans
Origin: SD
Submitted by: Economics

WHEREAS, The United States Government, in recognition and in gratitude for the service performed by members of this nation's armed forces, established the Home Loan Guaranty Program in 1944 to be administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs; and

WHEREAS, Upon payment of the VA-guaranteed loan in full, the veteran could apply to VA for a restoration of loan guaranty entitlement; and

WHEREAS, To assist veterans in the equitable transfer of a VA-guaranteed property, Congress approved legislation permitting the assumption of a veteran's VA-guaranteed loan; and

WHEREAS, In a sale of a VA-guaranteed property by assumption, if the veteran did not obtain a release of loan liability from the purchaser, the veteran would remain liable to the Federal Government for any outstanding loan balance in the event this or a subsequent purchaser defaulted on the loan and the property was sold at a loss at foreclosure; and

WHEREAS, the 4th Federal Circuit of Appeals, in the 1985 landmark decision, U.S. v. Whitney, held that the Department of Veterans Affairs failed to provide the veteran adequate due process notification that the assumed loan had gone into default and the property sold at a loss at foreclosure; and

WHEREAS, The court determined in U.S. v. Whitney that, because of the lack of due process notification, there was administrative error in the deficiency in question and cleared the veteran's credit history; and

WHEREAS, In Whitney-type cases where there has been a loss to the VA in the foreclosure sale of a guaranteed property, VA continues to deny restoration of the full amount of loan guaranty entitlement based on a 1991 advisory opinion by the VA General Counsel that, under Title 38, USC 3702(b)(3)(A), any such loss must be repaid in full before loan guaranty entitlement can be restored; and

WHEREAS, Title 38, USC, 3702(b), which sets forth the conditions and criteria for computing the aggregate amount of VA loan guaranty entitlement, includes the provision that the Secretary may, under appropriate circumstances, waive one or more of the prescribed conditions of this section; and

WHEREAS, The VA General Counsel opinion states that such discretionary waiver is not applicable to Whitney-type cases; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion believes the basic intent of U.S. v. Whitney was to make the veteran whole again in relationship to VA benefit eligibility, including VA home loan guaranty by eliminating the alleged indebtedness; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion further believes that VA policy denying restoration of loan guaranty entitlement is contrary to Title 38, USC 3702(b), which provides for a discretionary waiver of certain loan conditions, to Title 38, USC 503, which provides for equitable relief due to VA administrative error, and to the intent of the Court's holdings in U.S. v. Whitney; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, that The American Legion seek legislation to amend Title 38, USC to provide for full restoration of Veterans Administration home loan guaranty to those veterans whose Veterans Administration home loan debt was "written off" by the Veterans Administration pursuant to U.S. v. Whitney.

Resolution No. 313: Homeless Veterans
Origin: WI
Submitted by: Economics
As consolidated with 91 (UT), 339 (MO)

WHEREAS, Virtually unanimous agreement exists as to what the pressing needs of homeless veterans are, including affordable housing, job training, employment opportunities and improved access to treatment for substance abuse and mental health counseling; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Veterans Affairs has not ended and cannot alone end homelessness among veterans without sustained leadership and redirection of priorities and resources toward critical needs nor without the help of the Administration, Congress and other segments of government; and

WHEREAS, Homelessness among veterans is a national problem where any given night the federal government estimates between 250,000 and 500,000 are homeless including ten to fifteen percent with families and small children; and

WHEREAS, Numbers recently released for the state of Utah estimated 3,740 for the night of January 31, 1992, a 23 percent increase over 1991, proving existing on-line homeless programs are scratching the surface; and

WHEREAS, The response of the federal government to those who served their country has been shamefully inadequate reflecting the seriousness of domestic problems and homelessness encountered by veterans including some or our troops who fought in Desert Storm, for some of whom homecoming has resulted in little more than a parade to the streets or to a shelter; and

WHEREAS, The vast majority of homeless veterans are high school graduates with approximately one third attending or graduating from college and studies have shown they are better educated than homeless people who are not veterans; and

WHEREAS, Veterans from every peacetime era and armed conflict are represented in the homeless population and more Vietnam veterans are homeless today than died during the entire Vietnam war; and

WHEREAS, Many men and women who chose to enter the military both to serve their country and to improve their job skills have found their military service to be of little value in an economy where recession, unemployment, and jobs which pay little and offer few

benefits combined have helped to diminish their ability to afford housing; and

WHEREAS, With downsizing and deactivation, many military and government installations nationwide that have housing and training facilities in place could be converted to peacetime veteran rehabilitation centers offering temporary housing, counseling and job training; and

WHEREAS, The theory of the 1930-1940 Civilian Conservation Corps could be used for on-the-job training working to update and create a multitude of public works projects nationwide; and

WHEREAS, There are numerous veterans who have retired, are semi-retired or are targeted soon to retire or to be separated from the military or defense industries who are a potential well-trained pool of human resources; and

WHEREAS, These workers could be utilized establishing retraining programs without a substantial federal investment in their skills for them to counsel and retrain veterans; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion believes that given a chance homeless veterans and their families can be productive citizens, for they may be temporarily homeless but they are home in America and should be respected for defending the home we all enjoy; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, that The American Legion supports the use of phased-down or deactivated government installations for the purpose of housing, counseling and job training for those veterans who are in need of such services; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the national organization of The American Legion continue to monitor the needs of homeless veterans and to make additional recommendations and support appropriate legislation and programs to address this national disgrace.

. . . At this time, Allen Titus of Indiana assumed the podium.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TITUS: Mr. Commander, that completes the report of the Convention Committee on Economics. As a Delegate from the Department of Indiana, I move the adoption of this report.

. . . The motion was seconded by National Vice Commander Cintron and carried.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: Having presented Employer of the Year Awards, and considered economic issues, as they impact veterans, it is certainly appropriate for our next guest to deliver a special message.

The American Legion has been concerned with employment issues for veterans since its formative days in this city 75 years ago. Our next guest finds himself involved with the issue each day, in the highest. A retired Brigadier General, today he is the principal advisor to the Secretary of Labor regarding veterans' employment and training issues. He oversees an agency within the Department of Labor which is required to meet the needs of veterans, reservists and National Guard members in the areas of employment, re-employment and training programs.

It is a pleasure to introduce to you the Assistant Secretary for Veterans' Employment and Training, and a member of Eden-Stanley Post 294 in Pemberton, New Jersey, Preston M. Taylor, Jr.

THE HONORABLE PRESTON M. TAYLOR, JR.
Assistant Secretary for Veterans' Employment and Training

Good morning. Thank you for that kind introduction, and for the honor of addressing the Legion's Convention on this, it's 75th Anniversary.

What a proud tradition, 75 years of service to veterans and to America. As you can see, I, too, wear the hat of membership. I belong to Post 294 in Pemberton, New Jersey.

However, what you are not able to tell, especially from my introduction as a retired Air Force General, is that I was a "Mustang." That is, I started my career as an enlisted man in the Air Force, and came up through the ranks. So, I think I understand the principles of leadership and fellowship from both prospectives and extend my warmest greetings to all of you here today.

To this year's winners of Employment of the Year Award for hiring veterans, I extend my congratulations. To The American Legion leadership, I extend my compliments. Our organization is strong for recognizing the importance of veterans' employment programs and it is clearly alive and well.

Throughout its long and distinguished history, The American Legion has stood committed to social and economic betterment for this nation's veterans. The Legion with a loud voice supported the creation within the Department of Labor, and we got, the Veterans' Employment and Training Service, the agency I head, known in the employment community as VETS. VETS, which works today, in a large measure, because of the contributions of The American Legion, and its colleagues.

As many of you know, VETS and the United States Department of Labor works with states to offer employment and training services to veterans, especially disabled veterans. The services include working with employers, the VA, veterans' organizations and community-based organizations to match qualified veterans with jobs and training opportunities. We are proud of the fact that last year, because of VETS, 562,000 veterans found jobs.

VETS also administers a veterans re-employment rights program for veterans, reservists, and National Guard members returning to their civilian jobs, with reserve components now a critical part of the Force Structure, this 54 year old re-employment program has emerged as an important safety net for reservists each year. Last year, we resolved 1,500 re-employment rights cases on behalf of veterans and recovered from more than $1 million in lost wages.

VETS is very concerned with the national tragedy of homelessness. Experts estimate that as many as one-third of the homeless adult males are veterans. On any given night, there are more than 250,000 veterans sleeping on the streets of America, the country they honorably served.

Through a small groups program, VETS provides employment and training programs in 26 urban and 6 rural areas nationwide. As I have visited our shelters, I've seen for myself that all homeless veterans are not drug addicts, they are not all alcoholics, they don't all suffer from mental disorder. Many have been laid off recently and are temporarily "down on their luck." They are job-ready, and they want to go to work. Last year, our veterans' homeless re-integration programs found 4,000 jobs for homeless veterans. We need to do more in this area, and we will do more.

One of the VETS biggest successes involves its program to assist men and women awaiting release from the military service. There are between 250,000 and 300,000 service

members discharged from the military every year.

VETS is the lead agency in a departmental agreement. Our departmental programs with the Department of Defense, and Veterans Affairs, provide transition assistance to individuals who are within 180 days of discharge. Through a three-day workshop, these soon-to-be veterans are taught how to translate their military experience into civilian workforce terms, how to write a resume, search for a job, and insure success in an interview for a job.

Studies show that the period of unemployment for those who participate in our Transition Assistance Program is reduced by more than three weeks. What a lessening of family stress and improvement in the family checkbook that decrease of unemployment time makes. Last year, we trained 150,000 young men and women who were about to leave the military on how to find a job. If you consider the fact that veterans who participated in the transition of business programs become taxpayers, three weeks sooner than those who did not participate, this program is clearly a winner for the national economy. 150,000 young men and women were trained and found jobs through our efforts.

Other winning programs on a smaller scale, come from the grants from defense organizations and with funding under the Job Partnership Training Act.

One of the VETS program grants of which I am most proud, is to The American Legion for its job training partnership with the Laborers' International Union of North America. The Laborers' International Union of North America trains and teaches valuable construction site skills to our veterans. This places the veterans into good paying jobs with construction firms. I give my unbridled praise to The American Legion for entering directly into this task. It is only the veterans service organization that has undertaken such an endeavor.

As the Assistant Secretary for Veterans, let me assure you that the Labor Department headed by Secretary Robert B. Reich appreciates the fine work that VETS has done in the past, and is dedicated to the continued improvement of veterans' services. This administration came into office committed to conducting the business of public service in the open. For VETS, this means full involvement of all veterans' organizations.

For the past ten months, as part of the Vice President's national performance review, VETS has been re-examining closely all of its processes and all of its programs. We are re-inventing ourselves to make sure that no one is surprised by our results, but also more importantly to get all of the constructive feedback we can. I have insisted that veterans' organizations and congressional committees be briefed regularly on our progress, that we provide dialogue opportunities to veterans' service organizations and they give us their input.

As another example of our openness to your advice, Secretary Reiche, will convene for the first time ever, a committee on veterans' affairs that will involve the Secretary.

Today, veterans face a number of difficulties in the areas of employment and training, not only in that there will be a continuing reduction in the size of the armed forces over the next few years, but simultaneously, there will be a continuing action restructuring the civilian work force, both in the public and private sectors. The American work place is changing, and to remain effective, services to meet the employment needs of the veterans must also be changing.

President Clinton is dedicated to restructuring the federal government to improve the efficiency, and make it more responsive to its customers. Vice President Gore's National Performance Review Reports recommended that the federal work force be reduced by 12%,

which is approximately 252,000 employees. 252,000 federal employees will be leaving the federal government in the next few years. This downsizing has given new emphasis to the benefit known as veterans' preference. By law, veterans who are disabled or who served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces during specified periods or in military campaigns are entitled to preference over non-veterans in both hiring and retention in federal and civil service.

A major victory in the continued viability of veterans' preference came this summer when veteran organizations were able to prevail upon the President to withdraw the Justice Department defense of the Postal Service's controversial 1992 reorganization plan. Just days before his postal service decision, President Clinton prepared a message on Veterans' Employment Day, a day that recognized the 1944 signing of the Veterans' Preference Act. The President's message said, in part, "As we celebrate the 50th anniversary of this important law, I assure you that this administration's support for the Act has not diminished. I remain committed to preserving the Veterans' Preference Act with the service that veterans have provided to this nation, and that they deserve nothing less."

At the June 27, 1994 Veterans' Employment Day Celebration, Secretary Reich, and VA Secretary Jesse Brown, and Director Jim King of the Office of Personnel Management all gave ringing endorsements of the Veterans' Preference. As the head of the agency responsible for assisting veterans to file complaints about federal agency firing practices, I pledge to work closely with Jim King and other officials in protecting the veterans' preference. Our two agencies must strengthen their vigilance in protecting the employment rights of the veterans in a federal government now starting to downsize itself.

The overriding message from this summer's Postal Service challenge is that the President, although not a veteran himself, has become a veterans' advocate who now listens when organizations like The American Legion speak.

I mentioned Vice President Gore's National Performance Review, the NPR. The NPR report was not perfect, but it was recommended by my organization that my department be consolidated into another Department of Labor agency, the Employment and Training Agency, known as ETA. I took this NPR recommendation as both a personal challenge and an agency wake-up call. During the last year, the VETS worked hard to prove its worth as an independent agency. Every step of the way, as we defended our agency, I've had the full support of the Secretary, Robert Reich, and his top staff.

At the Veterans' Employment Celebration in June, Chairman of the House Veteran's Affairs Committee Sonny Montgomery said, "that any proposed legislation sent to the Hill seeking to consolidate VETS into ETS would be dead, upon arrival." Last month, Secretary Reich, in a letter to Chairman Montgomery, said that while the NPR recommendation was intended to improve the customer service, it was known as one-stop shopping. This can be achieved without transferring VETS to ETA."

The NPR's First Annual Report will soon be released with a recommendation regarding VETS future, which will defer it indefinitely. Secretary Reich and I consider this as an affirmation of our efforts to preserve VETS in the Department of Labor. This was consistent with then, OMB Director, Leon Panetta's charge to demand a pledge in January of this year, when he wrote, "The President has great respect for the opinion of Veteran Leaders, such as yourself, and will consult with them before implementing any change in the structure of Veterans Employment and Training Services." VETS intends to do more than just cut red-tape. By putting customers first, utilizing our employees, and returning to the basic VETS, it will streamline its operations, and improve its services to our customers,

our veterans and our employers.

Although the process is moving well, no final decisions have been made on most issues, but we will continue to brief the veterans organizations regularly on our progress, and continue to ask them for their input.

With almost 300,000 new veterans coming yearly into the civilian workforce, and thousands of other workers losing their jobs, because of global competition, defense downsizing, corporate restructuring and technological changes, there is urgent need to change the employment system designed to help Americans prepare find and keep good jobs. For over 50 years, we have had an unemployment insurance system based on the premise and the notion that what workers needed most, was some type of income assistance during economic downturn, or while they were laid off, until they got their old jobs back in the same company, or in an industry similar to the one they were laid off from. We have had a multiple array of job-training programs with each one designed to help a different category of workers who needed employment assistance.

Unemployment insurance still helps people, and many particular, identifiable groups of workers still need training, but given the huge structural changes in the American economy that is taking place now, this system has become a band-aid, rather than a cure. We are spending more than $35 billion a year, just keeping people financially intact, until a new job comes along.

But the fact is, more Americans need to find jobs in new industries. And more of them need retraining, and sometimes for more than six months, for those new jobs. So the Administration wants to turn our present unemployment system into an active re-employment assistance system. We will do that by re-inventing the way we do business. Our re-employment centers will consolidate virtually all the services available at the state and federal levels into one-step, and they will become customer driven. It will feature state-of-the-art job data banks, job search assistance, and enrollment in appropriate job training.

The Administration's view of the new delivery system, and the use of the one-step centers, is to allow every citizen the availability of employment assistance and training, their support by agencies, regardless of what help they need, or what category they could possible need to be placed in. Veterans, as well as non-veterans, will receive prompt, efficient, and effective services using the federal funds that you as taxpayers provide.

Let me just say a word about the veterans as employees, especially the veterans we are producing today. They bring to the job market, not only the skills they learned in the Armed Forces, but they embody the qualities the employer cries for most, discipline, maturity, and they are team players and leaders. Today's veterans are well-educated. They are able to follow instructions. They are dependable, and they come to work on time. If they don't come to work, and they are sick, they call in sick, and they are drug-free.

We test for drugs in the military, and so, we have a drug-free military, and when a young man or woman leaves the military, they leave it drug-free.

From a business standpoint, veterans are one of our country's greatest national treasurers. Hiring veterans is not only, the right thing to do, it is the smart thing to do!

Every day, the news media carries stories of people all over the world risking their lives to come to the United States. They come over in rafts, inner tubes, they stowaway on planes and ships, just to come to the United States. At times, I wonder why they would take such chances, but in my heart, I know the answer, and so do you. It is because this country offers a special freedom bought and paide for by the men and women who wore its uniform. And because of veterans, when they become civilians, continue fighting to build this country

and make it the greatest country in the world today.

I am sure you agree, we owe our veterans a debt that we can never fully repay. And so it is, with a deep sense of privilege shared by President Clinton and Secretary Reich, and as Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans Employment and Training, I am honored to serve those who served.

It is an honor to work with you, The American Legion, an organization to which I belong, an organization that I regard as one of this nation's greatest assets.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: At this time, the Chair will recognize Herm Harrington of New York, Chairman of the National Credentials Committee on Credentials and Internal Affairs for the purpose of making a report.

REPORT OF THE NATIONAL CONVENTION COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS AND OTHER INTERNAL AFFAIRS

Section II, Other Internal Matters
Herman G. Harrington (NY), Chairman

Twenty-one resolutions were received and reviewed, and three were created by the committee. Of these, two were approved, three were approved as amended, three were consolidated into a committee resolution and approved, twelve were referred, two were received and recorded, and two were rejected.

RECOMMENDED ACTION ON RESOLUTIONS APPROVED

Resolution No. 152: 1944 GI Bill of Rights
Origin: IL
Submitted By: Credentials and Internal Affairs
As Amended

WHEREAS, The Serviceman's' Readjustment Act of 1944, better known as the GI Bill of Rights, provided educational opportunities and economic benefits to millions of returning Veterans of world War II and those who served in the Armed Forces in the ensuing years, and

WHEREAS, The educational, scientific and cultural advancement of the United States was stimulated to unprecedented heights and as a result of this legislation, and

WHEREAS, The Department of Illinois, American Legion, has recognized from the beginning that the GI Bill was conceived on the evening of November 4, 1943, at the home of Luther B. Easley Post No. 128, American Legion, in Salem, Illinois, by eight local and visiting Legionnaires, and

WHEREAS, The American Legion National Organization has not seen fit to recognize this origin of the GI Bill up to this time, and

WHEREAS, During the Fiftieth Anniversary Year, the Department of Illinois, The American Legion, reaffirmed its long held belief that the comprehensive plan known as the GI Bill of Rights was broadly conceived and generally outlined at the Salem, Illinois meeting on November 4, 1943, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994 that The American Legion National

Organization reexamine its position on the origin of the GI Bill and, if warranted by re-examination and documentation, credit Salem, Illinois as its birthplace.

Resolution No. 194: Support Audie Murphy Postage Stamp
Origin: TX
Submitted By: Credentials and Internal Affairs, Section II (Credentials and Other Internal Matters)
As Amended

WHEREAS, The American Legion is a patriotic organization of wartime veterans who have dedicated themselves to the service of the community, state and nation; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion diligently strives to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the great wars and to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; and

WHEREAS, The government of the United States of America issues postage stamps honoring individuals who have made significant contributions to our nation including music, movie and entertainment personalities; and

WHEREAS, Audie L. Murphy was the most decorated U. S. soldier in World War II, receiving 21 medals for valor including three Purple Hearts for wounds received in action and the nation's highest award for valor, the Medal of Honor, and

WHEREAS, the 50th anniversary of the combat action for which Second Lieutenant Murphy received his Medal of Honor is 26 January 1995; and

WHEREAS, Audie L. Murphy's example of patriotism and personal sacrifices are worthy of recognition by our nation and are an excellent example for today's society, ensuring that his contributions to our great country are not forgotten; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, that The American Legion recommend that a United States of America postage stamp be issued in honor of Audie L. Murphy on the 50th anniversary of his most notable, heroic action.

Resolution No. 208: American Legion Policy on Cancer
Origin: AZ
Submitted by: Credentials and Internal Affairs
As Amended

WHEREAS, cancer continues to be a major "killer" throughout the world, killing and crippling thousands of human beings, and

WHEREAS, this impact has been felt by numerous of our American Legion members, and

WHEREAS, government funding has been insufficient to support the maximum research required, and

WHEREAS, research performed to date has resulted in an improved recovery rate of 39 percent in 1980 to 52 percent in 1992, and

WHEREAS, individually and collectively we are capable of providing support, financial and psychological, to victims of this destructive disease; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, by The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, that The American Legion respectfully urge the public to stand up to this devastator, and therefore be it further

RESOLVED, that individually and as an organization, we continue to support the

efforts of the American Cancer Society in cancer research programs, and therefore be it finally

RESOLVED, that The American Legion aggressively request and support increased federal research funding to expedite the cure for all forms of cancer.

Resolution No. 404: Appreciation to Host City
Origin: Credentials and Internal Affairs
Submitted by: Credentials and Internal Affairs

WHEREAS, The 76th National Convention has been held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6-September 8, 1994; and

WHEREAS, There has been a spirit of cooperation and friendship along with mutual helpfulness evidenced by the Legionnaires of Minneapolis, Minnesota, the officers of the Convention Corporation and the Department, and by the officials and the people of Minneapolis, Minnesota; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, and 8, 1994, that we express our deep appreciation to the Department of Minnesota, Governor Arne Carlson, Lt. Governor Joanell M. Dyrstad, Mayor Sharon Sayles Belton, the city officials of Minneapolis, to the 1994 National Convention Corporation of Minnesota, to local citizens and Legionnaires and especially to the National Convention Corporation officers, Donald R. Schroedl, President, Steve A. George, General Chairman, Cliff A. Gustafson, Secretary, Kenneth B. Erickson, Treasurer, John G. Kressel, General Counsel, Daniel A. Ludwig, First Vice President, Milo T. Cecka, Second Vice President, and Directors, Alfred Barnes, Jr., George W. Bentley, Alan A. Davis, Diane Carlson Evans, Charles W. Ferguson, Ward K. Jeffers, James Johnson, David Mauritson, Duane E. Redepenning, William R. Thein, Daniel F. Foley, PNC, Charles W. Lindberg, Jeffrey L. Olson, Dennis Sculthorp, Harry W. Wilson. Around this nucleus has been built the moving force that provided for every necessity that made for a successful, enjoyable Convention.

Resolution No. 405: Volunteer Mileage Income Tax Deduction
Origin: Credentials and Internal Affairs, Section II (Credentials and Other Internal Matters)
Submitted by: Credentials and Internal Affairs, Section II (Credentials and Other Internal Matters)

WHEREAS, The reliance upon volunteer-supported services will continue to grow as government services are reduced because of budgetary reductions; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion, as one of the nation's largest and most activity community service organizations, recognizes the need to create an environment which would promote a greater level of volunteerism; and

WHEREAS, The federal government should take the lead in developing policies to produce such an environment; and

WHEREAS, One of the most tangible ways to promote volunteerism is to defray out-of-pocket expenses incurred by volunteers; and

WHEREAS, The Internal Revenue Code now provides a $.12 per mile income tax deduction for persons who use their own automobiles in volunteer activities, a deduction which has not been increased since the mid-1980's; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, and 8, 1994, that The American Legion urge

Congress to approve legislation to increase the volunteer mileage income tax deduction and to authorize regular CPI-based adjustments to that deduction on an annual or bi-annual basis thereafter.

RECEIVED AND RECORDED

Resolution No. 177 (ID) 1994 NC: **Endorsement for National Commander**
Resolution No. 314 (WI) 1994 NC: **MIA/POW Postage Stamp**

REFERRED TO THE STANDING COMMISSION ON INTERNAL AFFAIRS

Resolution No. 21 (CO) 1994 NC: **Memorial Plaque Honoring Canadians Who Died in Vietnam**
Resolution No. 22 (CO) 1994 NC: **Support Women in Military Service for America Foundation**
Resolution No. 45 (NE) 1994 NC: **Assist in the Expansion of the Heartland Museum**
Resolution No. 178 (ID) 1994 NC: **Support D-Day Memorial**
Resolution No. 192 (TX) 1994 NC: **Support National Prisoner of War Memorial**
Resolution No. 193 (TX) 1994 NC: **Oppose the Planned PanAm Memorial**
Resolution No. 197 (NY) 1994 NC: **MIA/POW Memorial**
Resolution No. 329 (CT) 1994 NC: **National Purple Heart Museum**
Resolution No. 363 (ME) 1994 NC: **Korean War Flag**

REFERRED TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON TROPHIES, AWARDS AND CEREMONIALS

Resolution No. 1 (MA) 1994 NC: **Amend The American Legion Manual on Military Funerals**

REFEREED TO THE STANDING COMMISSION ON CONVENTION

Resolution No. 23 (CO) 1994 NC: **Invitation to Hold American Legion National Convention in Colorado - 2000**
Resolution No. 164 (WV) 1994 NC: **Scheduling of the National Convention**

REJECTED

Resolution No. 86 (GA) 1994 NC: **New Dollar Coin Commemorating America's Veterans**
Resolution No. 191 (TX) 1994 NC: **Selection of National Historian from NADHAL**

CHAIRMAN HARRINGTON: Earlier in my report, I indicated to you I would wait until now to discuss an action taken by the Committee on an issue of particular concern to The American Legion. That, of course, is the planned exhibit of the historic B-29, the Enola Gay, and the end of World War II by the Smithsonian Institution's National Air and Space

Museum.

In my many years of service on the National Internal Affairs Commission, I can remember few circumstances that have so outraged, so mobilized, and yes, so pained the members of this organization, as has this exhibit.

It is an exhibit that started out to simply display an historic aircraft. It quickly became an affront to the heroic men who flew the Enola Gay, an indictment of American morality and sense of fair play and a portrayal of us, the veterans of World War II, as callous men of vengeance motivated by racism and hatred.

When this exhibit became known through the release of a first draft, no one at the Smithsonian expected the outcry that rose up. That may be the most surprising, and the most disappointing fact of all: How, and why, would so precious an institution as the Smithsonian, home of some of the proudest achievements of American courage and ingenuity, even conceive of an exhibit that stated, quote, "For most Japanese, the war in the pacific was a fight to protect their unique culture from Western Imperialism. For many Americans it was a war of vengeance."

How could such an Institution display photograph after photograph of the victims of the atomic bomb and give not one word to the horrors of the Bataan Death March, the beheading of General Doolittle's pilots, the Japanese slave labor camps, the rape of Nanking, the beaches of Iwo Jima and Okinawa littered with dead Americans? How could this happen?

That is what we wanted to know. We still have no answer to that. But what we do have today is an exhibit that has been revised for the third time and still is not acceptable to us. But we have more than that, if you will approve Resolution Number 391. This resolution in no way ends our opposition to the display as currently designed, in no way does it lends our support of the exhibit to its curators. But it does forge a working relationship between the Smithsonian Institution and The American Legion in which we are granted a role in future developments unique among veterans groups: In that role,

1. We will participate in an immediate, line-by-line comment and review of the script, face-to-face with the Director of the National Air and Space Museum and the exhibit's curators.
2. We will be given access to all materials relating to the exhibit, including catalogs, articles, books, and videotapes.
3. And we will reserve judgment until the exhibit reaches its final development stage or approval.

In private meetings between the National Commander and the Under-Secretary of the Smithsonian, and in open forum before our Internal Affairs Commission, we have been assured the Smithsonian will play fair with us. Only time will tell if that is true. I have no reason to think it is not. Nevertheless, I am confident the position set forth by this resolution contains sufficient safeguards to protect the integrity of The American Legion and the memory of those, whose incredible service and sacrifices turned back the tide of tyranny a half a century ago.

Resolution No. 391: Smithsonian Institution Exhibit Entitled: The Last Act: The Atomic Bomb and the End of World War II

Origin: Credentials and Internal Affairs, Sec. II (Credentials and Other Internal Matters)

Submitted by: Credentials and Internal Affairs, Section II (Credentials and Other Internal Matters)
Consolidated with 198 (NY), 316 (KS)

WHEREAS, The National Executive Committee of The American Legion, in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 4-5, 1994, approved Res. #22 entitled "Smithsonian Exhibit of the Enola Gay," resolving that

1.) The American Legion is concerned that the planned exhibit on the Enola Gay is politically biased and in violation of the prescribed direction and function of the Smithsonian Institution and the National Air and Space Museum, and

2.) The American Legion objects to the use of the Enola Gay and it's crew in the exhibit, and

3.) The National Commander forward the resolution to the President and other federal government and Smithsonian Institution officials, and

WHEREAS, Resolution #22 has been fulfilled, and

WHEREAS, As a result of face-to-face meetings and regular telephone and written correspondence with Smithsonian officials, the National Internal Affairs Commission and the National Membership and Post Activities Committee have been briefed by Smithsonian officials on the content of the third revision of the exhibit script, dated August 31, 1994; and

WHEREAS, National Air and Space Museum officials have announced the development of an additional exhibit component entitled, "The War in the Pacific: An American Perspective," which is yet to be fully developed; and

WHEREAS, In spite of the additions, deletions and modifications now present in the third revision, that portion of the exhibit now entitled "The Last Act: The Atomic Bomb and the End of World War II," yet contains certain biases against the U.S. role in World War II, questions U.S. motives in ending the war, gives insufficient evidence of the suffering and privation of American combatants and POWs, discounts contemporary estimates of the lives saved -- both American and Japanese -- by the use of the atomic bombs, and second-guesses US leaders' decision-making; and

WHEREAS, In open forum before a joint session of the National Internal Affairs Commission and the National Membership and Post Activities Committee, the Under Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution and the Director of the National Air and Space Museum agreed to:

1.) Include representatives of The American Legion in all future script and exhibit reviews prior to release or final approval of the script, and

2.) Provide to the American Legion for its inspection and review copies of all material related to the exhibit, including but not limited to scripts, articles, video tapes, museum catalogues, translations and promotional materials

3.) Meet immediately with National Air and Space Museum curators and officials to review the August 31, 1994 script as soon as is feasible; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion National Convention in regular session assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota on September 6, 7, 8, 1994, that the National Commander of The American Legion be and he is hereby directed to appoint one or more representatives to participate in the review of all materials related to "The Last Act: The Atomic Bomb and the End of World War II" and the accompanying exhibit "The War in the Pacific and The American Perspective;" and be it further

RESOLVED, that the National Commander's Representative report the result of his review regularly to the National Executive Committee, or other appropriate body, of The

American Legion, the first report to be rendered in the regular assembly of the NEC in October 1994 and subsequent reports to follow as required; and be it further

RESOLVED, that The American Legion reserves final judgment concerning the Smithsonian Institution's exhibit until all materials are finalized and reviewed by the National Commander's Representative and duly reported to the National Executive Committee; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the President of the United States, Members of Congress, federal cabinet secretaries and the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution be provided a copy of this resolution, and be it finally

RESOLVED, that nothing in this resolution is to be taken as American Legion support or endorsement of the planned exhibit as now constituted.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HARRINGTON: That completes the reading of the resolving clauses of this very important resolution. I trust that in your wisdom you will act on this resolution in a way consistent with the best interests of The American Legion and the people of this country.

It was regularly moved, seconded and carried that the Committee Chairman and Secretary be authorized to sign the Committee report on behalf of the Committee.

It was also regularly moved, seconded and carried that the Committee Chairman and Secretary be authorized to make technical corrections to the resolutions reported out of this Committee to ensure proper wording and form without changing the substance or meaning of the resolution(s).

Mr. Commander, as a duly elected and registered delegate from the Department of New York, I move for the adoption of this report.

. . . The motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: The Report of the Convention Committee on Credentials and Internal Affairs is adopted.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: At this time, I would like to, once again, recognize Herman Harrington of New York, Chairman of the National Convention Committee on Credentials and Internal Affairs for the purpose of making a Special Report.

SPECIAL REPORT
NATIONAL CONVENTION COMMITTEE ON
CREDENTIAL AND OTHER INTERNAL AFFAIRS
Section II, Other Internal Matters
Herman G. Harrington (NY), Chairman

Thank you Mr. Commander, it is a distinct honor for me to chair the Convention Committee chosen to recommend action to you on a very special resolution.

As you know, our Committee was directed by the National Commander to re-assemble on Tuesday to consider a matter of some urgency which we did yesterday afternoon. I know there was quite a bit of speculation on what that matter might be and I trust you all don't mind waiting just a few more minutes to hear the subject of our deliberation.

I stand today on a convention stage not two blocks from the place where, 75 years ago, a proud Founder stood on a similar stage and presented to the delegates of our first National

122

Convention, words that sounded throughout The American Legion, and resound, yet today, in more than 15,000 posts essentially unchanged from the day they were first penned.

These words frame the Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion ... a living document embodying the hopes, the dreams, and the purposes of veterans who cared about the country -- veterans just like you and me, whose wisdom and foresight laid the foundation for the great works we have done and will do in the future.

As the first 75 years of American Legion history come full circle, here to where much of it all began in November 1919 it is only fitting that we, the successors to those men of vision and wisdom, re-affirm our dedication to the house we have built on the foundation they laid and our commitment to the great principles which gave birth to our programs and activities on behalf of veterans, our youth, and our nation.

Please stand and hear with me, the first ever reading of: The Minneapolis Affirmation.

Special Resolution No. 419: The Minneapolis Affirmation

Origin: Credentials and Internal Affairs, Section II (Credentials and Other Internal Matters)
Submitted by: Credentials and Internal Affairs, Section II (Credentials and Other Internal Matters)

WHEREAS, To us, the heirs of a proud tradition, the Founders of The American Legion in the City of Minneapolis in November 1919, bequeathed the four pillars upon which our great brotherhood yet stands, as proclaimed in the Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion; and

WHEREAS, It is upon these pillars that we have built the programs by which we serve our comrades, our youth, and our nation; and

WHEREAS, By the Throne of Almighty God the Founders surely stand and say of us "Well done, beloved heirs and comrades"; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6-8, 1994, that we express our eternal gratitude for the wisdom and foresight of our Founders in this, our 75th Anniversary Year, by affirming anew our commitment to the perpetuation of our principles; and be it further

RESOLVED, That in affirmation of our troth, we pledge our unrelenting vigilance on behalf of our comrades-in-arms, their children, and their widows and orphans; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we affirm the American Flag to be the sole unifying symbol of these United States, a nation born of diversity and nurtured in the shadow of that banner, beneath which the honored remains of countless heroes have been laid to rest, deserving if need be of our protection unto death; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we affirm to the generations as yet unborn their due inheritance, a legacy no less grand than that to which we today are heirs: a nation strong, united and flourishing in peace and prosperity; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we affirm to our nation's defenders, and the citizens they serve, our dedication to national sovereignty and security so inviolable as to render America forever free from aggression and domination by those who would do us harm; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we affirm the principle of citizen soldiery by our support and dedication to those who stand in ready preparedness to answer the call to arms, the Reserve and National Guard forces, and be it further

RESOLVED, That we affirm to all Americans our commitment to the principle of government of the People, by the People, and for the People, a principle best embodied by

a Congress unfettered and free from foreign influence and ever alert to the failures of foreign policy by which the constraints on war are loosed; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That by the witness of Man and in the Presence of Almighty God, we do hereby commend this affirmation to all in whom these sentiments ring true.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HARRINGTON: Mr. Commander, delegates, to this the 76th Annual Convention of The American Legion, the Minneapolis Affirmation of our principles was the sole order of business for the special session of our committee. That completes my report ... and I move its adoption.
. . . The motion was duly seconded and carried.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: I do want to thank the Chairman for this Special Report, as we have just adopted a very important resolution, commemorating those founders' ideals they set forth for The American Legion 75 years ago, and to find out how true each and every part of our Constitution has remained, even as we meet today. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, I appreciate all of your support.

Although the Chairman did not mention it in his remarks to you, there is one particularly unique activity of the National Organization that he has overseen for the past five years, The National Emergency Fund.

NATIONAL EMERGENCY FUND

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: Since the Fund was re-established in 1989, it has provided over $850,000 in direct financial aid to the victims of natural disasters in 20 Departments, and currently holds nearly $650,000 in ready cash to dispense at a moment's notice should the need arise. During the past five years, the fund has received $1,547,935 in direct contributions from posts, departments and individuals and squadrons, one of the most remarkable examples of our devotion to mutual helpfulness in our long history.

I had the opportunity to receive a check from this gentleman yesterday morning at the National Emergency Fund Booth next door. Lydia Pickup from the great Department of Washington, personally donated a $1,000 to the National Emergency Fund. I would say that it is not too late to donate to the National Emergency Fund.

PRESENTATION
CITATION FOR MERITORIOUS SERVICE

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: The American Legion's commitment to our comrades who are listed as prisoners of war or missing in action is well know to each of you. Our organization has taken strong positions on the POW/MIA issue for many years. This morning we pause to honor an individual for his stalwart work on this important concern of Americans.

His enlightened leadership as Vice Chairman of the Senate Select Committee on POW/MIA Affairs was instrumental in focusing public scrutiny on the manifold shortcoming in the U.S. Government's POW/MIA program for several decades. His legislative initiatives helped in keeping necessary pressure on the Executive Branch to declassify POW/MIA information and correct program problems.

It is indeed an honor to present a Citation for Meritorious Service to a Navy veteran of

the Vietnam War and a member of American Legion Post 79 in Manchester, New Hampshire, Senator Bob Smith. Senator Smith, allow me to present this citation to you. It is inscribed:

> Commendation for Distinguished Service in recognition of untiring efforts on behalf of the members of the U.S. Armed Forces who are Prisoners of War and Missing in Action from World War II, the Korean Conflict, the Cold War and the Vietnam War.
>
> Senator Bob Smith has served with distinction and integrity in his dedicated effort to bring about the fullest possible accounting of our POWs and MIAs, and to provide the maximum amount of information and assistance possible to their families.
>
> It is an honor for The American Legion to be associated with an individual who so loyally shares its devotion in mutual helpfulness.
>
> Given this 7th Day of September 1994 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. It is signed by myself and our National Adjutant, Robert W. Spanogle.

It does move one's heart to see a man of his stature who stands up for what he thinks is right. I'm surprised that he's one of the very few who stood up against this administration when they saw fit to lift the embargoes against Vietnam. We are very privileged today to present this Citation to a Senator, a man, a veteran, who understands what it takes to stand up for what's right, the veterans who are still missing and considered POWs. Senator Smith, it gives me a great deal of pleasure to present this to you on behalf of the 3.1 million members of The American Legion for your dedicated service to veterans of this country of ours. Thank you again.

THE HONORABLE ROBERT C. SMITH
United States Senate

Commander, and my fellow Legionnaires, I cannot tell you how deeply grateful and humble I am for having received such a distinguished award. I must tell you that in the years that I have worked on this issue while in the Congress, both in the House and the Senate, for the past nine years or so, I have never sought recognition or publicity. I think it's the type of thing that deserves our full focus and our full attention, and I know if publicity should come, I wish for the most part that the publicity would come to the families of those who are missing in action, not only in Vietnam, but in Korea and in the other wars where we still have missing.

I just would like to take this moment, just a moment or two with your indulgence, to reflect just briefly on this, to tell you how I feel and what I think needs to be done. In the last year, not only in the Congress, but out in the public, we have seen more praise, for Vietnamese officials by our government than at any time in the past, even though the results in terms of unilateral action have been limited.

The United States is embarked on this goal to, not only lift the embargo which they have already done, but normalize relations with Vietnam, in spite of the fact that Vietnam has not

been forthcoming, in providing information about our missing men. The only business we ought to be doing with Vietnam, in my opinion, is the business of finding out what happened to our men, and they know what happened to many of them, and they haven't told us.

This is not a partisan matter, and I know you all know that. The current President and I differ on this, but I also had my share of squabbles with Presidents Reagan and Bush over the same thing. It has been said by all of the Presidents, that I just mentioned, that no normalization of relations with any nation that is at all suspected of withholding information on our men will happen, but it did. Despite solid facts which attest to the fact that Vietnam has more information, we went ahead and gave them what they wanted anyway.

It's clear that based on all the information the United States has collected from the war to the present, there probably are as many POW/MIA cases that the Vietnamese could account for as there are people in this room this morning.

So this is the first annual convention that you have had where we can no longer say that trading with the enemy is illegal, because now we have thrown that aside, and for the first time, the long Cold War with respect to Vietnam is supposed to be technically over. And while we are all getting older, we are also getting wiser, and I think we ought to recognize that it's important for us to work together to ensure that this continues to be the highest national priority. In spite of the rhetoric, it has not been the highest national priority, I assure you.

This is a quote from Winston Churchill in talking about war and peace and directly relates to this:

> Why should war be the only purpose capable of uniting us in comradeship? Why should war be the only cause large enough to call forth really great and fine sacrifice? Why cannot we have some it for peace? Why is war to have all the splendors, all the nobleness, all the courage and all the loyalty? Why should peace have nothing but the squabbles and selfishness and pettiness of daily life? Only one thing do we require, a common principal of action, a plain objective that everyone can understand and work for.

That's the truth right now with the POW/MIA issue. If we would put the full force of a total commitment and truly make it the highest national priority, we could resolve this issue, not only in Vietnam, but in Korea. Now, I have to tell you, we have thrown tea in Boston Harbor in 1773 for a lot le ss than what we put up with today on this issue.

You all know about the US/Russian Commission. As you may know, in 1992 I traveled to Moscow along with Senator Kerrey. We laid the groundwork for the Commission. In the last year there have been five formal meetings. Ironically, the Russians have been providing a tremendous amount of information to us. It is ironic that the Russians are the ones who are coming forth with information not only about the Cold War, but also about Vietnam and Korea.

We have obtained information pertaining to the Vietnam era POW/MIAs. Its been limited, but we have gotten some, and many of the soviet officers who fought in Vietnam, who were there manning the anti-aircraft sites, are helping us. We need to keep that door open. However, as I know you are very active in lobbying members of Congress, all of you, there is a rumor going around that they want to shut down the United States/Russia Joint Commission. That would be a terrible mistake. We would lose the access that we now have

to so many Russians, former soviet officers and men who are helping us in resolving this matter. So we ought to try to keep that door open.

There was a document called the Kwan Document, or the 1205 Document. It was a Vietnamese General who was alleged to have given a speech to the Vietnamese Pólitbureau in 1972, in which he talked about more POW than what actually came home from Vietnam in 1973. Our side, the United States government, both the Bush administration and the Clinton administration, have totally debunked that document and said it's a bunch of garbage. I have been talking to the Russians off and on now, high level Russian officials. I can't name them at this time, but they are continuing to work with me. They tell me without a doubt that General Kwan knew what he was talking about. They had the information. We don't have the Vietnamese transcript, but we know verbatim what he said. General Kwan denied it, but he said it, and finally when it comes down to believing the Vietnamese General or the Russians, I believe the Russians.

Now, what's the significance? The significance is that this document says that there were over 300 more American prisoners held by Vietnam than what came out. Now once again, the Russians swear to me the document is authentic. But we're just going ahead with the Vietnamese just as if the document didn't exist and it didn't matter anyway, but I'm pursuing the Russian contacts and I hope that I will have your support to continue to do that.

Now to Korea. I know that a lot of you are Korean War veterans. I know how much this has been lost in the shuffle of Vietnam and discussion of Vietnam. But there are still over 8,000 men missing in Korea. I have now been to North Korea three times. I'm the only Senator ever to go to Pyongyang. I met with the Vice Foreign Minister, Cong So Chu about this matter. They have information that they are willing to share with us. The door is open. We have got to walk through it, but I must tell you that if you read the papers today and you listen to what's being said, we're hearing that the the United States is now prepared to normalize relations with North Korea, without even making the POW issue a condition for relations. It's an absolute disgrace!

And today, I'm releasing a copy of a letter which I have written to President Clinton. I'll just quote two or three lines from it for you. I'm releasing it, right here today, because I know how strong the Legion has been in it's support, and I must tell you, John Sommers and Commander Thiesen, all of the Legion have been 100% supportive, you are the number one veterans' organization in support of this issue, you are the number one veterans' organization anyway in my book.

Now, I'll briefly state in this letter what I said. Later I'll release it and it will be available to the press and to you:

> It would be a national tragedy if you began normalizing relations with North Korea without first setting up a process to ensure that North Korea fulfills its obligations to account for United States and allied military personnel under Paragraph 13f of the Armistice Agreement signed July 27, 1953.
>
> Mr. President, in view of the above, I urge you in the strongest possible terms, not to allow North Korea's 40 years on intransigence on POW/MIA accounting, to become a side issue in the development of diplomatic and economic relations. North Korea's ability to provide information on Korean War POWs and to repatriate the remains of the deceased U.S. servicemen, several hundred of whom are currently interred on North Korean soil, is well documented in U.S. intelligence

files. Simply put, North Korea can do far more than the piecemeal efforts they have made to date for political advantage, including the forthcoming return of remains next week, at considerable cost to the U.S. taxpayers.

So the bottom line is, we need to walk through this door. Let's not make the same mistake we made in Vietnam which is to tell the Vietnamese they can have everything they want before we get the answers on MIAs. The Korean's are ready to talk. The nuclear issue is a big issue, a very important issue. There is no reason why it has to be bifurcated and separate from the POW issue. Put it together and it's a win on both counts.

In conclusion, President Kennedy once said, "We have come too far and have sacrificed too much to disdain the future now." Let me assure everyone of you my fellow veterans, here today that after nine years in Congress, I remain absolutely committed to resolving this issue, absolutely 100% committed. I don't care about negative press, and I get plenty of it on this issue. I'm very proud to do it.

There is a saying that we make a little noise, and then it quiets down. Politicians love that because they figure they can ride out the storm. The thing is, you've got to get mad enough and you've got to stay mad enough, long enough to get it done, and if you do, we will get it done, and history will vindicate all of you in the Legion who have been so supportive on this issue. We will get the answers!

I am deeply honored to receive this award today from all of my friends and my comrades in arms, and I thank you very much for it. God bless you all. God bless America.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: A very big thanks to Senator Smith, and I can assure you as National Commander of The American Legion, leading 3.1 million Legionnaires across this country, we will follow-up your letter with a letter of our own, because I know how important the stand on this POW/MIA issue is to The American Legion and how you have been dedicated and done a great job in making sure that the POW/MIA issue is not forgotten. We will support your efforts completely.

VIETNAM WOMEN'S MEMORIAL PROJECT

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: Our next guest understands patience and dedication. She is a wonderful woman who shares the pride of Legionnaires in recognizing that women have always had a role in our nation's military and in The American Legion.

In the past 12 months she has felt the special sense of accomplishment that comes when a project that you have undertaken. It must have been a bitter-sweet moment in time, last Veterans Day when the Vietnam Women's Memorial was dedicated.

Normally, I would say "Please welcome her to Minneapolis" -- but, since she is a dedicated Legionnaire from Northfield Post 84 right here in Minnesota, perhaps it is her turn to welcome us to her home state. My fellow Legionnaires, a warm welcome to Diane Carlson Evans.

DIANE CARLSON EVANS
Vietnam Women's Memorial Project, Inc.

Commander Thiesen, my fellow brother and sister veterans and friends. It is indeed my great honor to finally be able to come before you and say thank you, we made it happen.

Together we overcame every obstacle. Last fall it was a great day for America and it was a great day for veterans when we dedicated the first monument in the history of the United States that portrays military women in uniform, portrayed with a statue and placed in our nation's capitol, in Washington, DC.

I want to show you a film. It starts in Santa Fe, New Mexico, when the monument is picked up by a crane, placed on a Federal Express truck, and for three weeks it was driven across the United States, stopping in 21 cities across America. Sometimes it stopped on the side of the road where veterans said they wanted to see it. It went to New York City, where our fellow Vietnam veteran police officers carefully guarded us and the statue as they did all across the country in it's final journey to its destination in Washington.

...At this time a video was viewed by the Delegation.

At last, the women and men who served together in Vietnam and in all parts of the world during that turbulent period of time in our nations history, are together for all time and eternity. And my eternal thanks go to this organization again for helping us make this happen. This film proves the invaluable work of The American Legion in the healing of our nation and remembering her veterans.

We have, from our $4 million short-fall, chiseled it down to $300,000. The American Legion has contributed over $135,000 to the project, and we thank you. We continue to ask you to go back to your Posts in helping us to retire this final debt, and also to support our Commemorative Coin Bill that has passed unanimously in the Senate and has more than enough co-sponsors in the House. Everyone from Massachusetts, please go back and ask Mr. Joe Kennedy, to please support our Commemorative Coin Bill because he is holding it up in his committee. The minting of the coins would take place in 1995, and the revenue would be used to further the projects, such as the ongoing missions of education, research, and finding the women who served.

So, I just want to thank you. After ten years of attending these conventions, the biggest fringe benefit for me has been meeting all of you and the friendships that I have made and the love that's in this organization and the power that's in this organization which is absolutely incredible. It's so overwhelming that it's hard to put into words. Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: Diane, before you leave us this morning, I'd like to introduce you to Mr. George Blackwell of U.S. West Communications. He has a little business to conduct with you.

MR. GEORGE BLACKWELL: Thank you very much. It is indeed an honor and a pleasure to be here.

My name is George Blackwell and I'm with U.S. West Communications, Manager of Public Affairs. I am very pleased to be here today to make a presentation on behalf of all the Regional Bell operating companies. Therefore, in honor of the 75th Diamond Jubilee of The American Legion, I would like to present a check in the amount of $10,000 to the Vietnam Women's Memorial Fund.

MS. DIANE CARLSON EVANS: On behalf of the thousands of women who served, thank you Mr. Blackwell.

WOMEN IN MILITARY SERVICE FOR AMERICA MEMORIAL FOUNDATION, INC.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: While we congratulate one women for staying the course, we must also encourage and support another group of women in their quest for the Women in Military Service For America Memorial. Our next guest continues her quest to see that this memorial becomes reality.

She is a retired Air Force Brigadier General, holding a bachelors degree from the University of Illinois and a Masters degree from the University of Alabama.

Ladies and Gentlemen, please welcome a Legionnaire from American Legion Post 477 in Chrisman, Illinois, Wilma Vaught.

WILMA L. VAUGHT
Brigadier General USAF (Ret.)

Thank you, Commander Thiesen. I am deeply honored to be with you again this year. As one of the 7,500 military women who served in Southeast Asia in Vietnam, I was extraordinarily proud of Armed Forces then and I remain proud today. And I would ask that each of us remember those troops who are serving with such great valor, courage and sensitivity in such places as Bosnia, Korea, and those in the Caribbean dealing with the sensitive task of dealing with refugees.

We have been going through quite a time to remember, to pay tribute and honor our veterans and service people. This past November, we celebrated the 75th anniversary of the end of World War I. Then we had the tremendous occasion honoring 50 years from the D-Day Invasion. And soon it will be the Battle of the Bulge commemorations, and come May 8th, the VE-Day celebrations.

As we think of these various celebrations, though, it's important that we think about the history and the contribution of all of our women who served, and particularly those during World War II and Korea who received less recognition than some others have received.

Women served in the military, in every one of America's wars. Sometimes it was only one or two women, but we were always there. The history is a multi-faceted story of pride, honor, joy, although sometimes not being recognized in the veteran community. It's a record of accomplishments, a struggle for acceptance, a story of discrimination, but always progress. And I was very pleased recently to see that the Army had opened another 30,000 new jobs to women.

What I find, as I travel across our country, is that few people know much about the history of our women who served, including many of us who served ourselves, and who are serving today. But we are going to change that when we build the Women's Memorial at the main gate to Arlington National Cemetery. The memorial has its theater, its Hall of Honor, its computer registration room of women. Many Posts across the country have honored their women veterans by submitting their registration sending their pictures and details of service and their memorable experience in. The Memorial will recognize each of those women who served.

The design is just incredibly lovely with its arch of glass tablets which will have quotations from women who served at different points of history. But as Diane Carlson Evans learned so well, only money builds memorials, and we have made enormous progress since last year when I spoke to you. We have a federal grant for $9.5 million for the repair

and restoration of the main gate at Arlington, which becomes a part of our memorial. We also have other initiatives going, and I would ask as you think of people you are honoring through your Posts, that you not forget your spouses, because they can be honored in the memorial, by donating in their honor, and all those names will be listed as well.

We have had support from veteran organizations and particularly from The American Legion, which leads with $133,785 with donations from all states. The three leading states are New York, Texas and Florida. I would like to recognize right now, Janet Martin from the great state of Texas. They have raised $5,600 more, and Janet, do I hear you have another check?

DELEGATE JANET MARTIN: Greeting from Texas. This morning I would like to give you another check for $5,568.60, which makes Texas, in the last two years, giving almost $14,000 to the Women's Memorial.

GENERAL VAUGHT: We also have a commemorative coin that went on sale the 29th of July. To date, we have sold 185,989. That brings our total available to build the memorial to $11.4 million against the cost of $16 million. If we can sell all these coins before the expiration date of this issuance of 3rd April, this coming spring, we will have the ground-breaking ceremony for this memorial.

So I'm asking for your help. If you go over to our booth in Hall 2, we have a direct line to the mint where you can give them your credit card and you can order coins. If you have money, we'll take that. Let me tell you, we don't discriminate, we take money from anybody!

I will close with one little story. Sometimes I'm asked why is this memorial so important. There was a young lady who served in the Army whose service made it important to me. Her name was Cindy Bedoine. This is her story. On February 28, 1991, just hours after the cease fire had been declared in Desert Storm, Specialist Cindy Bedoine was rendering first aid to surrendering enemy soldiers at the Iraq-Kuwait border when an explosion killed her platoon commander and wounded several others. Cindy immediately took her rifle, in an attempt to defend her comrades, when a second explosion mortally wounded her. In her last letter home, Cindy wrote, "Dear Mom and Dad. I hope you never have to open this letter because it means something has happened to me. This is my final goodbye to both of you. Do not only mourn for me, mourn for all of us who have given our lives, so that others may live free."

That's why I served for 28 1/2 years, and I'm sure that's why you served your country too, so that others may live free. We're counting on you to help us make our ground-breaking this spring. The Women's Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery will enshrine the generations who follow a heritage and tradition as special and honorable as those others have held through time.

Now, for the first time, we have a liaison person with The American Legion, and I want to introduce her to you at this time. She is Robin Peppard from the great state of New York, the leading fund-raiser for the Women's Memorial.

DELEGATE ROBIN PEPPARD: Thank you, Wilma. National Commander Thiesen, General Vaught and fellow Legionnaires. Thank you for the confidence you have bestowed upon me, the honor of serving on this committee. New Yorkers have a great deal of pride in their women. They believe that we are equal, that we have done a great job, and that

we'll never let it down.

Through sales and donations, New York has raised over $25,000 which is 20% of the total amount raised from all the Departments in The American Legion, and we are not finished in New York. I would like to issue a challenge to all the Departments in this hall today to try to match that figure, or better it, for this memorial will live forever in the lives and memory of our female veterans.

Mr. Commander, I would like to recognize those female veterans in this hall today. Ladies, please stand. On behalf of the Legionnaires of New York and all the veterans from all the other Departments, I would like to say welcome home.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: Thank you, to Wilma Vaught and Robin for their presentation this morning, and also to those from the Department of Texas, for their generous donations to this memorial. Ladies, it's been great. We enjoy your presence and input into our organization, and carry your message forward to the rest of the world.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: Our next guest is the executive director of the National Guard Association of the United States. He retired in 1992 as the Adjutant General of Florida, having served in that capacity for more than 10 years. A graduate of the University of North Carolina, he is a career military man, having served in a variety of positions. He earned his eligibility for membership in The American Legion during the Korean War. Please welcome a member of Emporia Post 141 in Emporia, Virginia, Robert F. Ensslin, Jr.

MAJOR GENERAL ROBERT ENSSLIN
NATIONAL GUARD ASSOCIATION OF
THE UNITED STATES
Executive Director

Thank you, Commander Thiesen, for that kind introduction. It's an honor and a pleasure to be here today to speak to so many dedicated Americans. To all the Legionnaires here, who represent the over there million members of The American Legion across the country, it is an honor for me to represent the National Guard of the United States.

The American Legion and the National Guard have much in common. Many of us served together in America's conflicts, and many of us continue to serve together in response to natural disasters and civil emergencies. Countless times, as the Guard has responded to these emergencies, members of The American Legion have joined Guard members in our armories providing shelter and assisting the stricken. You are America's citizen-based national service organization, as the Guard is America's citizen-based defense force. You are a shining example of all that has made America strong. The American Legion and the National Guard indeed have a lot in common.

Recently, we became part of an initiative to ensure that the American Flag receives the respect and protection it so rightly deserves. We are proud to be associated with the Citizens Flag Alliance. The American Flag is the symbol of democratic and aspirations of people across the world. The United States has been the guiding beacon to people who seek freedom, democracy and a better way of life. To allow the desecration of this great symbol, of what we stand for, undermines our way of life. We cannot allow that.

The National Guard, from its creation in the Massachusetts Bay Colony, has been made

up of citizens who protect our communities and our nation. The defense of the United States is as important to us as it is to you. In today's world we must educate the American electorate of the imperative importance of maintaining a strong defense. Those of us who have served in uniform and in combat understand very clearly the need to be strong and to be ready to defend our way of life. It is for this reason that the National Guard Association of the United States, The American Legion and the Association of the United States of Army have joined together to conduct national security forums across the nation. The purpose of these forums is to educate and to keep in front of the American public the need for a strong defense. As we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the successes of World War II, we must remember how we were drawn into that war. It was our perceived weakness that our nation's defenses were weak, our equipment was old, our training was poor. The National Guard was not given sufficient resources. We must ensure that we are never caught unprepared again. The national security forums we are jointly sponsoring represent an effort to carry that message to the American public. We had a successful one in Indianapolis. We have the next one scheduled in Dallas in early October and another one scheduled in Cleveland in late October.

We have an obligation, a moral responsibility, to those who lie in grave sites in Normandy that we visited this past June, to be strong and to be prepared. It is only by being prepared to defend our way of life that we will save American lives in the future.

The National Guard has learned those lessons of history. We have fought to obtain the resources necessary to train; we have struggled to obtain the modern equipment necessary to be a viable part of America's total force, and we have succeeded.

The video which I'm about to show runs about five minutes and it will give you a clear indication of the work of today's National Guard. It was shown last week at our conference in Boston by Major General Jack D'Arajuo, the Acting Chief of the National Guard Bureau. It is a quick window on just one recent day in the life of your community-based defense force, your National Guard.

. . . At this time a video was viewed by the Delegation.

Today's modern National Guard is a powerful force. What makes it even more powerful is the fact that we are still local citizens, a part of over 3,000 communities across the nation, volunteering to be a part of the America's total defense force.

But let me tell you a story that the media rarely tells you. It isn't sexy, it doesn't garner headlines, but it's important to our country. Let me give you just a brief picture of what the National Guard has been doing in just the last 45 days.

The Air National Guard community has had C-130's in Panama and in Europe. Air Guard C-130s and C-141s have also been in Rwanda providing humanitarian support to alleviate that tragedy. Here at home, Air Guard C-130s provided support in the recent flooding in Georgia and Florida, along with fighting the forest fires that devastated part of the west. Army National Guard units were in Barbados, El Salvador, Paraguay, Panama, Honduras, Korea, Japan, Thailand, Italy, Germany, and Southeast Asia building roads, constructing schools, conducting medical readiness exercises and participating in joint training exercises, not to mention fighting the forest fires and floods and responding to other emergencies in many of our communities.

Also, they continue their training for our federal mission.

Air National Guard refueling units were flying missions in the Caribbean, over Africa,

in support of the Rwandan relief efforts, and in Europe as part of the European Tanker Task Force. Air Guard Fighters were in Singapore and in Panama, and they were active participants in Air Force exercises in Alaska and the Continental United States. The Air Guard also had aircraft in Denmark and in Ossiono, Italy, where they were flying missions in support of Operation Deny Flight. In fact, it was two Maryland Air National Guard A-10 pilots, a Captain and a Lieutenant, who conducted the air strikes against the Bosnian Serbs by NATO forces in support of the United Nations in early August. The first shots in anger ever fired by NATO forces were fired by a couple of Air National Guard pilots from Maryland flying A-10's.

The National Guard has been the lead participant in fighting one of our nation's most important wars, the war against illegal drugs. Across America, Guard members were working with law enforcement and custom agents to stem the flow of illegal drugs. We also work with schools and other local agencies trying to reduce the demand for illicit drugs. Because of the great example of citizenship that the Guard provides, Army Guard members have been an active part of the military-to-military contact program with the newly free governments of Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Slovakia, helping to create democracy and self-defense in Eastern Europe. With some great fears of a federal military such as they chafed under during the U.S.S.R. period of time, they like the thought of a citizen-based defense force to put their reliance in.

The National Guard, America's citizen Army, has had a great history in its first 358 years. But again, it's been a pretty great past six weeks. Guard members were training for their federal mission and performing their state mission. They were taking part in worldwide training, providing support to United Nations peacekeeping and humanitarian operations, and were cultivating democracy in former Soviet-dominated nations. What a great American success story. Citizen soldier and airmen deployed around the world, and here at home as a part of the total force, providing airlift, maintaining a forward presence, participating in counter drug operations, training for their wartime missions, taking part in various exercises that enhance our ability to work in a joint military environment, providing support to U.N. peacekeeping operations, responding to natural disasters in the United States and providing military support to civil authorities during emergencies. All this, in the last six weeks.

If the future is more of what we have seen in this recent past, our national investment in your National Guard will continue to bear fruit. As history taught us in the early days of World War II, for the National Guard to remain as effective as it is today, we must continue to provide the resources required in equipment and in full-time personnel to ensure that America's citizen Army and citizen Air Force remain a strong and viable force.

As I conclude my remarks, I would like to ask Robert Spanogle, your National Adjutant, to come forward and stand by me at the podium.

At the last executive council meeting of the National Guard Association of the United States, Bob Spanogle was recommended for and our council approved, the Patrick Henry Citation, one of the highest awards of the National Guard Association. The Partick Henry Citation is our recognition of individuals who have performed outstanding service on behalf of the National Guard of the United States. Bob Spanogle meets not only that criteria, but he has also performed exceptional service to the nation.

Bob, on behalf of the 58,000 members of the National Guard Association of the United States, and over a half million National Guard members, I would like to present you with the National Guard Association's Patrick Henry Award and I would like to read the Citation:

Presented to Robert W. Spanogle, National Adjutant, The American Legion. As National Adjutant of The American Legion, Robert W. Spanogle has distinguished himself in community service and support of the American veteran. He is the epitome of the ideal public spirited citizen. He continually sets the standard for leadership and patriotic support for military families and veterans. The positive effects of his efforts will last far beyond his affiliation with The American Legion and the National Guard. Presented by National Guard Association of the United States, September, 1994.

National Adjutant Bob Spanogle, National Commander Thiesen, it has been by distinct pleasure to be here with you today, and I thank you for the opportunity to brag, just a little, on what your National Guard is doing.

I salute you and the 3.1 million Legionnaires. Thank you and God bless you.

PRESENTATION

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: In our lives we often ask: "Can one person really make a difference?"

The answer is always yes! Today, it is an honor to be able to recognize a very energetic individual who had an idea a few years ago. Sadly, it took the death of a fellow veteran, in a Veterans Administration hospital miles from home and family, to spark the idea. Thankfully the benefits are immense.

That veteran friend had been in a VA medical center for some time, unable to get to a telephone. Far from home. Alone. In his last days he suffered, unable to talk with his loved ones because he couldn't get to a telephone.

From that tragedy came: "PT PHONE HOME, INC." Bedside telephone service made available, thanks to volunteers from the Communications Workers of America Local 1120 in New York, along with other volunteers from the New York Telephone Mid-Hudson Division, NYNEX, and the Mid-State Chapter of the Telephone Pioneers of America. In July, 1990, the first system was operational at the Castle Point VAMC in New York. Within four years, the program has expanded to more than 25 hospitals. While the primary purpose has certainly been met, the system of phones in patient rooms has proven invaluable in saving lives. A nurse was able to call for help without leaving the room. At least two patients have been able to graduate from college by using the PT Phone Home system. The American Legion is not the first organization to recognize the efforts of the man behind this idea, and I'm sure we won't be the last.

Delegates to this 76th National Convention, it gives we great pleasure to present a Certificate of Appreciation to a Legionnaire who has certainly remembered our founders' dedication to their fellow veterans. Please welcome a former Marine, who was a combat squad leader in Vietnam, and a member of American Legion Post 1302 in Arlington, New York, Frank X. Dosio.

FRANK X. DOSIO
Certificate of Appreciation

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: It does give me a great sense of pride to present the Certificate of Appreciation, to Frank X. Dosio.

For dedication to the principle that hospitalized veterans should not be cut off from families and loved ones when they are most vulnerable, this certificate is presented to Frank X. Dosio of the NYNEX Corporation and a member of The American Legion Arlington Post 1302.

Since 1990, you worked tirelessly to overcome bureaucratic obstacles to ensure the installation of patient telephones in VA hospitals around the country.

You enlisted the assistance of members of Communications Workers of America Local 1120, and the management of the New York Telephone Company to install the first independent Patient Telephone System at the Castle Point VA Medical Center in New York.

This provided veterans with the ability to communicate with the world outside their hospital rooms.

For extraordinary dedication to your fellow veterans, and for defining the meaning of the Legion's devotion to mutual helpfulness, this Certificate is presented during the 76th National Convention of The American Legion held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, 1994.

It is signed by Chet Stellar, the Chairman of the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission, and by myself as National Commander.

It gives me a great honor to present Fancis X. Doxio, this Certificate of Appreciation for his dedicated service to the Legion and to the veterans.

MR. FRANK X. DOSIO: Five years ago no veterans' hospital in the United States had patient telephones, 75,000 individuals who gave America the gift of freedom did not have the freedom to do what every civilian does in civilian hospitals, call home to a loved one. We were told there was no money in the Department of Veterans Affairs. And there wasn't. We were told it would cost $250 million and 19 years to put phones in veterans' bedside. The project will be done on New Year's Eve, 1995, by the grace of God, costing not $200 million to the taxpayers, but donations of labor, equipment, a lot of love and time. It was worth it!

When you walk into a veterans' hospital, you indeed see what President Kennedy talked about in his inaugural address. Freedom bears a heavy burden and Americans have never been afraid to bear this burden, and we recognize that burden. And we are giving this to them, in graditude.

I am proud to be a Legionnaire. The Legion sets high standards. This year, we celebrate our 75th birthday, and you can be 75 years old, and say, "what has my life been about?" Well, the Legion has shown what it has been like, to be dedicated to our veterans. I am thrilled to say that I am a Legionnaire. I am thrilled to say that since this organization has started across the United States of America, We have been supported by The American Legion.

I would also like to say in closing, just three thrings. There are just 26 spinal cord injury rehab centers in the United States, Commander, and you have talked with two persons that graduated from college in wheelchairs. On May 28, 1992, we made history, when the first vet in the history of the United States graduated with honors in a wheelchair. That was never done.

We sent a message over the computer, that firms can hire them, and that they can become productive. Only 26 rehab centers to train them.

The third thing, which is very important, is that there are two million veterans of our country unemployed, sleeping out there in the streets. We intend to bring industry and labor

together just like we did in this project, to say, "Hell, the government can't fix everything, and The American Legion can't fix everything, but working together as a team, as Americans, we can fix everything." We can train those two million Americans, to get them back to work.

I want to say thank you, Commander Thiesen, Bob Fox and Dick Pedro, my Department Adjutant, who stood by this program. God bless you. Thanks to all of you.

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: The American Legion continues to be the largest and fastest growing veterans organization. We can also say the Sons of The American Legion is the fastest growing affiliated organization. In the past 10 year the Sons of The American Legion membership has more than doubled. In the last two years, they've grown by 22,000 members. Their 1994-1995 membership will continue to grow under the leadership of their newly elected National Commander. He is charter member of Squadron 85 of North Branch, Minnesota. He has served in a variety of leadership positions in his local squadron, as well as at the district, department and national level.

Please welcome an energetic leader, the new National Commander of the Sons of The American Legion, Joe Mayne.

JOE MAYNE
National Commander
Sons of The American Legion

Commander Thiesen, Adjutant Spanogle, distinguished guests, Delegates, and especially the Department of Minnesota. I would also like to quickly introduce the immediate Past National Commander from the Detachment of Arizona, Roland Mathison, and also, the Adjutant from the Department of Colorado, Woody Mudd.

It was 1932 the leaders of The American Legion, looking toward the future, formed The Sons of The American Legion. But were these Sons only a group of boys trying to emulate their fathers? Yes, we try to emulate our fathers. But are we a Junior American Legion? No, because in the American Legion Auxiliary, its junior members, when they turn 18 become Auxiliary members.

Unless we are called to military service, as our country called all Legion members, we will never become Legionnaires nor by reaching a certain age.

We are proud possessors of a priceless heritage, your priceless heritage, and we honor your service to America, by our very existence.

But to only remember on a solemn Memorial Day, or to be thankful only on Veterans Day, leaves us incomplete. We best honor you, we best serve you, through working The American Legion programs, not an Auxiliary, not as a Junior Legion, not just a 170,000 member honor guard, but as an assistant Legion, a compliment to your thoughts, a compliment to your heritage.

As your Sons, it should come as no surprise to you, that we successfully execute our programs year after year. You see, we come from pretty good stock.

You may see, "Raising our Standards", as the theme of the SAL next year. We will celebrate the year of the Citizens Flag Alliance, of which, the Sons of The American Legion is a proud member, and the 50th Anniversary of World War II. I can't think of a more fitting

symbol than the Flag raising at Iwo Jima.

Also, Many of you have all seen the CFA video, with the young man who claimed flag burning freedom of speech. Well, if any of your Sons of The American Legion had been there, I think things would have turned out just a little bit differently!

Thank you, Commander, and as always, the Sons of The American Legion stand ready to serve The American Legion and the veteran. Thank you all very much.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: Thank you very much, Commander. I just want today to say to those Legionnaires, who are still in the hall, when these Sons set a goal, they meet it or exceed it, because under the leadership of Roland Mathison last year, they exceeded The American Legion in their Child Welfare Donations

So you can see what 166,000 plus young men can do when they meet the challenges given to them by their parent organization with over 3.1 million members.

I know they have challenged us again next year, and I hope we can come through and show them that we can meet and exceed their challenge by beating them at the next national convention. Thank you, gentlemen, we appreciate all of your efforts and working very closely together for our programs.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: At this time, it is time for a few commercials. We've got to get these in, because they are working so hard and doing great things.

NATIONAL CONVENTION BLOOD DRIVE

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: Our National Convention Blood Drive is continuing today in the main lobby. This is the final day of the drive, and so far you have donated 176 units. We need to do more. Your donation helps not only your fellow veterans in the Minneapolis Veterans Administration Medical Center, but also helps countless others in hospitals in several states. This is the first time we have used the services of three blood centers for our National Convention Blood Drive. The special cap pin and year bar is a collector's item. And, this year you can also have a coffee mug, recognizing your contribution at the 76th National Convention. Please, before the drive ends at two o'clock this afternoon, roll-up your sleeve and give a little of yourself, for others.

BUICK PROMOTION

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: I understand that many of the delegates are having a good look at the Buick out there. If you're interested and have been encouraged by the sponsorship that Buick Motor Company has provided for this organization in the past year, I would like to encourage you go out and buy a ticket. A five dollar book of tickets will give you a chance to win the Buick that you see sitting in the main lobby.

What does this do? This Buick has been donated by Buick Motor Division to support a major program within The American Legion, by hopefully, working towards scholarships through a couple of our Americanism Commissions. We promoted this offfer last year and The American Legion became the benefactor of $650,000 to our baseball program and Children and Youth Activities. And I think that a donation on a chance to win that Buick would be a small, small price to pay to say thank you Buick for supporting The American Legion.

LEGISLATIVE REMINDER

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: I remind you of the importance of taking the time to write a letter to Washington while you are here. The Legislative Division has a table set up under the escalator right outside this Convention Hall. Your brief visit there will make a difference, as you have heard this morning, to those who hold public offices and also by the letters you write.

AMERICAN LEGION ANNUITY PROGRAM

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: Now for a special video presentation. The American Legion Annuity Program, our newest Legion membership benefit. The interest rate for the year is 10.5 percent, a rate that is unheard of, in these economic times. The Jackson National Life Insurance Company of Lansing, Michigan is providing this newest membership benefit. You should take time to visit with them in the Exhibit Hall next door, and learn all about the details. For the highlights, I think you will find this video presentation helpful.

. . . At this time a video was presented to the Delegates.

I hope that enlightens you a little bit on one of our newest membership benefit programs that you will be able to be a part of.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: At this time, it does give me a great deal of pleasure to present to you the Chairwoman of the Program that means so much to The American Legion. I would like to recognize Bettylou Evans of Delaware, Chairwoman of the National Convention Committee on Membership and Post Activities for the purpose of making her report.

NATIONAL CONVENTION COMMITTEE ON
CREDENTIALS AND INTERNAL AFFAIRS
Section III, (Membership)
Bettylou Evans (DE), Chairman

To the 76th Annual National Convention of The American Legion, Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994:

Forty-nine members of the Committee on Credentials and Internal Affairs Section III (Membership) and guests, met at 9 a.m., September 4, 1994 in Room 103E of the Minneapolis Convention Center, in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Bettylou Evans of Delaware was elected Chairman and P. Earle Gleason of New York was elected Secretary.

Two Resolutions were received and reviewed by the Committee. Both were referred.

RECOMMENDED ACTION ON RESOLUTIONS
REFERRED TO THE STANDING COMMISSION ON MEMBERSHIP & POST ACTIVITIES

Resolution No. 167 (VT) 1994 NC: **Transfer of Montreal Post #1 To The Department of Vermont**
Resolution No. 364 (PR) 1994 NC: **Free Life Insurance For Membership Renewal**

National staff provided reports on current activity and future strategies for the following topics: the 1994 Membership Year, the 1995 Membership Promotion, DMS and Direct Renewal.

As of Friday, September 2, 1994, membership for the 1994 year stands at 3,048,530.

"The 75th Anniversary - A Championship Season" was implemented during the 1994 year to augment the positive membership efforts being put forth by the majority of the Departments. Departments, achieving: 101% of their goal; a 93% renewal rate; more new traditionally acquired members than in 1992; surpassing their 1993 membership, including their new DMS members; or, a combination of these goals would qualify the department for recognition and reward at this convention. Sixteen Departments were successful in attaining at least one of these goals.

The Departments who qualified are: Italy, Panama, North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa, Nebraska, Vermont, Idaho, Indiana, Wisconsin, Delaware, Utah, Hawaii, Nevada, New Mexico, and Florida

The award to these sixteen Departments was to have been a trip to the Minnesota Twins game, however, due to the Players strike that was not possible. The alternative to this award was to offer a ticket package to those Departments to attend one of the World Series games. Should the World Series not take place, an alternative award for this achievement will be developed and announced at a later date.

The Direct Renewal Program continues to be an effective retention tool and the 1995 program will be conducted in basically the same manner as the 1994 program, except for Headquarters Post members. In 1995, a special series of renewal notices has been implemented, with a separate cutoff schedule and renewal rate goals, for these members.

During the 1995 National Membership Workshop, a drawing was held from among those members of the Gold Brigade for an award of a $1,000 gift certificate. The winners of these certificate are:

John Dunlap - Post #145 - Idaho
Kervin Bradford - Post #573 - Texas
Dennis A. Steady - Post #14 - Vermont
Anthony G. Philips - Post #673 - New York
Lee Williams - Post #4 - Philippines

The 1995 Membership promotion "1995 Membership Trail" was also introduced at the July Workshop. It is intended to motivate all levels of members to increase membership to the ultimate goal of an All-Time-High. Membership for 1995 stands at 1,067,475. Thirty-five Departments met or exceeded the first Target Date on August 16, 1994.

It was regularly moved, seconded and carried that the meeting Chair and Secretary be authorized to sign the Committee Report on behalf of the Committee.

Mr. Commander, as a duly elected and registered Delegate of the Department of Delaware, I move for the adoption of this report.

. . . The motion was duly seconded and carried.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: The Report of the Credentials and Internal Affairs Committee is adopted.

DIAMOND JUBILEE DEPARTMENT COMMANDERS

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: At this time, it is my honor to be able to recognize the "Diamond Jubilee" Department Commanders. I am happy to present these individuals with a Legion cap, indicating they were "75th Anniversary" Department Commanders. Also, Departments who met certain goals shall also be noted in the introduction of their Commander. They will be introduced by the National Vice Commander of the region in the order of their attainment of their membership goals.

At this time, I will turn the microphone over to the Membership and Post Activities Chairman, Bettylou.

MEMBERSHIP AND POST ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN EVANS: We are pleased to introduce to you the 1993-94 75th Anniversary winners. They will be introduced by the Vice Commander of the region.

. . . The following, as they were introduced, came to the rostrum to receive their cap:

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER K.W. OHL (IN)

1. Italy	Commander Joseph A. Stacy Qualified for A Championship Season as All-Star with over 93% renewal, 101% of goal and exceeded their 1993 membership.
2. Indiana	Commander Ronnie L. Miller Qualified for A Championship Season as an All-Star with over 93% renewal and exceeded their 1993 membership with All-time High Number 4 in a row.
3. Ohio	Commander Donald C. Ertmann
4. Maryland	Commander Douglas A. Mory
5. Wisconsin	Commander Adolf J. Halverson, Jr. Qualified for A Championship Season with over 93% renewal.
6. Michigan	Commander Henry J. Sacha
7. Illinois	Commander Arthur E. Rawers
8. West Virginia	Commander Donal "Jack" Squires

9. District of Columbia — Commander Arnold L. Flottman, Jr.

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER CURTIS O. TWETE (ND)

1. South Dakota — Commander Donald P. Owens
Qualifies for A Championship Season with over 93% renewal.

2. Nebraska — Commander LeRoy G. McDonald (deceased)
being represented by Raymond Jackson.
Qualified for A Championship Season with over 93% renewal.

3. North Dakota — Commander Don Herrly
Qualified for A Championship Season with over 93% renewal.

4. Iowa — Commander Arthur L. Gratias
Qualified for A Championship Season with over 93% renewal.

5. Kansas — Commander James W. Gravenstein

6. Minnesota — Commander Raymond L. Galazen

7. Missouri — Commander Robert L. Boxdorfer

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER JOHN J. MULKERN (MA)

1. Delaware — Commander Maurice Hayes (deceased)
being replaced by an alternate.
Qualified for A Championship Season as an All-Star with over 101% of goal and exceeded their 1993 membership with All-Time High Number 8 in a row.

2. Vermont — Commander Ronald P. Aldrich
Qualified for A Championship Season with over 93% renewal and 101% of their goal.

3. Pennsylvania — Commander James P. Comiskey

4. New York — Commander Walter F. Baker

5. Maine — Commander William D. Audet

6. New Hampshire — Commander Linnius V. Vance

7. Massachusetts	Commander John J. Lutinski
8. Connecticut	Commander Erwin L. Williams
9. New Jersey	Commander Joseph T. English
10. Canada	Commander Wert Thomas Brooks
11. Rhode Island	Commander Charles J. Zawacki

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER JUAN H. CINTRON (PR)

1. Panama	Commander Charles Band Qualified for A Championship Season as an All-Star with over 101% of their goal and exceeded their 1993 membership.
2. Kentucky	Commander James E. Terrell
3. Florida	Commander Alan P. Hall Qualified for A Championship Season by exceeding their 1993 membership with All-Time High Number 29 in a row.
4. Georgia	James O. McLean
5. North Carolina	Commander Garnett G. Shropshire
6. Virginia	Commander George T. Blume
7. Alabama	Commander Leonard L. Peevy
8. South Carolina	Commander N.W. Patterson
9. Louisiana	Commander John A. "Jack" Bennett
10. Texas	Commander John S. Brukner
11. Mississippi	Commander Charles Langley
12. Arkansas	Commander Charles C. Ragsdell
13. Oklahoma	Commander Charles R. John
14. Tennessee	Commander Ralph J. Reel
15. Puerto Rico	Commander Eduardo Figueroa

16. France	Commander Walter E. Landi

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER DOUGLAS A. MASON

1. Idaho	Commander Roland L. Gardner Qualified for A Championship Season as an All-Star with over 93% renewal, 101% of their goal and exceeded their 1993 membership.
2. Utah	Commander Casey H. Kunimura Qualified for A Championship Season by exceeding their 1993 membership with All-Time High Number 1, surpassing their previous All-Time High established in 1947.
3. Wyoming	Commander Howard I. Smith
4. New Mexico	Commander Taurino J. Trevino Qualified for A Championship Season by exceeding their 1993 membership with All-Time High number 4 in a row.
5. Oregon	Commander Richard A. Schenfield
6. Montana	Commander Donald P. Pemberton
7. Mexico	Commander Delmo V. Pizzati
8. Colorado	Commander June T. Thomas
9. Arizona	Commander Maria F. Currie
10. Nevada	Commander Ernest E. McAvan Qualified for A Championship Season by exceeding their 1993 membership.
11. Washington	Commander Derald D. Robertson
12. California	Commander Michael A. Gombar
13. Alaska	Commander George P. Sterbenz
14. Hawaii	Commander Harry J. Hirt Qualified for A Championship Season by exceeding their 1993 membership.
15. Philippines	Commander Ernesto P. Golez

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: Membership has played a very important part

in making The American Legion the successful organization that it is today.

I do want to say to each and every one of those Department Commanders, thank you. It is with a great deal of sorrow that I report we lost two Department Commanders who were very dedicated to this organization, the Department Commander of Nebraska, Leroy MacDonald, and Maurice Hayes the Department Commander of Delaware.

As I travel around this country, sometimes we wonder how truly-dedicated our people are. The memories and the associations that I have with these late Commanders will live with me forever.

This is to assure you that I was committed to working membership. The caps that were presented to Department Commanders, with the 75th Anniversary trademark are the only caps that will ever be so embroidered.

I know that as I cherish their memories and the memories of those honored today, I hopefully look forward to seeing those caps around for many, many years.

RECRUITER OF THE YEAR

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: For 76 years all the success of The American Legion has been made possible by an active membership. At this time it is appropriate to introduce to you a man who has certainly done his part in helping recruit new members for our great organization.The National Recruiter of the Year probably has a few techniques that others should try. During the 1994 membership year he recruited 488 new members! Please give a warm round of applause to Kerwin Bradford of Jack D. Levy Post 573 of the Department of Texas.

KERWIN BRADFORD
Recruiter of the Year

Somebody asked how I recruit. Well, it is pretty easy to recruit. It takes a little membership application form and a pen and the first thing you have to do is to ask, "Are you a veteran?" Once you ask and you know his name, by that time, all you're doing is getting him to sign collect his money, and you have a member.

But that is not a real nice way to do it. Before you need to do that, you need to sell your self on The American Legion and its programs, and you need to know them, to explain them to any veteran in the world. But it still takes a little piece of paper.

We are on I-35. I am in Carter Heights, Texas, about 300 miles this side of McAllen on I-35. So if you like pulling that motor home over, come to highway 473 and look to the right, and you are at my Post.

I thank you for this wonderful convention.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: My congratulations to Kerwin and all the membership workers who pulled-out all the stops to bring new members to our organization. Each year we honor those who have recruited 50 or more new members. Those men and women earn the distinction of being members of the famed "Gold Brigade."

I want to thank each and every member of the "Gold Brigade." You helped make my year memorable and you deserve the recognition of all the delegates to our 76th National Convention. Would the members of the 1994 Gold Brigade who are here today, please rise and be recognized.

THE AMERICAN LEGION DISPATCH

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: A little reminder of the value of a subscription to *The American Legion Dispatch*. It's a valuable tool for Legion leaders. So save yourself a couple of dollars, and that is a couple of dollars you can add to buying tickets for that Buick out there. I just want to say that the *Dispatch* carries a lot of information that you take, not only to your Posts, but to the Districts, as well as informing you of the latest that is happening at the national level.

VIDEO PROCEEDINGS

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: I'm sure many of you were quite impressed, as I was, with the opening of our Convention yesterday. That video is for sale from Emblem Sales. It will cost $9.95 and they will take care of the shipping. So another bargain is in the making right here at The American Legion National Convention.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: The Chair recognizes Chester F. Stellar of Ohio, Chairman of the National Convention Committee on Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, for the purpose of making a report.

. . . National Vice Commander K. W. Ohl assumed the Chair.

REPORT OF NATIONAL CONVENTION COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION
Chester F. Stellar (OH), Chairman

Mr. Commander, eighty-five members of your Committee on Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation met at 9:00 a.m. on September 4, 1994 in the Minneapolis Convention Center, Room 208 - A & B, 2nd Level, and agreed on the following report which is respectfully submitted for your consideration.

The Committee was called to order by Carroll Williams, Maryland, Liaison Representative appointed by the National Adjutant to act as temporary chairman. Frank Buxton, DC, Deputy Director, VA&R Commission, acted as temporary secretary and called the roll. A quorum being present, nominations were received for permanent chairman. Chester F. Stellar, Ohio, Chairman of the Standing National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission, was unanimously elected Chairman of the Convention Committee.

With unanimous consent, the Chairman appointed Pat Phillips, Georgia, as Committee Secretary, Richard Santos, Maryland, Chairman, and Vollie McCollum, Tennessee, Secretary of the Medical and Hospital Subcommittee; and Jim Hurlbert, Nebraska, Chairman, and Donald Foote, California, Secretary of the Claims and Rating Subcommittee.

Subcommittee liaison assignments were as follows: Carroll Williams, Director, and Frank C. Buxton, Deputy Director, to Medical and Hospital; Harold T. Kelly, Assistant Director for Program Management to Claims and Rating.

As has been the custom for the 50 previous National Conventions, a Special Department Service Officers Committee on Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Resolutions, in a three day Pre-convention meeting, screened and grouped the resolutions. A report of their

analysis, with recommendations, was presented to the Convention Committee for consideration.

The Screening Committee helped conserve the time of the Convention Committee substantially. The Screening Committee was composed of the following Department Service Officers:

REGION 1	Milt Willis (VT)
REGION 2	Vince Bevilacqua (NJ)
REGION 3	Jack Sullivan (FL) SEC.
REGION 7	Art Brest (AZ) CHRMN.
REGION 8	Warren Colver (AK)

The Convention Committee recommended that such a Committee be appointed for this purpose to serve the Seventy-seventh National Convention Committee on Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation.

The 81 Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation resolutions presented for consideration of this Convention were referred by the Resolutions Assignment Committee.

The following action on the resolutions was taken by the Convention Committee:

Approved or Approved as Amended	27
Consolidated with Resolutions Approved	13
Referred to the Standing Commission	9
Received and Recorded	24
Rejected	8

A report of action taken on the nine (9) resolutions referred to the Standing National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission will be made to the National Executive Committee and to the Adjutant of the Department concerned, and, in addition, will be contained in the National Adjutant's report to the Seventy-seventh Annual National Convention.

RECOMMENDED ACTION ON RESOLUTIONS APPROVED

Resolution No. 41: Payments to Parents Receiving DIC While in Nursing Home
Origin: NE
Committee: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation

WHEREAS, A mother or father in receipt of Dependency & Indemnity Compensation who is a patient in a private nursing home under Medicaid cannot receive the $90 payment from the Veterans Administration; and

WHEREAS, It would be very beneficial for the parents to receive the $90 payment the same as allowed widows in receipt of Death Pension who are in nursing homes under Medicaid; and

WHEREAS, This provision would then allow the parent to retain the $90 payment rather than the $40 allowed to typical Medicaid recipients; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion sponsor and

support legislation to amend the present law to allow parents in receipt of DIC who are patients in nursing homes under Medicaid to be entitled to a payment of $90.00 per month from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Resolution No. 49: The American Legion Policy on Agent Orange
Origin: ND
Committee: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation

WHEREAS, The chemical herbicide commonly known as Agent Orange was tested and used in the United States and other countries by U.S. Armed Forces prior to, during, and subsequently to its being widely sprayed throughout Southeast Asia during the years 1962-71; and

WHEREAS, The chemical mixture of 2,4-0 and 2,4-ST in Agent Orange, which contains a certain amount of the chemical dioxin, has been subjected to bans by the Environmental Protection Agency; and

WHEREAS, New evidence about the total long-term toxic effects of the defoliant, of which in excess of 11 million gallons were reportedly sprayed to clear jungle growth and rice paddies continue to be reported; and

WHEREAS, A significant number of service personnel serving in Southeast Asia were exposed to these toxic chemicals and subsequently developed cancer, neurological disorders, liver dysfunction, severe depression, and other life-threatening diseases; and

WHEREAS, Approximately 39,000 U.S. military personnel served in Vietnam prior to August 4, 1964; and

WHEREAS, Many such veterans seeking benefits from VA, to which they believe they are justly entitled, by reason of disease and disability incurred through exposure to Agent Orange, have been denied service connection; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion has been disappointed with the conduct of government studies and research on Agent Orange, and has urged the Department of Veterans Affairs to proceed without delay to secure the services of a non-government scientific body to complete a historic reconstruction model from the military records in order that a full scale study be completed; and

WHEREAS, The study of long-term effects of Agent Orange exposure that was mandated by Congress in 1979, and turned over to the Centers for Disease Control by VA in 1983, became mired in major methodological problems; and

WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control have concluded that the agency cannot do a scientifically valid study of the herbicide's effects on humans; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion is troubled by CDC's conclusion, particularly since a National Academy of Science report released in July 1993, reveals that it is possible to conduct a major epidemiological study; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion is aggressively assisting and counseling veterans in the filing and development of claims for benefits provided under title 38, United States Code, and referring those individuals claiming exposure to the persons responsible for the Agent Orange examination program at the nearest VA medical center or outpatient clinic for an appropriate examination; and

WHEREAS, Public Law 102-4, the "Agent Orange Act of 1991," provides the Department of Veterans Affairs with the authority to compensate veterans suffering from non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, soft-tissue sarcoma, and chloracne. Further, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, has now service-connected Hodgkin's disease, lung, trachea, larynx

cancers, porphyria cutanea tarda (PCT) and multiple myeloma; and

WHEREAS, A significant number of Vietnam veterans continue to express displeasure with the manner in which they were attended to during Agent Orange examinations at VA medical facilities; and

WHEREAS, Previous government committees were totally incompetent to deal with the operational reasons which explain the differences in the cancer rates among several studies of Vietnam veterans; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion continue to urge completion of the study mandated by Public Law 96-151; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion vigorously support the liberalization of the rules relating to the evaluation of studies involving exposure to dioxin and those relating to the Department of Veterans Affairs' adjudication of claims based upon Agent Orange exposure; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion support legislation to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish a presumption of service connection for cancers and other disabilities that are identified in The American Legion Agent Orange Scientific Task Force Report, April 1990; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion support legislation to amend title 38, United States Code, section 1116 to eliminate the requirement that service in Vietnam for the purpose of presumption of service connection for diseases associated with exposure to certain herbicide agents must have been during the Vietnam Era; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion closely monitor the development of all ongoing research on the long-term health effects of Agent Orange exposure and point out to the proper officials any perceived deficiencies or discrepancies in these projects; and, ensure that the government committees be composed of doctors and Vietnam experienced experts be asked to review all of the studies on Southeast Asia veterans and to provide operational insights explaining some of the differences in outcomes; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That Southeast Asia veterans reporting to VA medical care facilities claiming exposure are appropriately examined, and that the examining physicians demonstrate both compassion and thoroughness in the way they receive, examine and treat all Vietnam veterans who present themselves alleging dioxin exposure.

Resolution No. 50: The American Legion Policy on Former POWs
Origin: ND
Committee: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation

WHEREAS, In its concern for the welfare of all those who have served in the nation's Armed Forces, one of the major concerns of The American Legion has been the welfare of those who have been prisoners of war; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion has supported various legislative measures intended to alleviate the disabilities that afflict former POWs as a result of experience during internment; and

WHEREAS, In the past The American Legion supported enactment of Public Law 97-37, the Former Prisoners of War Benefits Act of 1981, approved August 14, 1981, and the presumptions included in Public law 100-322; and

WHEREAS, Currently there are now surviving approximately 63,000 former POWs of the four American Wars of the Twentieth Century; and

WHEREAS, Continued scientific observation of their condition during the years subsequent to their internment indicates additional health problems probably associated with the internment; and

WHEREAS, The United States has a fundamental obligation to do all possible to alleviate any and all health problems of former POWs, and see to their physical, social and economic well-being; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion believes there is a need to further modify the current provisions of title 38, United States Code, that provide for former POWs; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion shall support legislation to amend section 1112 of title 38, United States Code, so as to provide presumptive service connection for the following conditions in the absence of demonstrable intercurrent disease or injury:

1. Hepatitis or other infectious diseases of the liver;

2. Organic residuals of hypothermia, e.g. trench foot, immersion foot or hand, Raynaud's Disease;

3. Arthritis;

4. Chronic pulmonary disease (where there is a history of forced labor in mines during internment);

and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion shall support any and all efforts on the part of the United States Government to alleviate and ameliorate social, economic and physical disabilities experienced by former POWs where such disabilities can reasonably be attributed to the effects of internment by the enemies of the United States.

Resolution No. 52: The American Legion Policy on DIC Rates

Origin: SD

Committee: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation

As Amended

WHEREAS, The Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) Reform Act of 1992, PL 102-568, established a single benefit rate of $750 monthly for the survivors of individuals who die on active duty and veterans who die of service-connected causes after December 31, 1992; and

WHEREAS, Survivors in receipt of DIC benefits under the prior law which was based on the veteran's military pay grade were "grandfathered" under this legislation and could elect to either continue to receive DIC based on military pay grade or change over to the new DIC program; and

WHEREAS, The purpose of the DIC program is to provide an appropriate level of economic support and security for the surviving spouse and dependents following the death of the service member of veterans; and

WHEREAS, It is essential that DIC benefits be periodically adjusted to reflect increases in the cost of living; and

WHEREAS, Congress in enacting the DIC Reform Act expressed its intentions that those survivors remaining under the prior law DIC program would continue to receive periodic cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) in their benefits; and

WHEREAS, The Veterans Compensation Rate Amendments of 1993, PL 103-140,

included a 2.6 percent cost-of-living adjustment in the monthly rates of DIC for recipients under the current DIC program, but only provided a $9 a month cost-of-living adjustment in each DIC rate under the prior law which resulted in the vast majority of surviving spouses receiving substantially less than a 2.6 percent COLA; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion believes recipients under the prior DIC law are entitled to the same percentage cost-of-living adjustment as those under the current DIC program; and

WHEREAS, When a veteran who was receiving VA disability compensation dies benefits are discontinued effective the first day of the month in which death occurs, meaning that the surviving spouse is not entitled to the veteran's compensation check for that month which, deprives the family of needed financial support at a time of crisis; and

WHEREAS, Due to the tremendous case backlog in the regional offices nationwide, a claim for either DIC or death pension is taking many months to be adjudicated which may result in financial hardship for the surviving spouse; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion support legislation to provide periodic cost-of-living adjustments in DIC or non-service connected disability pension benefits at the same percentage rate to both current law and prior law DIC recipients; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion seek legislation to provide for the payment of the veteran's rate of disability compensation for the month of death to the surviving spouse, regardless of whether the surviving spouse is subsequently found entitled to DIC or death pension.

Resolution No. 53: Increase Rates of Disability Compensation
Origin: ND
Committee: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation

WHEREAS, Disability compensation is a monthly payment made by the Department of Veterans Affairs to a veteran whose disability was incurred in or aggravated by military service; and

WHEREAS, These disability compensation payments are based on a schedule of ratings of reduction in earning capacity from specific injuries set forth by the Department of Veterans Affairs in title 38, Code of Federal Regulations; and

WHEREAS, To maintain the purchasing power of these disabled veterans, or those entitled to receive these monthly benefits, the rates payable must likewise respond to cost-of-living increases; and

WHEREAS, It is the opinion of The American Legion that there is no way to adequately compensate a veteran for loss of ability to be a working, productive member of our society, and that the monthly rates of disability compensation do not adequately compensate these disabled veterans for the loss due to reduced earning capacity; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion believes a further readjustment in the amount of disability compensation rates is needed so that these veterans can fulfill their fundamental purpose, that is, to assure they have sufficient economic support; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion support legislation to amend title 38, United States Code, section 1114, to increase the monthly rates of disability compensation; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion oppose any legislative effort to automatically index such cost-of-living adjustments for Social Security recipients.

Resolution No. 58: Urge Congress to Support State Veterans Homes
Origin: NH
Committee: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation
As Amended

WHEREAS, Under the provisions of title 38, United States Code, VA is authorized to make aid payments to states maintaining State Veterans Homes subject to the provisions of 38 CFR 18.1 through 18.13; and

WHEREAS, There are 72 State Veterans Home care facilities throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, The State Veterans Home program has proven to be a cost-effective provider of quality care services to the nation's veterans who require domiciliary, nursing home, and hospital care; and

WHEREAS, VA promotes the care and treatment of veterans in State Veterans Homes as one means to attain the goal of developing and maintaining the highest possible quality of patient care with an appropriate scope of services to meet the eligible veteran's health care needs; and

WHEREAS, Title 38, United States Code. authorizes the Grants for Construction of State Home Facilities Program. The objective is to assist the states to construct or acquire state home facilities for furnishing domiciliary, nursing home, or hospital care to veterans in state homes. Project grants are made by VA which may not exceed 65 percent of the estimated cost of construction including the provision of initial equipment for any such building; and

WHEREAS, Title 38, United States Code, authorizes the payments to State Homes Program. The objective is to assist the states in providing for the care and treatment of eligible veterans in recognized State Veterans Homes which meet such standards as described by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. Per diem payments are made by VA for domiciliary, nursing home, and hospital care provided to eligible veterans at rates established annually but not to exceed one-half of the cost of veterans' care in such state homes; and

WHEREAS, Recognizing the growing long-term health care needs of increasing numbers of older veterans, the State Home Program will continue to be a vital health care provider to the nation's veterans; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That the Congress pledge their full support to the State Veterans Home Program, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the National Association of State Veterans Homes and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs support mutual planning efforts and the establishment of sharing agreements between Department of Veterans Affairs medical facilities and State Veterans Homes.

Resolution No. 66: Rescind Means Test
Origin: MT
Committee: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation
As Amended

WHEREAS, The Department of Veterans Affairs infamous Paupers Oath now known as the Means Test, is discriminating; and

WHEREAS, The VA's requirement is just another bureaucratic means of keeping honorably discharged veterans, our most deserving citizens, from being treated in VA hospitals and nursing homes for proper treatment; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion insist that the Congress of the United States take the necessary action to do away with the Means Test (Paupers Oath) so that all honorably discharged veterans can obtain necessary treatment in hospitals and nursing homes.

Resolution No. 78: Increase Travel Pay for Service-Connected Veterans
Origin: PA
Committee: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation
As Amended and consolidated with 65 (MT)

WHEREAS, The American Legion is an organization of war veterans who have dedicated themselves to the service of the community, state and the nation; and

WHEREAS, Many of these men and women have incurred a service-connected disability in service to the nation; and

WHEREAS, In 1988, Public Law 100-322 severely restricted veterans' eligibility to receive beneficiary travel payments; and

WHEREAS, Today, eligibility for beneficiary travel payment is nearly limited to service-connected treatment and for compensation and pension examinations; and

WHEREAS, Service-connected and other veterans' authorized beneficiary travel only receive $0.11 per mile, and are subject to a $6 per trip deductible, not to exceed $18 per month; and

WHEREAS, Eligible veterans are not reimbursed at a reasonable level for costs incurred to visit a VA medical facility for service-connected or other care and treatment; and

WHEREAS, Beneficiary travel pay was never intended to pay actual transportation costs, such as authorized government travel. Instead, it is provided to help defray costs; and

WHEREAS, There are no provisions in law that VA must increase the per mile travel authorization on a regular basis; and

WHEREAS, The lack of a routine mechanism to periodically adjust the per mile pay authorization for service disabled veterans' beneficiary travel creates an injustice and an unfair economic burden to many veterans; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That Public Law 100-322 be amended to increase the current $0.11 per mile beneficiary travel pay to $0.15 per mile for service-connected disabled veterans without any deductibles; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That per mile beneficiary travel pay be periodically reviewed and adjusted to assure that the per mile reimbursement rate is increased at a reasonable level.

Resolution No. 81: Entitlement to Special Pension for World War 1 Veterans
Origin: NC
Committee: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation

WHEREAS, The median age of the veterans of World War I is approximately 96 years of age; and

WHEREAS, The number of living World War I veterans is rapidly declining; and

WHEREAS, In 1990, they numbered about 63,000; in 1991 there were 45,000; by 1993, their numbers had decreased to only 25,200; and,

WHEREAS, Over this same period, of these totals the number of living World War I female veterans declined from 2,800 to about 1,400; and

WHEREAS, These veterans who survived World War I are no longer employable, and in many instances, are subsisting in financial hardship; and

WHEREAS, Through the years since November 11, 1918, these veterans have worked tirelessly to develop and support the comprehensive programs of veterans benefits that are now provided for all American war veterans; and

WHEREAS, The veterans of World War I did not have the advantage of any of the readjustment programs provided for later generations of war veterans; and

WHEREAS, The Government of the United States and the American people have a direct obligation to insure that all veterans of World War I are not forgotten in their later years; and

WHEREAS, The veterans of World War I are deserving of a special measure of attention because they were not able to benefit from the programs and services which were authorized to assist veterans of later wars; and

WHEREAS, The most reasonable and direct way for the nation to fulfill its obligation to World War I veterans is to insure they are provided with a modest measure of additional monthly financial support; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion, since its founding in 1919 by veterans of World War I, has maintained its special concern for the needs and welfare of these war veterans; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion shall seek legislation to amend title 38, USC so as to provide that:

a. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall pay to each veteran of World War I, who meets the service requirements as set forth in 38 USC 1521(j), at the following rates:

1. If the veteran is unmarried (or married but not living with and not reasonably contributing to the support of such veteran's spouse), and has no child, and such veteran's annual income does not exceed $13,000, pension shall be payable to the veteran at the monthly rate of $150;

2. If the veteran is married and living with or reasonably contributing to the support of such veteran's spouse, or has a child or children, and such veteran's annual income does not exceed $16,000, pension shall be payable to the veteran at the monthly rate of $150.

b. Such special pension benefits shall be paid without regard to (1) any income of any kind payable to the veteran's spouse, and (2) the corpus of estate of the veteran.

c. Any veteran who is eligible for disability pension under title 38, USC 1521, shall, if he/she elects, be paid such special pension and such election shall be irrevocable.

Resolution No. 82: Policy on Desert Storm Disabilities

Origin: NC

Committee: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation

Consolidated with 13 (MA), 69 (MT), 138 (SD), 322 (FL)

WHEREAS, More than 600,000 members of the U.S. Armed Forces, including activated units of the Ready Reserve and National Guard, were deployed to the Persian Gulf

region in Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm to liberate Kuwait; and

WHEREAS, In the defense of freedom, United States service personnel were exposed not only to the hazards of war, but an unknown variety of potential health hazards, including fumes and smoke from military operations, oil well fires, diesel exhaust, toxic paints, pesticides, sand, depleted uranium, infectious agents, chemoprophyl acetic agents and multiple immunizations and possible exposure to chemical or biological weapons; and

WHEREAS, Many individuals who served in Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm have reported wide-ranging medical problems which began during or shortly after their return from the Persian Gulf; and

WHEREAS, The adverse effects of exposure to the health hazards during Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm may not become manifest in veterans until many years after leaving the Persian Gulf; and

WHEREAS, Veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange as a result of military service in Vietnam more than 20 years ago are still fighting for recognition of all the disabilities believed to be related to exposure to the herbicide; and

WHEREAS, To help ensure that the same type of problem encountered by Vietnam veterans exposed to Agent Orange does not affect Persian Gulf veterans, Congress included a provision in PL 102-190, the Defense Authorization Act of 1991, to require the Secretary of Defense to establish a Registry of Desert Storm personnel exposed to fumes of burning oil and to report to Congress annually on all ongoing studies on the health consequences of such exposure; and

WHEREAS, Public Law 102-585, "The Persian Gulf War Veterans Health Status Act," of November 4, 1992, mandates the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish and maintain a Persian Gulf Registry and provide health examinations and counseling for eligible veterans; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion believes the disability compensation and health care needs of Persian Gulf veterans should be expeditiously addressed by the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense through an outreach and examination program; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion support a joint VA/DOD program, based on the DOD registry to be developed pursuant to PL 102-190, to identify all Persian Gulf veterans and the specific geographic areas in which they served, and to conduct a major epidemiological study; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion closely monitor current medical care programs including the Persian Gulf Registry to treat Persian Gulf veterans and the development of all research into the present and long-term effects of exposure to health hazards associated with active military service in the Persian Gulf region; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion disseminate by all means available the most current and responsible information on such health hazards to Legionnaires, Persian Gulf veterans and their families, and the public; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Department of Veterans Affairs provide, on a presumptive basis, appropriate medical examinations and treatment, including follow-up treatment, to all veterans of the Persian Gulf War who report signs or symptoms that may be associated with disease endemic to that war region and other conditions related to that experience; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion support legislation to amend title 38, United

States Code, to provide for service connection of any condition found to have been incurred in or aggravated as a result of such Persian Gulf service.

Resolution No. 83: Reduce Disability Requirements for Non-Service Pension
Origin: NC
Committee: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation
As amended and consolidated with 14 (MA), 43 (NE)

WHEREAS, The concept of special consideration of age as it relates to a determination of total disability for non-service pension purposes was originally incorporated into the 1945 revision of the VA Schedule for Rating Disabilities in Paragraph 17; and

WHEREAS, Specific percentage requirements for a total disability rating based on unemployability of the individual were set forth in Paragraph 16 of the 1945 Rating Schedule (if there is a single disability, it must be rated at 60 percent or more; or if there are two or more disabilities, one must be rated at 40 percent or more with a combined rating of 70 percent or more) were reduced for non-service pension purposes by 10 percent at age 60 and by an additional 10 percent at age 65; and

WHEREAS, In 1948, Congress enacted legislation liberalizing this concept of special consideration of age to provide that permanent and total disability would be presumed at age 65 in determinations of entitlement to non-service pension; and

WHEREAS, The Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990 (OBRA), PL 101-508, repealed the presumption of permanent and total disability at age 65; and

WHEREAS, VA implemented regulations stipulating that the same percentage disability requirements which apply to total disability ratings for compensation based on individual unemployability (if there is a single disability, it must be rated 60 percent or more; or if there are two or more disabilities, one must be rated at 40 percent or more with a combined rating of 70 percent or more) would also apply to total disability ratings for non-service connected pension without regard to the veteran's age; and

WHEREAS, Veterans are now required to submit medical evidence of total disability in support of a claim for non-service connected pension and undergo a VA examination; and

WHEREAS, It is a well accepted scientific and medical principle in geriatric medicine that the complex effects of injuries and diseases become more disabling as a result of the general aging process; and

WHEREAS, From a practical standpoint, few employers will employ an elderly individual (one who is 65 years of age or older) even if they are in relatively good health; and

WHEREAS, The current requirement has eliminated the traditional "safety net" for those older veterans who may not have disabilities which meet the percentage requirement of title 38, CFR 4.16, but who are unable to work and have little or no income, making them otherwise entitled to non-service pension; and

WHEREAS, These OBRA requirements have also added significantly to the adjudication workload of the regional offices as well as the medical centers at a time when the case backlog nationwide is of crisis proportions and VA is increasingly unable to process all types of claims in a timely manner; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled, in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion seek legislation to amend title 38, United States Code, section 1502 to restore the special consideration of age in determinations of entitlement to non-service connected pension by

providing that the disability requirement at age 55 shall be 60 percent; at age 60, the requirement shall be reduced to 50 percent; and at age 65, the requirement shall be reduced to 10 percent.

Resolution No. 84: Extend Presumptive Period for Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) to Five Years
Origin: NC
Committee: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation
As Amended

WHEREAS, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) begins insidiously involving degeneration of the nerve cells either in the brain, the brain stem, or spinal cord, and is characterized by atrophy and almost always fibrillation of the muscular system of the body; and

WHEREAS, ALS in its primary stage is difficult, if not impossible, to diagnose since in this stage the condition may appear to be dormant with little or no progression of symptoms for many years, thus leading the individual and his doctor to believe that the condition has become arrested and nothing more is done to establish its diagnostic entity; and

WHEREAS, A presumptive period of one year from date of termination of active duty is currently provided for ALS under title 38, USC, section 1112(a) is inadequate; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion urge that legislation be enacted to extend the current presumptive period for service connection of Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis from one year to five years from date of separation from active duty.

Resolution No. 85: Reaffirmation of the American Legion Proposal on Veterans Health Care
Origin: NC
Committee: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation

WHEREAS, The American Legion adopted Resolution No. 2 (ND) - The American Legion Proposal on Veterans Health Care at the 1993 National convention; and

WHEREAS, The resolution reflects The American Legion's views on the role of the Department of Veterans Affairs medical care system in National Health Care Reform; and

WHEREAS, It is the belief of The American Legion that VA continue to provide and enhance the quality and timeliness of care to the nation's veterans and other eligible beneficiaries; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That the American Legion reaffirms the resolving provisions of Resolution No. 2 which includes:

*A Summary of American Legion Proposals for Veterans Health Care Eligibility and Entitlement;
*Payment and Reimbursement for Care Rendered;
*Quality of Care Provided;
*The Research and Education Mission of VA;

*VA's Contingency Back-up Mission to the Department of Defense;
*The Role of VA in the Nation's Health Care System.

Resolution No. 139 "Clear and Unmistakable Error" by the Court of Veterans Appeals

Origin: SD

Committee: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation

WHEREAS, the American Legion was instrumental in the creation of the Court of Veterans Appeals (CVA) which was established to review the decisions of the Board of Veterans Appeals; and

WHEREAS, One of the most important cases to come before the CVA was Russell/Collins v. Principi which involved the question of whether or not VA had legal authority to reverse prior VA decisions on the ground of "clear and unmistakable error" (CUE) and the Court had jurisdiction to review VA's determination on the issue of CUE; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion filed an extensive friend of the Court brief and presented oral argument before all of the seven judges of the Court; and

WHEREAS, The CVA, in its precedent decision on Russell/Collins, relied extensively on the Legion's analysis of legal issues, responded affirmatively, as the Legion had sought; and

WHEREAS, The VA opposes the CVA's conclusions that the "clear and unmistakable error" doctrine applies to BVA decisions, and that the regional offices have authority to reverse prior BVA decisions on that ground; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion would be opposed to any effort by VA to limit or restrict the circumstances under the issue of CUE can be reviewed by either the VA regional office or the Board of Veterans Appeals; and

WHEREAS, It is vitally important for veterans that decisions of the regional offices and BVA be correctable on the ground of CUE; and

WHEREAS, In that process, it is not considered essential that the regional offices be allowed to override BVA decisions on CUE, as long as the BVA is legally required to make such corrections and its decisions denying such corrections are judicially reviewed by the CVA, without the requirement of the filing of Notices of Disagreement; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion seek legislation to amend title 38, USC 7103 so as to provide:

(a) that decisions of both the VA regional offices and the Board of Veterans appeals are reversible for "clear and unmistakable error"; and

(b) the Court of Veterans Appeals has jurisdiction to review decisions of the Board of Veterans Appeals denying a previously unappealed decision of a regional office (or other agency of original jurisdiction) which contained "clear and unmistakable error"; and

(c) the Court of Veterans Appeals has jurisdiction to review decisions of the Board of Veterans Appeals denying that previous Board decision contained "clear and unmistakable error", even though no Notice of Disagreement has been filed as to the claim of "clear and unmistakable error."

Resolution No. 140: Medical Care Eligibility for War Veteran

Origin: SD
Committee: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation
As Amended

WHEREAS, Prior to September 7, 1980, a veteran, as defined in title 38, USC 101(2), was eligible for medical care in a VA facility for a service-connected or non-service connected disability regardless of his or her length of military service; and

WHEREAS, Individuals who enter on to active duty after September 7, 1980, in order to be eligible for any benefit, including VA medical care for a non-service connected disability, specified in title 38, USC, 5303A which is the shorter of (A) 24 months of continuous active duty, or (B) the full period for which such person was called or ordered to active duty; and

WHEREAS, The minimum active duty service requirement does not apply to a person who is discharged or released from active duty for hardship or early out under Title 10, USC 1171 or 1173, or for a service-connected disability; and

WHEREAS, Activated Reservists and members of the National Guard who seek VA medical care for non-service connected disability are not adversely affected by the 24-month service requirement of title 38, USC 5303A which recognizes the limited nature of their period of active duty; and

WHEREAS, Veterans of the regular Armed Forces who serve on active duty during a period of war who do not complete the required 24 months of active duty and who seek VA medical care for a non-service connected disability are determined to be ineligible for such care; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion believes the restrictive minimum active duty requirement for benefit eligibility, including VA medical care, was intended to apply to peacetime rather than wartime military service in the post-Vietnam Era; and

WHEREAS, All veterans of wartime service should receive the same benefits, including eligibility for VA medical care for a non-service connected disability as were available to veterans prior to September 7, 1980; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion support legislation to amend title 38, USC 5303(a) to provide that the 24 month minimum service requirement with respect to eligibility for VA medical care for non-service connected disability shall not apply to those members of the regular Armed Forces serving at least one day of active duty during a period of war.

Resolution No. 141: Protect Disability Rating after 10 Years
Origin: SD
Committee: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation

WHEREAS, Section 110. title 38, United States Code, provides for the protection of all disability compensation evaluations that have been continuously in effect for twenty or more years; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion is convinced that the length of time for the preservation should be the same as that which currently applies to the protection of service connection vis-a-vis, ten years; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion support legislation to amend section 110, title 38, United States Code, to provide that any disability

which has been continuously rated at or above any evaluation for ten years or more for compensation purposes under laws administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs shall not thereafter be rated at less than such evaluation, except upon a showing that such rating was based on fraud.

Resolution No. 149: Authorize Funding for Outpatient Clinic at Lasalle, IL
Origin: IL
Committee: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation

WHEREAS, Oglesby American Legion Post 237 is a member of the LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission which has assumed the State of Illinois Statutory obligation charged in the Military Veterans Assistance Act to provide the needed services of our county's honorably discharged veterans; and

WHEREAS, The vast majority of these veterans that we have assisted have no financial means to provide for themselves and they also are the same group of veterans that the United States Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care Services are mandated by Federal Regulations to provide quality medical care; and

WHEREAS, Our rural counties are in remote geographic areas which have no public transportation system and do not receive any State or Federal subsidies to address our public transportation plight of our honorably discharged veterans who have no means to provide for themselves; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994 That The American Legion strongly encourages and supports the efforts for the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to secure and authorize the funding of an Outpatient Clinic at LaSalle, Illinois and copies of this resolution be submitted to the Congress of the United States of America.

Resolution No. 150: Establish a National Cemetery Site at Joliet Army Ammunition Plant
Origin: IL
Committee: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation

WHEREAS, Interment in a national cemetery is authorized for all veterans who served in the Armed Forces and whose duty was terminated by discharge under conditions other than dishonorable; and

WHEREAS, Metropolitan Chicago, with a population of 7 million, including 1.1 million veterans, is the largest metropolitan area in the United States without a national cemetery; and

WHEREAS, There are seven national cemeteries within a 200 mile radius of Joliet, Illinois, five of which have no undeveloped areas left, and none being closer than 100 miles from Chicago (Wood National Cemetery, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, which is rapidly filling and expected to close by 1995, partly due to the many burials coming from northern Illinois); and

WHEREAS, Chicago area veterans who wish to be interred in the National Cemetery system must now be buried at Rock Island National Cemetery (165 miles), Danville National Cemetery (140 miles), Quincy National Cemetery (289 miles and will close in 1995), Camp Butler National Cemetery, Springfield (202 miles), Fort Custer National Cemetery, in Augusta, Michigan (185 miles), Marion National Cemetery, Marion, Indiana (200 miles), or the Wood National Cemetery in Milwaukee, Wisconsin (100 miles); and

WHEREAS, VA experience has shown that few veterans will elect burial at a national cemetery further than 100 miles from their homes, and there is a strong reluctance for burial across a state line; and

WHEREAS, The financial costs of transporting the remains to the nearest VA national cemetery, unless the deceased veteran was service-connected or died in a VA facility, remains the obligation of the deceased veteran's family; moreover, extended travel from Chicago to these outlying areas often places an added burden in terms of both time and money on the family and friends of deceased Chicago area veterans who wish to pay respect to their loved ones; and

WHEREAS, A national cemetery located on 1000 acres of the Joliet Army Ammunition Plant would serve 715,453 primary area veterans, (radius of 100 miles) and 326,254 secondary area veterans (radius 200 miles) from northern Illinois, southeastern Wisconsin, northwestern Indiana, (Marion National Cemetery in northeastern Indiana now serves Indianapolis area veterans); and

WHEREAS, The Department of Veterans Affairs has authorized five new national cemeteries in the United States in the areas of Albany, NY, Cleveland, OH, Ft. Worth, TX, Chicago, IL and Seattle-Tacoma, WA, between now and the year 2000; and

WHEREAS, VA budget restraints will not support the addition of new national cemeteries as quickly as needed in the future, hence, time is a crucial factor for Chicago area veterans who are now dying at the rate of 20,000 a year; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994 That the American Legion act in a timely and decisive manner bringing to bear their full power and influence to assist the veterans of northern Illinois in attaining VA approval and Congressional funding for the much needed national cemetery at the site of the Joliet Army Ammunition Plant.

Resolution No. 179: Amend Title 38, USC to Change Vietnam Era Dates
Origin: TX
Committee: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation
Consolidated With 200 (NY)

WHEREAS, The American Legion recognizes the significant contributions to the cause of freedom made by United States servicemen and women and The American Legion promotes the interest of veterans in recognition of their service to their country; and

WHEREAS, American military personnel were deployed to Vietnam as early as 1961; and

WHEREAS, The 90th Congress (1967-1968) established August 5, 1964, as beginning the period of war for the Vietnam Era for purposes of determining eligibility for Department of Veterans Affairs benefits; and

WHEREAS, President Carter, during the term of the 95th Congress (1977-1978) proclaimed the Vietnam Era for The American Legion eligibility to be December 22, 1961, through May 7, 1975, inclusive, (38 USC, sec. 101(29), PL 90-77, sec. 201(b); as amended PL 95-202, sec. 309(a); and

WHEREAS, It is inequitable and unfair for servicemen and women who served in active military duty on or after December 22, 1961, but before August 6, 1964, to be ineligible for Department of Veterans Affairs benefits that are provided to their fellow servicemen and women who served in active military duty between August 6, 1964, and May 7, 1975, inclusive; and

WHEREAS, 1. 38 USC, sec. 101(29) Department of Veterans Affairs, now reads as follows: "The term 'Vietnam Era' means the period beginning August 5, 1964, and ending May 7, 1975"; and

2. 38 CFR, Chapter 1, Part 3.2(f) Periods of War now reads as follows: "Vietnam Era. August 5, 1964, through May 7, 1975, inclusive,"; and

WHEREAS, Both 38 USC, sec. 101(29) and 38 CFR, Chapter 1, Part 3.2(f) should be amended to provide that the period of time for the purpose of determining the eligibility for Department of Veterans Affairs benefits should be from December 22, 1961, through May 7, 1975, so that same corresponds to the present dates for the Vietnam Era; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion urge Congress to amend the Vietnam Era dates to be December 22, 1961, through May 7, 1975, inclusive.

Resolution No. 202: Authorize DVA to Make Grants to State or Political Subdivisions for Cemeteries

Origin: NY

Committee: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation

WHEREAS, It is the intent of the citizens of the United States, as expressed through their elected representatives, to provide special cemeteries for the interment of veterans and military personnel who served honorably in the Armed Forces of the United States (38 CFR 1.620); and

WHEREAS, The vast geographical dispersal of national cemeteries effectively precludes burial access for a large percentage of eligible Veterans; and

WHEREAS, The citizens of the United States have recognized the need for other veterans' cemeteries in addition to national cemeteries, and provided authority, through their elected representatives, for federal grants to states for the establishment of State veterans' cemeteries (38 USC 2408); and

WHEREAS, The veteran-citizens of some states (such as New York State) residing great distances from national cemeteries have been effectively denied burial in veterans' cemeteries because their state officials have not been willing to establish state veterans' cemeteries; and

WHEREAS, The Secretary of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs is currently authorized to pay a plot allowance if a veteran is buried in a cemetery that is used solely for the interment of persons eligible for burial in a national cemetery, and is owned by a state or by an agency or political subdivision of a state (38 USC 2303(b)(1); now, therefore, be it,

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8. 1994, That The American Legion urge the Congress of the United States of America to amend section 2408 of title 38, United States Code to authorize the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to make grants to any state or political subdivision thereof to assist in establishing, expanding or improving veterans' cemeteries owned by such state or political subdivision thereof.

Resolution No. 231: Seek Legislation to Extend the Operations of the Manila Regional Office

Origin: PI

Committee: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation

WHEREAS, Manila Regional Office of the DVA which services around 110,000 U.S. war veterans in the Philippines is due for closure by 1999; and

WHEREAS, Majority of the veterans being serviced by the Manila Regional Office of the DVA are already in their 70s and suffering from disability; and

WHEREAS, It is imperative that the Manila Office should be maintained so that it can continue to promptly and efficiently service the needs of veterans to beyond the year 2000; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion seek the enactment of legislation by U.S. Congress to extend the operation of the Manila Regional Office of the DVA to beyond the year 2000.

Resolution No. 238: Allow Veterans to Retain Compensation While in VA Nursing Home

Origin: IN

Committee: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation

As Amended

WHEREAS, Prior to Public Law 101-508, the "Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990", veterans having no dependents in receipt of VA disability pension benefits and in Medicaid covered nursing homes were required to pay all funds received from VA toward the cost of their nursing home care; and

WHEREAS, This served simply to reduce Medicaid's share of the cost of providing nursing home care for these Medicaid eligible individuals while leaving these veterans without any funds for personal needs or wants; and

WHEREAS, Public Law 101-508 authorized the reduction of VA disability pension to $90 monthly for veterans with no dependents who are in Medicaid covered nursing homes, but prohibited any part of the $90 monthly benefit from being applied to reduce the amount of Medicaid paid a nursing home facility; and

WHEREAS, This guaranteed these veterans a small measure of personal income while residing in Medicaid covered nursing homes; and

WHEREAS, In contrast, veterans having no dependents in receipt of VA disability compensation and who are in Medicaid covered nursing homes are required to utilize all funds received from VA towards the cost of their nursing home care before Medicaid contributes to the nursing home costs; and

WHEREAS, This serves simply to reduce Medicaid's share of the cost of providing nursing home care to these Medicaid eligible individuals while leaving these service disabled veterans without any or very limited funds for personal needs or wants; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion seek legislation authorizing the payment of VA disability compensation to veterans having no dependents who are in Medicaid covered nursing homes of at least $90 per month, but also prohibiting any part of the compensation payment from being applied to reduce the amount of Medicaid paid a nursing home facility.

Resolution No. 239: Payment to Spouse Receiving DIC While in Nursing Home

Origin: IN
Committee: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation
As amended and consolidated with 44 (NE), 324 (FL)

WHEREAS, Prior to Public Law 102-568, the "Veterans Benefits Act of 1992", surviving spouses having no dependents who were in receipt of VA death pension benefits and in Medicaid covered nursing homes were required to utilize all funds received from VA towards the cost of their nursing home care; and

WHEREAS, This served simply to reduce Medicaid's share of the cost of providing nursing home care for these Medicaid eligible individuals while leaving the surviving spouses without any funds for personal needs or wants; and

WHEREAS, Public Law 102-568 authorized the reduction of VA pension to $90 monthly for surviving spouses with no dependents in Medicaid covered nursing homes, but prohibited any part of the $90 monthly benefit from being applied to reduce the amount of Medicaid paid a nursing home facility; and

WHEREAS, This guaranteed these surviving spouses a small measure of personal income while residing in Medicaid covered nursing homes; and

WHEREAS, In contrast, surviving spouses having no dependents who are in receipt of VA Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) benefits and in Medicaid covered nursing homes are required to utilize all funds received from VA towards the cost of their nursing home care before Medicaid contributes to the cost of their nursing home care; and

WHEREAS, This serves simply to reduce Medicaid's share of the cost of providing nursing home care for these Medicaid eligible individuals while leaving the surviving spouses without any or very limited funds for personal needs or wants; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion shall seek legislation authorizing the payment of VA Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) to surviving spouses having no dependents who are in Medicaid covered nursing homes of at least $90 per month, but also prohibiting any part of the DIC payment from being applied to reduce the amount of Medicaid paid a nursing home facility.

Resolution No. 320: Funding for VA Construction
Origin: FL
Committee: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation

WHEREAS, The Department of Veterans Affairs construction appropriations provide for the renovation, modernization and replacement, as directed, of the physical facilities of the three major components of the VA: the Veterans Health Administration (VHA); the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA); and the National Cemetery System (NCS); and

WHEREAS, The physical facilities of all three components of VA require ongoing renovations, expansion, modernization, reconfiguration and improvement related to a myriad of deficiencies in meeting the needs of each department's primary beneficiaries; and

WHEREAS, Since the early 1970s, VA has constructed many needed replacements hospitals, new outpatient clinics, regional offices and added acreage to the National Cemetery System. Over the same time period, and due to inadequate construction appropriations, many VA physical facilities have not been maintained in a satisfactory condition; and

WHEREAS, The complicated VA construction-management process must be devoid

of political consideration when determining which projects are to be recommended for inclusion in the annual appropriation request. A more rational system for setting construction priorities and maintaining advanced facilities must be accomplished. In addition, Congress must be ready to appropriate adequate funds so that all priority construction requirements of VA are met in an acceptable sequence; and

WHEREAS, In order to adequately compete with other private health plans, under health care reform, VA must be provided the resources necessary to provide geographically accessible health care services in contemporary facilities to all eligible veterans and other eligible enrollees; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion urge Congress in its annual appropriations process, to provide adequate funding to the Department of Veterans Affairs to conduct a planned and comprehensive program of modernization, expansion or replacement of aging and undersized facilities, which includes a rational system for selecting construction priorities, and one suited to the entire mission of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Resolution No. 326: The American Legion Policy on the National Cemetery System
Origin: FL
Committee: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation
As amended and Consolidated with 16 (MA), 40 (NE), 225 (DC)

WHEREAS, VA's National Cemetery System (NCS) comprises 114 cemeteries in 38 states (and Puerto Rico) as well as 33 soldiers' lots and monuments. It was established by Congress and approved by President Abraham Lincoln in 1862 to provide for the proper burial and registration of graves of Civil War dead; and

WHEREAS, The system has been under the administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs since 1973, when Public Law 93-43 transferred 82 national cemeteries (except Arlington) from the Department of the Army. Another 21 were already part of VA. In 1978, VA established the National Cemetery System to administer the cemeteries and related programs; and

WHEREAS, Burial in a national cemetery is open to all members of the Armed Forces and veterans discharged under conditions other than dishonorable, as well as spouses, unremarried widows or widowers, minor children and, under certain conditions, unmarried adult children. The first decedent to be buried need not be the veteran. Also eligible for burial are members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces, the Army and Air National Guard, and the Reserve Officers Training Corps who die while on active duty for training or performing full-time service. Public Law 103-240, signed by the President on May 4, 1994, approved legislation that extends eligibility for burial in a national cemetery to any member or former member of the Armed Forces (and his or her dependents) who has performed at least 20 years of service as members of a reserve component of the Armed Forces under honorable conditions and who is eligible for retired pay; and

WHEREAS, Since 1973, annual interments in the NCS have increased from 36,400 to 67,000 in 1993. Annual burials will increase to more than 115,000 in the year 2010 as the veteran population ages; and

WHEREAS, Of the 114 national cemeteries, 52 are closed, having reached capacity for casket burials. Most of these can accept cremation burials, however, and all of them can inter the spouse or eligible children of a family member already buried. Another 22 national

cemeteries would close by the year 2000, but efforts are underway to forestall some of these closures by acquiring adjacent properties; and

WHEREAS, NCS administers a program of grants to states to assist them in establishing or improving state-operated veterans cemeteries. The matched-funds program helps to provide additional burial space for veterans in locations where there are no nearby national cemeteries. To date more than $28 million in 65 grants have been awarded to 17 states and the Territory of Guam; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion is concerned that the predicted increase in veteran burials will overwhelm the capacity of the existing National Cemetery System. Also, new eligibility entitlement may be extended to retired members and eligible dependents of the Select Reserve, further increasing the demands placed on the NCS; and

WHEREAS, Funding for maintenance and renovations of the current National Cemetery System, staff levels, cemetery expansions, and equipment procurement has been consistently inadequate since the heavy demands on the NCS began in the early 1980s. Congress has provided the NCS some necessary funding relief beginning with the Fiscal Year (FY) 1992 budget and although operations funding has increased to respectable levels, significant funding shortfalls still exist with regard to both major and minor construction projects; and

WHEREAS, Operations and maintenance and renovations construction funding must continually be adjusted to reflect the true requirements of the National Cemetery System; and

WHEREAS, Congress must provide sufficient major construction appropriations to VA to permit the NCS to accomplish its stated goal of ensuring that burial in a national or state cemetery is a realistic option by locating cemeteries within 75 miles of three out of every four veterans by the year 2000; and

WHEREAS, The 1990 Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act restricted the plot allowance of $150, which was previously paid to all honorably discharged wartime veterans and eliminated the headstone allowance of $85, which was paid to all eligible veterans in lieu of a government-provided headstone or marker. The 1990 Act limited the plot allowance benefit to veterans who are indigent or are in receipt of VA disability compensation or pension payments. The plot allowance would still be payable to state veterans cemeteries. While veterans would still be entitled to receive a government-provided headstone or marker for their interment site, the headstone or marker allowance was eliminated entirely; and

WHEREAS, If a veteran passes away in a Department of Veterans Affairs hospital, nursing home, or domiciliary, or in an institution at which the individual was receiving hospital or nursing care at the expense of the United States at the time of death, VA will pay for the cost of transporting the remains to the place of burial; however, a veteran who passes away in a State Veterans Home is not allowed transportation cost for the remains to place of burial by VA; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion support the establishment of additional national and state veterans cemeteries and columbaria wherever a need for them is apparent and to petition the Congress to provide required operations and construction funding to ensure VA burial in a national or state veterans cemetery is a realistic option for veterans and their eligible dependents; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion urge Congress to amend the current 50/50

Federal/State construction cost of veterans' cemeteries up to 65 percent Federal/35 percent State. In addition, up to 50 percent of the states' cost could be contributed through a land donation.

RESOLVED, That The American Legion go on record as being unalterably opposed to any attempt, now or in the future, to collect "User Fees" for burials in any national or state veterans cemetery; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion support restoration of the pre-1981 burial allowance and an increase of the burial benefit to $400. We also support the restoration of the pre-1990 Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act criteria to provide eligibility for a government furnished headstone or marker allowance and restoration and increase of the burial plot allowance from $150 to $300; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion support action to provide that where an eligible veteran dies in a state veterans hospital or nursing home, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall pay for the cost of transporting the remains to the place of burial.

Resolution No. 327: Improve the Disability and Death Pension Program
Origin: FL
Committee: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation

WHEREAS, Public Law 95-588, the Veterans and Survivors Pension Improvement Act of 1978, provided major changes in the disability and death pension program for the veterans of World War I, World War II, the Korean, Vietnam and Persian Gulf Wars, and their surviving spouses and children; and

WHEREAS, This pension program established different guaranteed annual income levels for necessary economic support; and

WHEREAS, After extensive study, The American Legion concludes that certain inequities exist in the Improved Pension program that need to be addressed by Congress; and

WHEREAS, Under the current death pension program, the annual benefit rate for a surviving spouse with no income and no dependents is $5,239 or sixty-six percent of the amount received by a veteran with no income and no dependents; and

WHEREAS, Current regulations provide that surviving spouses are not entitled to pension benefits for the month in which the veteran dies, if they are not found eligible for death pension; and

WHEREAS, The majority of these surviving spouses are elderly and disabled and are living at or below the poverty level; and

WHEREAS, Under the current death pension program, the annual benefit rate for a surviving child with no income where there is no surviving spouse is $1,330 or seventeen percent of the amount received by a veteran with no income or dependents; and

WHEREAS, This limited amount may impose a severe financial hardship on the surviving child; and

WHEREAS, Under title 38, USC 1543, where the surviving child is residing with a person who is legally responsible for such child's support, the income and corpus of estate of that person is countable for the purposes of determining entitlement or continued entitlement to pension benefits; and

WHEREAS, Currently when two veterans are married to one another where both meet the disability, service, and income requirements, basic pension benefits are payable only at the rate of a "veteran with one dependent" which is currently $10,240 annually; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion, believes that since each veteran in their own right meets the eligibility criteria for pension with the exception of being married to another veteran, this discriminatory provision of the law should be eliminated and each veteran should be paid at the basic pension rate of a single veteran without dependents which is $7,818, reduced by the amount of countable family income; and

WHEREAS, In the determination of annual income, payments under all Government Life Insurance programs are countable, but proceeds from fire and casualty insurance policies may be excluded; and

WHEREAS, Previous pension programs have excluded the proceeds of Government Life Insurance policies in the determination of annual income; and

WHEREAS, Currently, the effective date of reduction or discontinuance of pension based on a change of income shall be the last day of the month in which the change occurred; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion believes it would lessen the financial hardship of such adjustments to pension if any such change would be made as of the last day of the calendar year in which the change occurred, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion seek amendments to title 38, United States Code, to accomplish the following:

1. Establish the pension rates of surviving spouses at ninety percent of the rate for a veteran without dependents;
2. Provide for the payment of the veteran's rate for a surviving spouse regardless of whether the surviving spouse is entitled to death pension;
3. Establish the pension rate for a surviving child where there is no surviving spouse entitled at ninety percent of the rate of a veteran without dependents;
4. Delete the requirement that the income and corpus of estate of a person legally responsible for the support of a surviving child be counted in the determination of annual income of such child;
5. Provide that when two veterans who meet the service, disability, and income requirements for pension eligibility are married to one another, each shall be paid at the rate of a single veteran without dependents reduced by the amount of countable family income;
6. Exclude in the determination of annual income payments under all Government Life Insurance policies;
7. Change the effective date for reduction or discontinuance of pension based on a change of income from the last day of the month in which the change occurred to the last day of the calendar year in which the change occurred.

Resolution No. 342: Seek Equity for VA Survivors Benefit Recipients
Origin: OH
Committee: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation

WHEREAS, Civil Service retirement survivors' benefits terminate only upon the remarriage of recipients under age 55, and may be reinstated upon death or divorce; and

WHEREAS, Federal Employees Compensation survivors' benefits terminate only upon the remarriage of recipients under age 55, and may be reinstated upon death or divorce; and

WHEREAS, Military Survivors' Benefit Plan survivors' benefits terminate only upon

the remarriage of recipients under age 55, and may be reinstated upon death or divorce; and

WHEREAS, Railroad Retirement survivors' benefits terminate only upon remarriage under age 60 (50 if disabled), and may be upon death or divorce, reinstated at a reduced rate; and

WHEREAS, Social Security survivors' benefits terminate only upon remarriage under age 60 (50 if disabled), and may be reinstated upon death or divorce; and

WHEREAS, VA Dependency and Indemnity Compensation and Survivors' Pension benefits terminate permanently upon remarriage and are not reinstated unless marriage is voided or annulled providing that the legal proceedings terminating the remarriage convened prior to November 1, 1990; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion pursue legislative change to acquire parity for VA survivors' benefit recipients with Social Security survivors' benefit recipients, regarding reinstatement of benefits as a result of termination of a remarriage through death or divorce.

REFERRED TO THE STANDING COMMISSION ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION

Resolution No. 92 (UT) 1994 NC: **Educationally Disadvantaged Veterans**
Resolution No. 128 (UT) 1994 NC: **Establish a Family Service Administration as a Follow on to Agent Orange Program**
Resolution No. 136 (SD) 1994 NC: **Enhanced Education and Training Readjustment Program for Service Persons**
Resolution No. 155 (CA) 1994 NC: **Transfer of Land at the West Los Angeles VAMC to the National Cemetery System**
Resolution No. 156 (CA) 1994 NC: **Restoration of Sepulveda VAMC**
Resolution No. 161 (WV) 1994 NC: **Ensure the Treatment of Veterans is Equitable at all VAMC Facilities**
Resolution No. 232 (PI) 1994 NC: **Authorize Grant in Aid to the Veterans Memorial Medical Center in the Philippines**
Resolution No. 321 (FL) 1994 NC: **Support Veterans Equal Access to Services and Benefits**
Resolution No. 325 (FL) 1994 NC: **The American Legion Policy on DVA-NSLI Insurance**

RECEIVED AND RECORDED RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 12 (MA) 1994 NC: **Full Funding and Fair Pricing of VA Pharmaceuticals**
Resolution No. 15 (MA) 1994 NC: **Maintain Mission of VA to Treat Veterans First**
Resolution No. 17 (TN) 1994 NC: **Disclosure and Treatment of Radiation Testing Illness**
Resolution No. 51 (ND) 1994 NC: **Funding and Staffing of VA Health Care Programs**
Resolution No. 59 (NH) 1994 NC: **Allow VA Facilities to Receive 100 Percent of Insurance Reimbursement Monies**
Resolution No. 64 (MT) 1994 NC: **Ensure Adequate Funding for VBA Operations**

Resolution No. 68 (MT) 1994 NC: **Urge Congress to Provide DVA Adequate Funding**
Resolution No. 125 (UT) 1994 NC: **Request Congress and DVA Continue Adequate Funding for Research**
Resolution No. 148 (IL) 1994 NC: **Ensure Health Care is Not Reduced**
Resolution No. 151 (IL) 1994 NC: **Urge Congress and the President to Restore Benefits Available to Those Born Between 1917-1921**
Resolution No. 180 (TX) 1994 NC: **Integrate Chiropractic Services More Fully at DVA**
Resolution No. 181 (TX) 1994 NC: **Increase Funding and Staffing for Claims Processing at the DVA**
Resolution No. 210 (AZ) 1994 NC: **Provide National Health Care on Indian Reservations**
Resolution No. 211 1994 NC: **Provide VAMC Patients with Phones**
Resolution No. 212 (AZ) 1994 NC: **Transfer VA Funds to Provide Cost of Eligible Veterans Care in Community Hospitals**
Resolution No. 213 (AZ) 1994 NC: **Proposal to Revise Claims Procedures**
Resolution No. 214 (AZ) 1994 NC: **Priority on Research for Radiation Exposure**
Resolution No. 224 (DC) 1994 NC: **Expand Existing Conditions of Illnesses from Radiation Exposure**
Resolution No. 237 (IN) 1994 NC: **Mandatory Health Care Coverage for Veterans and Dependents for 90 Days After Honorable Discharge**
Resolution No. 323 (FL) 1994 NC: **Support Adequate Funding for All Medical Research Programs**
Resolution No. 328 (MO) 1994 NC: **Extend Continuation of Health Care Coverage to Newly Discharged Veterans and Dependents**
Resolution No. 341 (OH) 1994 NC: **Provide Medical Care to Veterans who are Awaiting Adjudication on Service-Connected Claims**
Resolution No. 357 (AK) 1994 NC: **Support The American Legion Veterans Affairs Rehabilitation Commission Program**
Resolution No. 358 (AK) 1994 NC: **Oppose Any Cuts in VA Funding**

REJECTED

Resolution No. 42 (NE) 1994 NC: **Amend Title 38 to Provide Medical Care to all Veterans Serving at Least One Day**
Resolution No. 48 (ND) 1994 NC: **VA Payment for Emergency Medical Care for POWs**
Resolution No. 63 (MT) 1994 NC: **Congress be Provided Same Health Care Options as all Citizens**
Resolution No. 80 (PA) 1994 NC: **Support Legislation Increasing Veterans Benefits**
Resolution No. 228 (PI) 1994 NC: **The American Legion Support Eight Bills Currently in Congress Regarding Philippine Benefits**
Resolution No. 229 (PI) 1994 NC: **Support Legislation to Repeal the Rescission Act of 1946 by Passage of Certain Bills**
Resolution No. 230 (PI) 1994 NC: **Extend Certain Benefits to Naturalized Citizens Residing in the Philippines**
Resolution No. 356 (AK) 1994 NC: **DVA Provide Medical Care for all Veterans**

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN STELLAR: Mr. Commander, as a Delegate from the Department of Ohio, I move the adoption of this report of the VA&R Convention Committee.

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER OHL: It's been moved. Do I hear a second? All those in favor signify by the usual voting sign.

The report of the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation is adopted.

PRESENTATION OF THE WILLIAM F. LENKER NATIONAL SERVICE TROPHY

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER OHL: With the adoption of the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Report, it is appropriate to announce the winner of the William F. Lenker National Service Trophy. This trophy is awarded annually to the Department which best supports and implements programs to benefit veterans, their families and their survivors. For the 1993-94 Program Year, the trophy is awarded to the Department of Vermont.

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER OHL: The Chair recognizes George W. Boucek of Illinois, Chairman of the National Convention Committee on Finance for the purpose of making a report.

REPORT OF THE NATIONAL CONVENTION COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
George W. Boucek (IL), Chairman

Commander Ohl and fellow Delegates of this Convention. Forty-five (45) members met at the Minneapolis Convention Center, Room 103F, at 9:00 A.M., September 4, 1994, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Paul M. Allen (MN), National Finance Director, opened the meeting as staff liaison, and announced that nominations were in order for Chairman and Secretary. George W. Boucek (IL) was elected Chairman, and Anthony J. Minei (NY) was elected Secretary by unanimous vote.

The Committee heard from John Greenwald, Editor of *The American Legion Magazine*, who is filling in for Dan Wheeler, the Publisher/Editor-in-Chief. Mr. Wheeler is on leave of absence to be President of the Citizens Flag Alliance, Inc.

Mr. Greenwald reported that 1994 will be one the best years in the history of *The American Legion Magazine*, if not the best year. The Magazine is projecting for 1994 that advertising revenues will be at least $500,000 more than the $8,000,000 that was budgeted. Through the October issue, total advertising is up 81 pages over last year and 50 pages ahead of goal. Eight out of nine issues hit an all-time revenue high. Most of that growth comes from new business, especially from general advertisers.

Through the July issue, the Magazine was $64,000 below budget. With the bulk of advertising revenue expected in the remaining months, the Magazine expects to end the year about $700,000 in the black. Postal costs increased by a small amount in 1994, but the Magazine anticipates a 20 percent, or $800,000 rise in second class postage for 1995 and a 7 percent increase in the price of paper.

The Chairman then introduced National Treasurer, Webber LaGrange (IN), who announced a new membership benefit, The American Legion Annuity Program, through Jackson National Life. The first year interest is 10.5 percent. He also informed the

Committee the MBNA/American Legion Visa and MasterCard Program, which was started in October 1987, will have generated $10,000,000 of income to our organization by October of this year. Additionally, MBNA on October 21, 1994 will discontinue the annual fee to our members and that may very well boost participation.

Another few financial program is the corporate MasterCard business program for Departments and Posts. This method provides excellent audit trail and management reports. For those of you that are interested in these programs they have exhibit booths set up in Hall 2.

Chairman Boucek reported that the certified audit shows a deficit of $1,613,864 for the year ending December 31, 1993.

A motion was made by Silas Noel (KY) that the per capita dues for 1995 remain at $9.00, $6.50 for the General Fund and $2.50 for *The American Legion Magazine*. Don Desch (WI) seconded the motion and it was adopted by unanimous vote.

Mark Cooper (OR) made a motion to empower the Chairman and the Secretary to write and/or amend the report on behalf of the Convention Committee on Finance. Thomas O'Conner (PA) seconded the motion, which was adopted by unanimous vote.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:40 A.M.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN BOUCEK: As a Delegate to this Convention from the Department of Illinois, I move that this report be accepted and approved.

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER OHL: It's been moved and seconded. All those in favor signify by the usual voting sign of Aye; opposed same sign.

The Convention Committee report on Finance is adopted.

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER OHL: The Chair recognizes Joe Frank, Chairman of the National Convention Committee on Foreign Relations, for the purpose of making a report.

REPORT OF NATIONAL CONVENTION COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS
Joseph J. Frank (MO), Chairman

At 8:30 a.m., Sunday, September 4, 1994, 47 Delegates and Alternates assigned to the Convention Committee on Foreign Relations met in Room 208 C, D of the Minneapolis Convention Center in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Mr. Joseph J. Frank (Missouri) was elected Chairman and Mr. Robert Bowen (Virginia) was appointed Secretary.

Following this initial meeting, five Ad Hoc Administrative Convention Subcommittees met in separate locations to consider the resolutions which had been assigned to them. The following were appointed Chairmen:

General Foreign Policy:	Chairman A.J. Forestiere (Arkansas)
European Affairs:	Chairman Dick Pfaffinger (Minnesota)
Far Eastern Affairs:	Chairman Keith Baker (Iowa)
Inter-American Affairs:	Chairman George D. Triplett (Mexico)
Middle Eastern & African Affairs:	Chairman Vinton R. Guy (Colorado)

At 10:00 a.m. Sunday, September 4, 1994, 46 Delegates and Alternates assigned to the Convention Committee on Foreign Relations met in Room 208 C, D of the Minneapolis Convention Center for a final meeting of the Convention Committee on Foreign Relations. At this meeting, motions were approved authorizing the committee chairman and secretary to make technical corrections to the resolutions reported out of the committee to ensure proper wording and form, but without changing the substance or meaning of the resolutions. Reports of all Convention Ad Hoc Administrative Subcommittees were read and their recommended actions on resolutions considered. A total of 40 resolutions was assigned to the Convention Committee on Foreign Relations and 12 resolutions were originated by the Committee.

The following Ad Hoc Subcommittee reports contain resolutions which will, in conjunction with resolutions previously adopted, provide an effective and viable foreign relations program for The American Legion. That program will fully support a strong and dynamic U.S. foreign policy to promote democracy around the world and discharge America's responsibility in the continuing struggle to defend and promote liberty.

The first report is from Chairman A. J. Forestiere of Arkansas, General Foreign Policy.

GENERAL FOREIGN POLICY
A.J. Forestiere (AR), Chairman

RECOMMENDED ACTION ON RESOLUTIONS
APPROVED

Resolution No. 172: Foreign Aid
Origin: ID
Submitted By: Foreign Relations
As amended

WHEREAS, It becomes the concern of The American Legion that monies earned in these United States are spent to aid foreign countries; and

WHEREAS, Much of the money spent by these nations has been to promote animosity and hatred of the United States; and

WHEREAS, There are many needs for this money to provide assistance for our own needs and the shortages of our economy; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion recognizes that all our efforts to help others, falls flat to educate and train them to help themselves, that they are prevented to put their new-found knowledge into practice by the regimes in control; and

WHEREAS, Our own efforts to control this is to require a full accounting on how the funds are spent. We are not the money tree some people and nations think; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion recommends that the U.S. Government discontinue the extending of foreign aid unless there is an accounting of how the funds are being used.

Resolution No. 206: Flying POW/MIA Flag
Origin: NY
Submitted By: Foreign Relations

As amended

WHEREAS, The United States of America has been involved in at least four wars this century; and

WHEREAS, Thousand, of Americans served in the Armed Forces of the United States of America overcoming many great hardships; and

WHEREAS, Many who fought made the supreme sacrifice for their country and its high ideals; and

WHEREAS, Unfortunately, there are those who never returned home; they are those POW/MIA; and

WHEREAS, There has never been a satisfactory accounting of those POW/MIAs; and

WHEREAS, It is incumbent upon every American to remember the plight of the POW/MIAs; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion calls upon all Americans to fly the POW/MIA flag until a satisfactory accounting of every POW/MIA is completed.

Resolution No. 279: Care of Hostages
Origin: MD
Submitted By: Foreign Relations
As amended

WHEREAS, Each month, veterans' magazines contain ads by persons who served this nation with honor trying to locate witnesses to help establish their eligibility for treatment for injuries sustained in service to this country; and

WHEREAS, Some honorably discharged veterans are turned away daily from VA facilities because they cannot prove eligibility, they make too much money, or there are inadequate care capabilities; and

WHEREAS, Recently, some private citizens who ignored U.S. Government warnings to leave politically troubled areas were taken hostage; and

WHEREAS, Some hostages were treated at military hospitals and VA facilities to the exclusion of veterans for whom these services were intended; and

WHEREAS, Each time a returned civilian hostage is treated at a veterans' facility it takes away time, money, and services from the veterans to which this nation owes its existence; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion urges Congress to enact legislation that would make individual civilians and/or their employers responsible for all expenses incurred to extricate such individual from a hostage situation if they remained in harm's way after due warning by the U.S. Government; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion believes no veterans' facility should be used to treat or house any such civilian hostage or their families at the expense of the taxpayer.

Resolution No. 280: Information on America
Origin: MD
Submitted By: Foreign Relations
As amended

WHEREAS, Hundreds of millions of people in many countries do not have access to

objective news reports, lack accurate information about democracy, free enterprise, and American life and are subjected to extensive propaganda and disinformation; and

WHEREAS, Despite the disintegration of the Soviet Bloc, a major need still exists for the United States to communicate the good news about Western ideals and encourage democracy and free enterprise; and

WHEREAS, Pressures continually exist to reduce spending for international information activities; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion urges the U.S. Government to provide adequate funds to conduct an effective international program to provide other nations with objective news, information about the blessings of democracy and the free enterprise system, and accurate reporting about suppression of freedom and international aggression.

Resolution No. 281: Nuclear Proliferation
Origin: MD
Submitted By: Foreign Relations
As amended

WHEREAS, The nuclear club now includes several nations: the United States, Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhistan, Belorussia, Great Britain, France, People's Republic of China, Pakistan, and India; and

WHEREAS, Several other nations are believed to be very close to possessing nuclear weapons, and many other nations will acquire the knowledge to manufacture nuclear weapons in coming decades; and

WHEREAS, Nuclear proliferation is contrary to U.S. national interests because the spread of nuclear weapons will complicate national strategic planning, impede arms control, and increase the possibility of nuclear weapons being used for terrorism or blackmail; and

WHEREAS, Several desirable, but imperfect, steps have been taken to prevent nuclear proliferation, including: International Atomic Energy Agency (1958), to promote and regulate peaceful uses of nuclear power; Nonproliferation Treaty (1970), to halt the spread of nuclear weapons; and U.S. Nuclear Proliferation Act (1976), to ensure U.S. nuclear exports are used for peaceful purposes; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion urges the U.S. Government to take all reasonable steps to halt nuclear proliferation.

Resolution No. 318: Veterans Preference Overseas
Origin: KS
Submitted By: Foreign Relations
As amended

WHEREAS, By law veterans are granted certain preference in Federal Civil Service employment; and

WHEREAS, By law certain emphasis is placed on the employment of veterans by firms under federal contract; and

WHEREAS, These federally mandated benefits are not fully applicable overseas because they are lost or are not adequately addressed in treaty negotiations with foreign governments; and

WHEREAS, Employment prefcrence overseas in some cases, is given instead to the local nationals because of a now outdated concept of boosting the local economy; and

WHEREAS, Now the United States economy needs boosting by employing U.S. citizens overseas who in turn pay United States taxes on income derived from the U.S. Government but local national employees do not pay such taxes; and

WHEREAS, In most cases, and especially with the Department of Defense, the veteran has previous experience with the Government which makes him or her more qualified than a non-veteran for those positions for which the veteran is not presently permitted to compete; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion urges Congress to enact legislation requiring the Department of State and the Department of Defense to ensure the protection of veterans' employment benefits in all future treaty negotiations, renegotiations, amendments or adjustments of any nature with foreign nations.

Resolution No. 330: Regulation of Lobbying
Origin: MO
Submitted By: Foreign Relations
As amended

WHEREAS, The United States is the most powerful nation in the world, and because of this power almost all of the world's countries want to influence U.S. policies and programs for their own selfish interests; and

WHEREAS, Foreign nations are buying the services of influential Americans, specifically former members of Congress and former senior officials in the executive branch for enormous sums of money to gain knowledge of U.S. Government objectives, capabilities, politics, programs, and negotiating strategies; and

WHEREAS, These agents, through their contacts and influence with key members of the White House, Congress, administrative departments, Senate and House committees and subcommittees, attempt to and do gain information and decisions from these sources which benefit their foreign employers greatly, but in many instances is detrimental to the interests of the United States militarily, economically and security wise; and

WHEREAS, The reason for these efforts on the part of American agents has only one answer, money. For example, 1000 Washington lobbyists work on behalf of the Japanese at an annual cost to Japan of $30 million for salaries and expenses. One can only imagine what the returns must be for Japan; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion believes there should be acts requiring (1) complete and accurate disclosure requirements for all foreign and U.S. lobbyists; (2) reasonable post-restriction requirements for former members of the executive and legislative branches; (3) restrictions on floor privileges in Congress of former members who become U.S. or foreign lobbyists; (4) measures to help ensure that U.S. lobbyists in other countries receive equal access; (5) favorable considerations for foreign governments that grant reciprocal privileges to American lobbyists; and (6) a federal government office to administer and enforce the acts.

Resolution No. 331: America's Future
Origin: MO

Submitted By: Foreign Relations
As amended

WHEREAS, The major international goals long sought by The American Legion--democracy and deterrence of general war--are closer to realization than ever before; and

WHEREAS, Far-reaching worldwide changes now occurring are altering Americans' perception of the threats to their security and making it imperative for the United States to adjust its grand strategy in light of new realities and future challenges as we prepare for the new millennium; and

WHEREAS, Ideas of democracy and market economics are gaining increasing acceptance around the world, thereby creating new hopes of peace and prosperity for mankind; and

WHEREAS, Nuclear and regional military threats still confront the Free World and transnational issues such as terrorism and drugs still confront civilization; and

WHEREAS, The collapse of the Soviet bloc, demands for democracy in Eastern Europe, ethnic warfare, expansion of Japanese economic power, movement toward European unity, and growing international interdependence jointly create a new political and economic situation in the world; and

WHEREAS, The United States faces serious economic challenges through the relative decline of American economic influence in the world, trade and budget deficits which threaten to limit future prosperity, and worldwide economic competition; and

WHEREAS, As Americans search for a new definition of America's world role, they must forge a bipartisan consensus providing focus, continuity, and wise use of limited national resources for national security-foreign policy purposes; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion, as a grassroots organization reaching throughout the land, recognizes the unprecedented changes sweeping the world and urges the U.S. Government to adopt a bipartisan national security-foreign policy of "Democratic Activism" promoting democratic values, maintaining adequate military strength to deter or defeat aggression, cooperating with allies, encouraging free and fair trade, and assisting developing nations.

Resolution No. 336: United States Foreign Policy
Origin: MO
Submitted By: Foreign Relations
As amended

WHEREAS, Members of The American Legion, as veterans of wartime service in the defense of liberty, have a special concern for maintaining peace with freedom and recognize that a strong U.S. foreign policy is vital in that regard; and

WHEREAS, The official concern of The American Legion stems from that part of the Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion which states: "We associate ourselves together...to make right the master of might; to promote peace and goodwill on earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy..."; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion believes that the objectives of U.S. foreign policy must be to maintain peace with freedom while preserving and promoting democracy; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That U.S. foreign policy should embody the following principles:

1. Recognition of U.S. responsibilities as leader of the Free World and of our heritage and traditions.
2. Dedication to achievement of world peace with freedom, secured by a peace through strength posture.
3. Active promotion of democracy.
4. Support for human rights in other countries.
5. Participation in essential collective security alliances, provided our allies contribute their fair share.
6. Use of national resources in critical world regions to achieve U.S. national interests.
7. Negotiation of equitable, verifiable arms control agreements which improve U.S. national security.
8. Opposition to the spread of nuclear, chemical or biological weapons or long-range ballistic missiles.
9. Determined opposition to international terrorism and drug trafficking.
10. Support for responsible international organizations that are consistent with U.S. sovereignty and serve U.S. national interests.
11. Participation in an increasingly interdependent Free World trading system based on fair and equitable trading practices.
12. Recognition that the world basically operates on a national basis; consequently, U.S. sovereignty must not be abridged unless required by important U.S. national security interests.
13. Recognition that the President must be the chief architect of U.S. foreign policy as envisioned in the U.S. Constitution, while Congress performs important functions of advice and oversight.

Resolution No. 337: United Nations
Origin: MO
Submitted By: Foreign Relations
As amended

WHEREAS, The United Nations is assuming a much larger role in peacekeeping operations; and

WHEREAS, The United States provides the greatest assessed share of the UN budget and provides an even higher percentage of voluntary contributions to some UN special programs, and the United Nations is seeking an increasing U.S. role in peacekeeping operations; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Constitution gives Congress the power to raise military forces and gives the President command authority over them; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion urges the Administration to continue seeking effective, equitable, efficient UN operations consistent with the UN Charter's stated purposes; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion believes U.S. military forces should not be placed under foreign command during UN peacekeeping operations, unless vital American national interests require such action.

Resolution No. 401: Priority POW/MIA Actions
Origin: Foreign Relations
Submitted By: Foreign Relations

WHEREAS, The American Legion is convinced, based on available evidence, that American POWs were detained by Vietnam after Operation Homecoming in 1973, and there is sufficient evidence to lead us to believe there is a better than average probability of American POWs still being held in Indochina today; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion believes U.S. Government POW/MIA operations are still inadequate, and the President's lifting of the Vietnam embargo did not achieve substantially greater progress; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion believes the following priority actions should be taken by the U.S. Government:

Centralize POW/MIA responsibilities in a powerful office reporting directly to the Secretary of Defense, remove the Defense Intelligence Agency from all POW/MIA responsibilities and make each military service responsible for its own POW/MIAs.

Provide necessary resources so field operations can be conducted at a maximum rate of activity with more timely follow-up of live sighting reports. Declassify all POW/MIA information (except that revealing intelligence sources or methods) in a form readily available to public review.

Reassign responsibilities for identification of remains from the U.S. Army Central Identification Laboratory, Hawaii to the Smithsonian Institution.

Provide adequate personnel and resources so that investigative efforts of World War II, Cold War, and Korean War POW/MIA situations can be broadened and accelerated.

Initiate or strengthen joint commissions with Russia, the People's Republic of China, and North Korea to increase POW/MIA recovery efforts.

Establish a centralized office responsible to keep POW/MIA families informed on their loved ones.

Establish a joint standing congressional committee on POW/MIA affairs to ensure continued action by the executive branch in addressing the POW/MIA issue.

Take further favorable actions toward Vietnam only after Hanoi provides the fullest possible accounting for POW/MIAs in Vietnam or in areas of Laos and Cambodia it controlled during the Vietnam War, however, maintain a degree of flexibility with respect to a continued U.S. presence in Vietnam and the provision of humanitarian assistance where such actions are helpful in finally resolving this issue.

Take favorable actions toward Laos or Cambodia only after those nations provide the fullest possible accounting for POW/MIAs.

"Fullest possible accounting" is defined as turning over live prisoners, repatriating remains of those who were killed in action or died in captivity, or providing a valid, conclusive report when neither is possible.

Resolution No. 402: The American Legion Policy on Activities Relating to Southeast Asia POWs and MIAs
Origin: Foreign Relations
Submitted By: Foreign Relations

WHEREAS, There are over 2,200 American servicemen and civilians who have yet to be accounted for in Southeast Asia subsequent to the end of the Vietnam war; and

WHEREAS, The POW/MIA issue has been of paramount concern to The American Legion as evidenced by the strong mandates adopted by its policy making bodies and active efforts to keep the spotlight on the importance of securing a full accounting for all POWs and MIAs carried out by Legionnaires across the nation during the past twenty-plus years; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion has called for increased efforts by the U.S. Government to ensure that this issue is treated as a principal national priority and to accelerate efforts in every honorable way to obtain the immediate release of Americans still held prisoner, the fullest possible accounting for those missing in action, and the repatriation of the remains of those who were killed in action or died in captivity; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion believes unequivocally that the POW/MIA issue must be handled with more openness and sincerity and that there is a need for increased accountability in the manner in which information relating to each case is documented, analyzed, and pursued by the U.S. Government; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion assist POW/MIA families and all others by ensuring that the Federal Government gives expeditious and sincere consideration to any evidence, reports, photographs, or other information relating to their loved ones; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion provide assistance to POW/MIA families and all others by assuring that the Federal Government provides all information it possesses on their POW/MIAs; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion explore and proceed if feasible with the provision of additional humanitarian assistance to various elements of Vietnamese society which would be useful in obtaining further cooperation toward the fullest possible accounting of American POW/MIAs; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That when it is deemed appropriate, The American Legion authorize officials to travel to Southeast Asia, including Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia, for the purpose of gathering information relative to the ongoing POW/MIA investigations and the manner in which they are being conducted.

Resolution No. 403: Missing Service Personnel
Origin: Foreign Relations
Submitted By: Foreign Relations

WHEREAS, Placing undue emphasis on passage of time and lacking proper opportunities for comment from family members, the present Missing Service Personnel Act is grossly inadequate and permits arbitrary classifications of killed in action; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion urges the Congress to enact legislation that would disallow passage of time as the sole basis of a death declaration for missing service personnel and would provide adequate opportunities for comments from family members.

Resolution No. 406: World War II, Cold War, and Korean War POW/MIAs
Origin: Foreign Relations
Submitted By: Foreign Relations

WHEREAS, Over 78,000 Americans from World War II and hundreds from the Cold War remain unaccounted for; and

WHEREAS, It is a prime responsibility of the U.S. Government to exert every effort after each war to obtain the release of all American POWs held by foreign powers; and

WHEREAS, Revelations by President Yeltsin and other evidence reveals that American POWs may still be held in the former Soviet Union; and

WHEREAS, The U.S.-Russian Joint Commission on POW/MIAs was established to investigate the POW/MIA issue in Russia; and

WHEREAS, At least 8,177 Americans remain unaccounted for after the Korea War (389 were classified as POWs at one time) and very little progress has been made by the U.S. Government in getting the North Koreans to cooperate fully in resolving their fates; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion strongly urges the U.S. Government to make a maximum effort to resolve the fate of unaccounted Americans from World War II, the Cold War, and the Korean War by obtaining the return of any live prisoners, the repatriation of remains and the fullest possible accounting for the missing; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion calls on the U.S. Government not to provide normalization or any type of aid to North Korea until it fully cooperates on POW/MIA matters.

Resolution No. 407: National Commission on Prisoner of War Policy
Origin: Foreign Relations
Submitted By: Foreign Relations
Consolidated with No. 77 (MT) and No. 144 (IL)

WHEREAS, The American Legion is an organization dedicated to the readiness and security of these United States during periods of peacetime; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the history of the United States, concerns of prisoners of war and missing in action servicemen have experienced a low priority during peace negotiations with belligerent nations; and

WHEREAS, The Geneva Convention Rules are "ancient history" to many adversary and non-participating nations; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion is fully aware that prisoners of war were subject

to inhumane treatment and torture in recent wars, where no prior POW agreement had been negotiated with that government in authority; and

WHEREAS, Those servicemen listed as Missing in Action have been in a "Black Hole of Oblivion," too often created by inept or misguided leadership within our own military or government; and

WHEREAS, Veterans and Americans, we will not rest until certain that this hell will never happen again; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion sponsor and support legislation calling for the President and the Congress to establish a Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Commission, comprised of individuals to include members of the nation's major veterans organizations, for the purpose of ascertaining during any peace negotiations between the United States and any belligerent powers that American POW/MIAs are all accounted for, treated properly, and released from captivity at the earliest possible moment; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That it is the strong view of The American Legion that no deals should be negotiated to the detriment of POW/MIAs which will leave even one individual behind in captivity longer than absolutely necessary to arrange for emergency medical care and transportation out of hostile territory; and be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion believes this Commission should be a standing entity to allow familiarity and interaction with other members of any future peace negotiation delegation to include Secretary of State, Secretary of Defense and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion urges the U.S. Government to seek appropriate changes to international laws and regulations relating to prisoners of war and missing in action.

Resolution No. 408: POW/MIA National Recognition Day
Origin: Foreign Relations
Submitted by: Foreign Relations

WHEREAS, During the past several years, two different days have been used for the recognition of POWs and MIAs with several states performing this recognition on the third Friday in September as proclaimed by the President pursuant to congressional resolutions (a day having no historical significance); and

WHEREAS, On April 9, 1942, General MacArthur's troops in the Philippines, under the Command of General Wainwright, surrendered to the Japanese and on that date the first American became POWs and MIAs in World War II and the most horrific death march in our history began; and

WHEREAS, It would appear that one day should be selected as a National POW/MIA Recognition Day in order that all states and all military, political, service, and social organizations could carry out their tributes on the same day; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion recommends and supports the designation by the U.S. Government of April 9 as POW/MIA National Recognition Day.

Resolution No. 409: International Lending Agencies and POW/ MIA Cooperation

Origin: Foreign Relations
Submitted by: Foreign Relations

WHEREAS, Congress annually appropriates billions of dollars of tax money to support the various international lending agencies with no strings attached; and

WHEREAS, These agencies make loans to governments of nations which are demonstrably and openly hostile to the United States, including some which are communist, or communist-dominated, some of which do not cooperate with our search for POW/MIAs of past years; and

WHEREAS, These agencies are under no obligation to account to the United States as to the investment of any funds received by such agencies including those funds contributed by the United States; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion strongly urge that future congressional appropriations to international lending agencies be contingent on such agencies' compliance with strict standards which would prohibit assistance to nations which give aid and comfort to hostile groups or which are demonstrably hostile to the United States, including communist and communist-dominated countries and countries which do not cooperate in our search for POW/MIAs of past wars.

REJECTED

Resolution No. 173 (ID) 1994 NC: General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade Treaty
Resolution No. 207 (AZ) 1994 NC: U.S. Withdrawal from the United Nations
Resolution No. 362 (ME) 1994 NC: World Government

CHAIRMAN FORESTIERE: Mr. Chairman, that completes the Report of the Ad Hoc Subcommittee on General Foreign Policy.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN FRANK: Thank you. At this time Dick Pfaffinger from Minnesota will give the Report on European Affairs.

EUROPEAN AFFAIRS
Dick Pfaffinger (MN), Chairman

RECOMMENDED ACTION ON RESOLUTIONS
APPROVED

Resolution No. 282: Canada
Origin: MD
Submitted by: Foreign Relations
As amended

WHEREAS, The United States and Canada have been at peace for over 200 years and have the longest arms-free border in the world; and

WHEREAS, The United States and Canada were allies in World War I and II and Korea and continue military cooperation in NATO and the North American Air and Space Defense Command; and

WHEREAS, Canada and the United States have the largest bilateral trade of any two nations in the world; and

WHEREAS, The United States and Canada are members of the North American Trade Agreement; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion believes the U.S. Government should pursue policies toward Canada which will provide for free trade, continued military cooperation, and cooperation in all endeavors which benefit both nations.

Resolution No. 283: Strategic Nuclear Policy
Origin: MD
Submitted by: Foreign Relations
As amended

WHEREAS, The American Legion has, for many years, recognized the utility of equitable nuclear arms control measures and, accordingly, has supported those which provide for effective unalterable guarantees for compliance, including on-site inspections by both sides; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion supports:

1. A United States nuclear deterrent force triad at least equivalent to opposing nuclear forces in all respects and capable of credibly deterring nuclear attack, or, if deterrence fails, achieving successful conflict resolution.
2. Continuation of United States underground nuclear testing as necessary to modernize nuclear offensive and defensive forces and to ensure the reliability of existing nuclear weapons.
3. Verifiable implementation of ratified nuclear arms control treaties.
4. Significant, mutual, verifiable reductions of strategic nuclear forces by opposing forces and the United States to equal levels, resulting in stable nuclear deterrence at lower levels of armaments and with a lessened likelihood of nuclear war.
5. Maximum emphasis on the equality and verifiability of any nuclear arms control measures, including effective, unalterable verification procedures going beyond national technical means to include on-site inspection by all sides.
6. Full integration of nuclear arms control into national security planning by the United States and its allies to ensure strategic stability and credible deterrence.

Resolution No. 284: Turkey
Origin: MD
Submitted by: Foreign Relations
As amended

WHEREAS, The security of the United States largely depends on the maintenance of freedom in Western Europe, which has endured for more than 40 years under the Atlantic Alliance; and

WHEREAS, It is imperative that this alliance be preserved through good relations and reasonable support of true friends in the region; and

WHEREAS, In addition to other necessary actions, particularly notable and worthy, is the support of Turkey continuing as a vital part of NATO through a Defense and Economic Cooperation Agreement between our two countries; and

WHEREAS, Turkey has demonstrated its friendship through consistently opposing

some 600,000 men under arms, but have the oldest equipment in NATO. Yet there is a potential in Congress to attach restrictions to aid for Turkey, (such as certification by the President on the Greek/Cypriot problem) which Turkish national pride may find objectionable; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994 That The American Legion supports aid to the modernization of Turkish armed forces in conformance with the Defense and Economic Cooperation Agreement, without attachment of restrictions unrelated to Turkey's membership in NATO, and urges that this important member of NATO be properly and adequately supported as a lasting friend of the United States.

Resolution No. 333: North Atlantic Treaty Organization
Origin: MO
Submitted by: Foreign Relations
As amended

WHEREAS, The North Atlantic Treaty Organization has preserved peace and stability in Europe for over forty years; and

WHEREAS, Membership in NATO serves U.S. interests; and

WHEREAS, The effectiveness of NATO has clearly been demonstrated by the revolutionary changes in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion urges the U.S. Government to maintain the forward deployment of adequate U.S. troops in NATO and to encourage our NATO allies to take those actions necessary to meet any threats to the security and stability of Europe and areas of common interest outside the North Atlantic Treaty area.

Resolution No. 335: Former Yugoslavia
Origin: MO
Submitted by: Foreign Relations
As amended

WHEREAS, Since the dissolution of Yugoslavia in 1991-1992 ethnic warfare has raged as various groups try to control more territory, suppress opposing groups, and settle old scores; and

WHEREAS, The United States has no national interests at stake in former Yugoslavia; and

WHEREAS, History shows that foreign nations intervening in this region have been unsuccessful in imposing lasting political solutions and that the indigenous people, aided by extremely difficult terrain, have the capacity to wage relentless, costly guerrilla warfare against any intervening power; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion urges the U.S. Government not to get militarily involved in former Yugoslavia but to provide humanitarian assistance to relieve human suffering.

Resolution No. 410: Eastern Europe

Origin: Foreign Relations
Submitted by: Foreign Relations

WHEREAS, Following World War II the Soviet Union unlawfully subjugated Eastern Europe, imposing a brutal system of totalitarian communist control which persecuted the people, wrecked the economies, integrated satellite military forces into the Warsaw Pact, and used regional resources to support Soviet aggression in many parts of the world; and

WHEREAS, In the Revolution of 1989 the people of Eastern Europe expressed their yearnings for democracy, individual rights, peace with freedom, and free enterprise; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion supports democracy and free enterprise in Eastern Europe and calls upon the U.S. Government to provide aid, technical assistance, and moral leadership to encourage development of this important region.

Resolution No. 411: Relations with the Former Soviet Union
Origin: Foreign Relations
Submitted by: Foreign Relations

WHEREAS, Efforts to bring democracy, market economics, and peaceful foreign policies to the former Soviet Union have proceeded in an erratic manner and must overcome great political, social, and economic problems; and

WHEREAS, The former Soviet Union still possesses formidable military forces, especially strategic nuclear forces; and

WHEREAS, Integration of the successor states of the former Soviet Union into the world community of nations as peaceful, democratic nations would enhance U.S. national security; and

WHEREAS, There continues to be evidence that U.S. POWs were transshipped to the USSR during World War II as well as the Korean and Vietnam Wars; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion urges the U.S. Government to welcome substantive changes that help bring democracy, market economics, and peaceful foreign policies to the former Soviet Union and to extend economic aid and technical assistance to encourage and assist in such changes; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion calls upon the U.S. government to strongly urge the former Soviet Union to increase its cooperation on the POW/MIA issue.

CHAIRMAN PFAFFINGER: Mr. Chairman, that completes the report of the Ad Hoc Subcommittee on European Affairs.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN FRANK: Thank you. The next report is from Chairman Keith Baker of Iowa on Far Eastern Affairs.

FAR EASTERN AFFAIRS
Keith Baker (IA), Chairman

RECOMMENDED ACTION ON RESOLUTIONS
APPROVED

Resolution No. 18: North Korea
Origin: TN
Submitted by: Foreign Relations
As amended

WHEREAS, The North Korean government has denied UN inspectors access to inspect fully its nuclear program; and

WHEREAS, The North Korean government has threatened war against the Republic of Korea, Japan and the United States should sanctions be imposed; and

WHEREAS, The Administration has vacillated in its dealings with North Korea; and

WHEREAS, There has now developed an imminent possibility of a second Korean War; and

WHEREAS, Over 36,000 United States Troops are in probable jeopardy from an attack across the demilitarized zone separating North and South Korea; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion urges the Administration not to attack North Korea without authorization from Congress, which alone has authority to declare war; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion believes before sanctions are imposed, the Administration should demand full mobilization of South Korea; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion urges the Administration to admonish North Korea that, if they attack the Republic of Korea, the war would not end in a stalemate and eventual truce but would result in ultimate disaster for North Korea.

Resolution No. 233: Support of Republic of Korea
Origin: PI
Submitted by: Foreign Relations
As amended

WHEREAS, The Republic of Korea is politically and militarily vital to the United States and to the defense and stability of the Pacific and Asian regions; and

WHEREAS, There are numerous treaties in force with the Republic of Korea, concerning aviation, consular affairs, defense, economic and technical cooperation, education, finance, fisheries, maritime matters, trade and commerce, and especially the Mutual Defense Treaty which was entered into force on November 17, 1954; and

WHEREAS, Both South and North Korea signed the Agreement on Reconciliation, Nonaggression, and Exchanges and Cooperation December 13, 1991, and North Korea still maintains an extremely large, modern military force capable of launching offensive operation on short notice; and

WHEREAS, There is confirmation that until recently, North Korea was processing plutonium and had completed relocation of its processing plant secreting unknown quantities of plutonium enabling it to covertly develop nuclear weapons together with an improved, long-range SCUD missile delivery system; and

WHEREAS, These recognized capabilities and North Korea's strong intention not to accept special inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency pose an increased threat to world peace; and

WHEREAS, North Korea has substantially increased its military buildup, equipping its forces with high-tech weapons to include Soviet-built MIG-29 fighter aircraft and T-72

tanks, both far superior to the outmoded equipment in the South's arsenal; and

WHEREAS, The presence of a large contingent of U.S. ground and air forces in the Republic of Korea serves as a real deterrent to North Korea to precipitate aggression; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion believes the United States should increase its military aid and assistance to the Republic of Korea by providing modern state-of-the-art weapons and technology to safeguard her freedom, sustain her development, and promote security in the Pacific and Asian regions; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion believes the United States should provide a strong flexible military force in the Republic of Korea to vigorously respond to any military and/or political aggression by North Korea; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion believes the United States, in concert with its allies, should bring pressure to bear on North Korea to immediately cease its efforts to develop nuclear weapons and comply with the safeguard accord of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Resolution No. 334: Trade with Japan
Origin: MO
Submitted by: Foreign Relations
As amended

WHEREAS, The United States played a key role in Japan's reconstruction after World War II by putting a democratic constitution in place and stimulating the economy; and

WHEREAS, The United States has consistently had a trade deficit in dealings with Japan and has sought greater access to the Japanese market; and

WHEREAS, Serious trade problems exist between Japan and the United States, and Japan has frequently failed to fulfill economic promises it has made to the United States; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion believes the U.S. Government should make a determined effort to encourage Japan to follow equitable trading practices between itself and the United States; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion urges Congress to cut Japan's car exporting to the U.S. unless Japan eliminates its huge and continuing annual trade surplus with the United States.

Resolution No. 355: Republic of China on Taiwan
Origin: AK
Submitted by: Foreign Relations
As amended

WHEREAS, The Republic of China on Taiwan is a long-time friend and ally of the United States, is a democratic and free enterprise regime, and is the sixth-largest trading partner of the United States; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Sun Yat-sen, the Founding Father of the Republic of China, established the government of the Republic of China under The Three Principles of the People, which are compatible with those principles enunciated by the Founding Fathers of the United States; and

WHEREAS, Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek, as the leader of the Republic of China, closely cooperated with the United States during World War II against Japanese Imperialism; and

WHEREAS, The Chinese Communists conquered the Chinese mainland in 1949 and are in a position to threaten Taiwan militarily; and

WHEREAS, The Taiwan Relations Act, (Public Law 96-8), commits the government of the United States to provide defense articles and services to the Republic of China, such that Taiwan can maintain a sufficient self-defense capability; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion supports the peaceful reunification of China under the Three Principles of the People; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion supports the decisions by Congress:

1. To remove any arms sales limitations against Taiwan; and
2. To ensure that the military provisions of the Taiwan Relations Act take precedence over any subsequent agreements with the Chinese Communists.

Resolution No. 412: People's Republic of China Trade Status
Origin: Foreign Relations
Submitted by: Foreign Relations

WHEREAS, The People's Republic of China (PRC) has committed naked aggression against her own people who have demonstrated for their freedom; and

WHEREAS, The PRC has imprisoned its citizens who have participated in these demonstrations and has held forced indoctrination classes on communist loyalty in her schools and colleges; and

WHEREAS, There is a significant amount of information that American POWs were transferred to the PRC after the Korean War and Vietnam War; and

WHEREAS, The PRC uses forced labor in the production of some of its products; and

WHEREAS, We as citizens of a free nation and members of The American Legion deplore the restriction of individual freedom; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion calls upon the Congress of the United States to reject a "most-favored-nation trade status" for the People's Republic of China unless it ceases human rights violations against its own people, provides an acceptable accounting of American POW/MIAs from the Korean War and the Vietnam War, engages in fair trading practices, and cooperates in limiting proliferation of nuclear weapons.

Resolution No. 413: Support for Vietnam Assistance for the Handicapped
Origin: Foreign Relations
Submitted by: Foreign Relations

WHEREAS, Members of the United States Armed Forces fought alongside the military units of the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) for over ten years; and

WHEREAS, After the fall of Saigon in 1975, hundreds of thousands of ARVN members were either killed or banished to "reeducation camps" where they were treated worse than criminals; and

WHEREAS, Although the government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam claims

to have now released the ARVN members from reeducation camps, they are treated not as veterans, but as non-entities, who perform mostly menial jobs for a minute amount of money when able to get work; and

WHEREAS, Many of the ARVN members are amputees only able to ambulate with antiquated and barely functional prostheses: and

WHEREAS, A nonprofit organization located in McLean, Virginia - Viet-Nam Assistance for the Handicapped (VNAH) - since January, 1992 has provided over 7,000 artificial limbs and 500 wheelchairs to amputees, over 70% of whom were our former ARVN allies; and

WHEREAS, VNAH is the only humanitarian organization that assures assistance to such a large number of former ARVN members; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion has traditionally provided assistance and comradeship to former allies of the U.S. armed forces; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion supports the operation of the Viet-Nam Assistance for the Handicapped, so as to help in providing functional prosthetic appliances to our former ARVN allies who had limbs amputated during the Vietnam War, assistance for certain displaced children in Vietnam and vocational training for certain Vietnamese veterans.

Resolution No. 414: Promoting Democracy in Vietnam
Origin: Foreign Relations
Submitted by: Foreign Relations

WHEREAS, The basic mandated national security-foreign policy of The American Legion is "Democratic Activism," among other things calling for promoting democratic values overseas; and

WHEREAS, *"The National Security Strategy of the United States,"* published in July 1994, calls democracy "The best way to advance America's interests worldwide is to enlarge the community of democracies and free markets throughout the world."; and

WHEREAS, The people of Vietnam are still ruled by a hard-line communist clique that--despite permitting minor economic and political liberalization--retains its tight political control of the Vietnamese government and runs roughshod over the human rights of the Vietnamese people whenever this suits its purposes; and

WHEREAS, The communist rulers of Vietnam have cruelly manipulated the POW/MIA issue, grudgingly cooperating only when absolutely forced to do so; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion urges the U.S. Government not to normalize relations with Vietnam or grant most favored nation status or any further type of economic aid until such time as Vietnam adopts a democratic form of government and practices respect for the human rights of all citizens of Vietnam.

CHAIRMAN BAKER: Mr. Chairman, that completes the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Far Eastern Affairs.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN FRANK: Thank you. The next report is from Alternate National Executive Committeeman John D. Hayes of Mexico, substituting for Chairman George D. Triplett of Mexico, Inter-American Affairs.

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS
George Triplett (MX), Chairman

RECOMMENDED ACTION ON RESOLUTIONS
APPROVED

Resolution No. 28: Extension of Medicare Benefits to United States Citizens Living Abroad
Origin: MX
Submitted by: Foreign Relations
As amended

WHEREAS, The Administration is actively seeking ways to reduce Medicare and veterans' medical costs, and it was the initial intent of Congress and of the Administration that the benefits of the 1935 Social Security Act be extended to all citizens of the United States; and

WHEREAS, A significant number of U.S. citizens living abroad are veterans eligible for Medicare coverage, but do not presently receive benefits for medical services received in their country of residence; and

WHEREAS, Travel to and from the United States by these U.S. citizens for medical treatment is both costly and time consuming; and

WHEREAS, When Legion members, U.S. veterans, and other Americans living abroad return to the United States for medical treatment they are frequently admitted to in-patient or domiciliary facilities at Medicare and V.A. expense for what would otherwise be out-patient treatment; and

WHEREAS, Most developed countries currently have hospital and/or out-patient facilities equal or superior to medical facilities in the United States, and physician and nurses training is equal as evidenced by the number of U.S. physicians whose expertise was acquired abroad; and

WHEREAS, The charges for hospitalization, physicians services, pharmaceuticals and other medical expenses provided in most foreign countries are frequently less than one-half the usual and customary charges paid by Medicare or the Veterans Administration in the United States; and

WHEREAS, The Department of State is presently providing certification of medical facilities and physicians to the Department of Veterans Affairs, and could as readily provide the same for Medicare; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion urges the United States Government to extend the scope of the Medicare Program to pay for medical services rendered to eligible recipients by health care providers located outside the United States.

Resolution No. 30: Mexico
Origin: MX
Submitted by: Foreign Relations
As amended

WHEREAS, The United States and Mexico are historic neighbors with a common heritage and thousands of miles of common boundary; and

WHEREAS, The United States Congress and the Executive Branch have entered into the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) with Mexico; and

WHEREAS, College scholarships and educational exchanges go a long way in breaking international barriers and promoting good will and understanding; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion urges the U.S. Government to increase its emphasis on Mexican-U.S. cooperative endeavors on all fronts to enhance the prosperity and security of both nations as well as that of the Western Hemisphere; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion urges the U.S. Government to provide an increased number of scholarships to Mexicans, particularly those lacking funds to attend undergraduate and appropriate vocational-technical programs, provided said students must be required to return to Mexico after completing their education; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion believes a student exchange program between Mexico and the United States should be conducted to acquaint the future leaders of both countries with their neighbors.

Resolution No. 31: Enterprise for the Americas Initiative
Origin: MX
Submitted by: Foreign Relations
As amended

WHEREAS, On June 27, 1990, the U.S. Government announced a proposed new approach to increase economic development in Latin America and the Caribbean called the Enterprise for the Americas Initiative (EAI); and

WHEREAS, The EAI seeks to establish a free trade zone in the Western Hemisphere, increase foreign investment throughout the area, and cancel $12 billion in debts owed to the U.S. Government by Latin American nations that enact free market reforms; and

WHEREAS, The EAI represents a new approach toward stimulating regional prosperity by relying on economic reform and investment rather than monetary aid to accomplish its goals; and

WHEREAS, Some initial steps in the EAI have been accomplished, but much more remains to be done on this long-term program; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion supports participation by the United States in the Enterprise for Americas Initiative seeking to enhance growth and cooperation throughout Latin America and the Caribbean.

Resolution No. 32: War on Drugs in Latin America
Origin: MX
Submitted by: Foreign Relations
As amended

WHEREAS, At the Cartagena Drug Summit in 1990 in Cartagena, Colombia called by then President Barco of Colombia, the United States and six Latin American nations (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru and Venezuela) agreed to a comprehensive plan of action to reduce the supply of illegal narcotics and the demand for them within the Western Hemisphere; and

WHEREAS, The Cartagena agreements, reaffirmed and expanded in the San Antonio Drug Summit in February, 1992, in San Antonio, Texas, called by then President Bush of the United States, encompass a vast array of weapons in the battle to stop the devastating traffic in illegal drugs including eradication, crop substitution, education, police training and economic assistance; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion urges the U.S. Government Executive Branch to cooperate fully with Latin American nations to destroy the international traffic in illegal drugs and to provide appropriate economic assistance to aid in this vital endeavor; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion urges the U.S. Congress to provide adequate funds to support this program.

Resolution No. 34: Cuban Drug Trafficking
Origin: MX
Submitted by: Foreign Relations
As amended

WHEREAS, Reports in the United States have documented the involvement of officials of the Government of Cuba in international drug trafficking; and

WHEREAS, An impressive array of testimony on the Government of Cuba's involvement in drug trafficking has been placed in the public record; and

WHEREAS, The cultivation of marijuana in Cuba has been described as an official state operation, protected by special military forces; and

WHEREAS, Cuban air strips and waters are safe havens for drug traffickers; and

WHEREAS, Drug traffickers are permitted to land in Cuba and to shift drugs to boats and planes in preparation for entry of such cargo into the United States; and

WHEREAS, Cuba has provided various other assistance, including the protection of Cuban military security forces, to assist illegal drug operations in other countries, particularly certain Caribbean nations; and

WHEREAS, The problem of illicit drugs in the United States is seriously worsened by the complicity of Cuba in international drug trafficking; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That the Congress and the President should condemn the role of Cuba in international drug trafficking and seek to curtail such activities in any way possible.

Resolution No. 35: Cuba
Origin: MX
Submitted by: Foreign Relations
As amended

WHEREAS, The communist government of Cuba has ruined the Cuban economy, repressed the Cuban people, provided a base area for forces inimical to the United States, and committed aggression in many lands; and

WHEREAS, Following the demise of the Soviet Union and the liberation of Eastern Europe, Cuba has lost the sources of foreign subsidies that alone sustained its inefficient communist economy; and

WHEREAS, If the Free World remains in its rejection of communism in Cuba, many

economic, social, and political indicators point to the likely collapse of the Castro dictatorship in Cuba; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion urges the U.S. Government to continue and intensify economic sanctions against Cuba, maintain control of Guantanamo Bay Naval Base, continue intelligence overflights over Cuba, remain firm in opposition to export of revolution by Cuba, continue broadcasting true news and information to the Cuban people, and encourage the development of democracy and a free market economy in Cuba.

Resolution No. 36: Central America
Origin: MX
Submitted by: Foreign Relations
As amended

WHEREAS, Over the past decade Central America has made great strides toward establishing democratic societies; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion has taken a great interest in supporting democracy, development, and security in this area so close to our borders and strategically situated between the naval lifeline between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, the Panama Canal, and one of our major trading partners, Mexico; and

WHEREAS, In the light of the decreasing threat from subversion in Central America as well as budget restrictions in the United States, it is inevitable that U.S. aid to Central America must be reduced; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion urges the U.S. Government to continue economic aid to friendly, democratic Central American nations which are seeking to develop democratic societies with market economies; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion recommends the U.S. Government provide only minimal amounts of military aid while urging nations in the Central American region to adopt the model of Costa Rica and Panama, disbanding military forces and relying solely on police forces for internal security, thus freeing funds for development and contributing to peaceful relations in the region.

Resolution No. 204: Haiti
Origin: NY
Submitted by: Foreign Relations
As amended and consolidated with No. 33 (MX)

WHEREAS, The American Legion is an organization of war veterans who have individually and collectively experienced the horrors of war first hand; and

WHEREAS, It has been historically demonstrated that America has been led into several politically driven military escapades, among them the war in Korea in which 54,246 young soldiers died and 8,177 are still unaccounted for in this futile pursuit of a war choreographed by politicians and diplomats; and

WHEREAS, The same scenario was repeated in Southeast Asia in which 58,135 young soldiers were killed and over 2,200 are still unaccounted for; and

WHEREAS, There were additional young American lives lost in the humanitarian effort in Somalia and additional wounded and tortured; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion urges the U.S. Government to use all legitimate peaceful means in conjunction with the United Nations and the Organization of American States to restore democracy to Haiti; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion urges the President and the Congress not to commit troops to Haiti.

Resolution No. 285: Panama Canal
Origin: MD
Submitted by: Foreign Relations
As amended and consolidated with No. 37 (MX)

WHEREAS, American ingenuity and funds coupled with hard work by thousands of Panamanians and citizens of the Caribbean Islands built the Panama Canal; and

WHEREAS, The Panama Canal is, and will remain, a vital seaway for U.S. commerce and naval operations; and

WHEREAS, The Panama Canal Treaties, signed on September 7, 1977 by the United States and Panama, provide for a gradual transition of the Panama Canal to Panamanian control in 2000 and permanent neutrality of the canal with the United States retaining freedom of action to maintain the canal's neutrality; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion believes:

1. The United States should take any necessary actions to ensure Panama will be able to operate the Panama Canal efficiently after Panama assumes control in the year 2000.
2. The United States should take any necessary actions to ensure that the Panama Canal is operated efficiently and in a manner consistent with U.S. national security interests.
3. Construction of a new canal or major improvements in the existing Panama Canal should be consistent with U.S. national security interests.
4. The United States should seek agreement with Panama to continue stationing U.S. forces in Panama after the year 2000 to protect the Panama Canal as well as evolving democratic nations in the region.
5. The United States should encourage democratic evolution in Panama to help provide stability and a better, freer life for Panamanians.

Resolution No. 286: Panama Canal Treaties
Origin: MD
Submitted by: Foreign Relations
As amended and consolidated with No. 29 (MX)

WHEREAS, In 1977 the United States entered into two treaties with Panama transferring full control of the Panama Canal to Panama in 2000 and guaranteeing its neutrality; and

WHEREAS, A decade later, disagreement persists as to whether or not those treaties (as amended) were fully and constitutionally ratified by either Panama or the United States and, therefore, whether or not the U.S. and Panamanian additions are binding. Chief among them whether or not the United States has the unilateral right to defend the Canal from

internal threats within Panama to its safety and operation, as well as from external threats; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion requests the President of the United States to call upon the U.S. Senate to promptly undertake intensive hearings, with full debate, for the purpose of reexamining the 1977 Treaties with Panama and our rights and commitments thereunder, with an eye to recommending renegotiating or renouncing them after having resolved once and for all the contradictions presently encumbering said treaties.

ALTERNATE NEC HAYES: Mr. Chairman, that completes the Report from the Ad Hoc Committee on Inter-American Affairs.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. The European Affairs Report was delivered by Dick Pfaffinger of Minnesota.

MIDDLE EASTERN AND AFRICAN AFFAIRS
Vinton R. Guy (CO), Chairman

RECOMMENDED ACTION ON RESOLUTIONS
APPROVED

Resolution No. 19: Middle East
Origin: CO
Submitted by: Foreign Relations
As amended

WHEREAS, The United States has a continuing national interest in creating conditions wherein Israel can exist as a recognized nation within secure borders, living in peace with its Arab neighbors and acting as a democratic ally of the United States; and

WHEREAS, Europe and Japan rely on the Middle East for a great deal of their petroleum, and the United States imports increasing amounts of petroleum from the area; and

WHEREAS, Restoration of Lebanese sovereignty and withdrawal of all foreign troops from Lebanon will contribute to stability in the area; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 9, 1994, That The American Legion urges the U.S. Government to adopt a comprehensive policy for the Middle East to achieve the following objectives:

1. A secure Israel living within recognized borders determined by negotiations between Israel and the Arab states.
2. Prevention of regional domination of the Middle East or Persian Gulf by any power.
3. A free and uninterrupted flow of petroleum from the Persian Gulf States to Europe, Japan, and the United States.
4. Restoration of full Lebanese sovereignty and withdrawal of all foreign troops from Lebanon.

Resolution No. 20: Iran
Origin: CO
Submitted by: Foreign Relations
As amended

WHEREAS, Iran has begun to emerge as an increasingly dangerous threat to the U.S. national interest to maintain unimpeded access to the oil reserves of the Persian Gulf region; and

WHEREAS, Iran is in the process of modernizing and expanding its armed forces, including the acquisition of nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons of mass destruction; and

WHEREAS, Iran has been identified as participating in terrorist operations and in trying to destabilize Arab governments friendly to the United States; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion urges the U.S. Government to pursue policies preventing aggression or terrorist actions by Iran in the Persian Gulf region or elsewhere; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion urges the U.S. Government to apply pressure on Iran to stop violations of human rights and interference with neighboring countries.

Resolution No. 205: Recognition of Crew of U.S.S. Liberty
Origin: NY
Submitted by: Foreign Relations
As amended

WHEREAS, On June 8, 1967, the U.S.S. Liberty - while operating in international waters in the Eastern Mediterranean, was the target of an attack by Israel's war planes and torpedo boats; and

WHEREAS, This attack killed 34 members of the Liberty's crew and wounded 171 other United States personnel on board, in addition to causing extensive damage to the ship; and

WHEREAS, The miraculous survival of the U.S.S. Liberty, through the sustained courage of her crew in desperate circumstances--an episode of honor in the annals of the U.S. Navy--has gone largely unrecognized and unhonored; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion urges the United States to formally and publicly recognize by time-honored tradition with customary style, honor, ceremony and publicity, the heroic actions of the officers and crew of the U.S.S Liberty, her 34 killed in action, her 171 wounded and her decorated, including her Medal of Honor recipient, Captain William L. McGonagle.

. . . National Commander Thiesen resumes the chair.

CHAIRMAN PFAFFINGER: Mr. Chairman, that completes the report on the Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Middle Eastern Affairs.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN FRANK: Thank you. Commander Thiesen, as a duly elected Delegate from the Department of Missouri, I move the adoption of the Report of the Convention Committee on Foreign Relations.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: You have heard the motion and the second. All in favor signify by the usual sign of Aye; opposed same sign. The report of Foreign Relations is adopted.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: The Chair recognizes Francis Giordano of New York, Chairman of the National Convention Committee on Constitutional Amendments, for the purpose of making a report.

NATIONAL CONVENTION COMMITTEE REPORT ON CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

John A. Barnaba (NY), Chairman

To the Seventy-Sixth Annual National Convention of The American Legion, Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6-8, 1994.

The Committee on Constitutional Amendments met at 9:00 A.M., Sunday, September 4, 1994 in Room 103C, lst Level of the Minneapolis Convention Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota. Committee Liaison, Philip B. Onderdonk, Jr., called the roll call and announced that 47 members of the Constitutional Amendments Committee were present.

The meeting was opened by Philip B. Onderdonk, Jr. (Maryland), who acted as temporary chairman. He stated a quorum was present and proceeded to the first order of business which was the election of a permanent chairman and secretary.

A motion was made by Frank C. Bottigliero (Italy), and duly seconded by James S. Whitfield (Misouri) to elect John A. Barnaba (NY) as Chairman. The motion was unanimously approved.

A motion was made by T. Les Galloway (Oregon), and duly seconded by J. B. Loring (Tennessee) to elect James S. Whitfield (Missouri) as Secretary. The motion was unanimously approved.

Copies of all the Resolutions, the Report of the Standing Committee, copies of the National Constitution and By-Laws, as revised January 2, 1991, the Uniform Code of Procedure, and the Membership Eligibility Study Report to the National Executive Committee, were made available to all members of the Committee.

The Chair called upon Philip B. Onderdonk, Jr., National Judge Advocate, to give a summary background report on the resolutions to the Committee, which was done.

The Chair then stated, based upon the National Judge Advocate's report to the Committee with regards to the requirements for consideration of resolutions to amend, he would rule out of order those resolutions which did not meet those requirements.

John Barnaba, Chairman, ruled Resolution Nos. 130 (South Dakota), 131 (South Dakota), and 209 (Arizona) out of order as not being in proper form for constitutional amendments.

A motion was duly made by Lloyd Wagener (Wisconsin), seconded by Willie Pitts (Georgia) to reject Resolution No. 27 (Colorado). The motion to reject was adopted.

A motion was duly made by Earle Rossiter (Florida), seconded by Leon Reed (Arizona) to reject Resolution No. 176 (Idaho). Following discussion, the motion to reject was adopted.

The Chair asked for a motion that the Report of the Standing Committee be accepted and attached to the report of the Convention Constitutional and By-Laws Committee Report.

Robert J. Conrad (Hawaii) made the motion to attach the Report of the Standing Committee to the report of the Convention Constitutional and By-Laws Committee Report. The motion was seconded by Willie Pitts (Georgia) and unanimously adopted.

The Chair asked for a motion that the Chairman and Secretary be permitted to sign the Report to the Convention on behalf of the members of the Committee. The motion was made by J. B. Loring (Tennessee), seconded by Leon Reed (Arkansas) and unanimously adopted.

The Chairman then thanked the Committee for its cooperation and productive meeting.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting to be in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Mr. Commander, as a Delegate to this Convention from the Department of New York, I move the adoption of this report.

. . . The motion was duly seconded and carried.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: We have approved the Report of the Convention Committee on Constitutional Amendments.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: Yesterday, as many of you saw, we had the presentation of the Citizens Flag Alliance Committee. I would like to thank the Department of Virginia, and the Chairman of the Committee, Bob Bowen for turning over to the Citizens Flag Alliance, Inc. over 8,000 names on petitions that have been signed.

That is the biggest number that has been turned in in a single event thus far. Thank you very much, Bob for your effort.

DEPARTMENT HISTORIANS

I would also like to say thank you, on behalf of Marjorie Simpson, to all the Department Historians who turned in their Department Histories pertaining to this Diamond Jubilee Year. Marjorie has been very grateful for all of your help and effort in putting together the history of this organization through its 75 years as an organization.

1995 BUICK

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: This is my last chance to encourage you to visit the Buick display in the exhibit hall. While you're looking over the great Buick automobiles, drop a few more dollars into the seed fund for the new American Legion Baseball Scholarship. Each dollar also entitles you to another chance to win the 1995 Buick LeSabre that we will award first thing tomorrow morning.

BLOOD DRIVE

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: We are asking for 300 pints of blood. We now stand at 256 pints. I need 44 more volunteers. As you walk out the door, the Sergeant-at-Arms will volunteer you, so make sure you don't give twice.

Anyway, it is a great opportunity. The blood drive is something that is desperately needed by many hospitals and emergency care units around this country, and especially here in the Minneapolis area.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: Delegates, if you will stand, join me in a salute to the flag of the United States of America.

. . . The Delegates stood and saluted the Flag.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: This Convention will stand in recess until 9:00 A.M. tomorrow morning.

. . . At 2:40 P.M. Wednesday, September 7, 1994, the Convention recessed, to reconvene the following day, September 8, 1994 at 9:00 A.M.

PROCEEDINGS
THIRD DAY

Thursday, September 8, 1994

The Convention was called to order by National Commander Bruce Thiesen, at 9:00 A.M., CST.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: The Convention will come to order. The Colors of our Country are in place, the Delegates will stand and give a right-hand salute. . . . The Delegates stood and saluted the Flag of the United States.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: At this time, will you please uncover.

I would like to call to the podium, our National Chaplain, Msgr. Raymond Kozlowski, of New York, for the Invocation.

INVOCATION
Msgr. Raymond J. Kozlowski (NY)
National Chaplain

Good Morning. Let us pray. Almighty God, whose kingdom is everlasting, keep our eyes fixed on You and direct all work for the betterment of this nation. Deliver us from inordinate attention to the small concerns of the day, so that we may give our energies to the paramount needs of this moment in history. Unite us where we are divided; reconcile us where we differ, and redeem us from harm.

Grant us the grace and wisdom to cross the channels between the strong and the weak, the rich and the poor, the rulers and the ruled, dwelling together in the spirit of unity and the bonds of peace.

May we be masters of our own destiny, and may Your spirit so pervade the life of all people, that together, we may rebuild America, the home of the brave and the land of the free, Amen.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: At this time, please join with me in Pledging Allegiance to the Flag of the United States.

. . . The Delegates stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States.

BUICK DRAWING

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: Before we begin the business of this closing day I would like to have George Greene, General Marketing Manager of the Buick Division of General Motors Corporation join me at the giant drum on the floor. It's time to draw the name of the winner of a beautiful 1995 Buick LeSabre.

Your winner of the 1995 Buick LeSabre is John P. Tipping, Hicksville, New York.

At this time, I will let George Greene take the podium and the mike for a few minutes to give you some information.

GEORGE GREENE
Buick Motor Division, GMC

Thank you, Commander. On behalf of all the men and women of Buick, I just want to express our appreciation and a sincere thank you for your support of our involvement with this great organization. We are proud to announce that through your generous contributions this year, $17,000 was raised on this year's car raffle, all of which will go to an American Legion Baseball School Scholarship Fund. We are extremely proud of your support.

We are also extremely pleased to present Commander Thiesen with a commemorative check this year in the amount of $628,400, which represents the combined total of all of our dealer contributions to American Legion Baseball. Through the spring promotion we ran, whenever we sold a Buick to a Legionnaire, $100 was donated to American Legion Baseball. This promo just felt good. Everyone agreed, with the support we got from The American Legion, as well as from everybody in the Buick organization, and from everybody in our dealership organizations, that it just seemed like the right thing to do, and to do it again.

We hope by the end of October to raise over $1 million for American Legion Baseball.

Again, on behalf of everyone at Buick. we really appreciate your support in allowing us to participate with everyone in The American Legion.

PRESENTATION

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: George, on behalf of 3.1 million members of The American Legion and the more than 89,000 players of American Legion baseball last season, I thank Buick for your support. There is no doubt that the "Grand Slam For America's Youth" was a success.

It is important for everyone to understand that this check represents funds raised nationwide and that this money went directly to American Legion baseball teams in the cities and towns where the new Buicks were purchased.

Because of the Buick Motor Division's energetic support of American Legion baseball, I want to make our own presentation to them.

George, please accept this Certificate of Appreciation as a token of our thanks for Buick's support. The certificate reads:

> Certificate of Appreciation presented to the men and women of the Buick Motor Division, General Motors Corporation, Flint, Michigan In Appreciation of exceptional assistance to Posts and Departments of The American Legion in support of American Legion Baseball through the "1994 Grand Slam For America's Youth." It is signed by myself as National Commander, Bob Spanogle our National Adjutant, Ray Smith the Chairman of the Americanism Commission, and Marty Justis the Director of Americanism, Children and Youth Division.

MR. GREENE: Thank you very much, Commander.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: At this time, it does give me a great deal

of pleasure to introduce our next guest. He became the Governor of Minnesota in 1991. He inherited a $5.2 billion budget deficit which he solved with $1.2 billion dollars in spending cuts. That effort alone gained Minnesota second place ranking by the National Governors Association for 1991 spending cuts. While he was paring funds from the budget he also developed comprehensive health care reform legislation to control costs and provide health care access to all residents of Minnesota. His record of public service is truly impressive. He is a proven fiscal leader.

Please welcome the Governor of Minnesota, Arne Carlson.

THE HONORABLE ARNE CARLSON
Governor, State of Minnesota

Thank you Commander, you are very kind.

Let me first of all thank you, as an organization and the leadership for your kind expressions of concern relative to my daughter's surgery on Tuesday. They got all the cancer out. She is recovering, and the prognosis is excellent. I thank you for that.

On behalf of all of the people of Minnesota, I welcome you to our lovely state. We are a state that cares very deeply about what has become known nationally as our "quality of life." You will notice in all the national rankings, that in all the positive aspects, Minnesota manages to make the top five. We care about our education, we care about our children, we care about our veterans, and we care about our environment.

But let me, if I may, just spend a few minutes talking about something that should be a topic of concern in America, and that is our children.

Everyone of us wants to leave this nation in far better shape than we entered it. We lost hundreds of thousands of young men and young women in war so that we could protect the liberties that our children and that you and I inherited. And we want our children to grow up in a sturdy society, we want them to have a sturdy concept of values, and we want them to be respectful.

I remember, as a child being brought up by immigrant parents, that when my father said to do something, I did it! When my mother said to do something, I did it! When a police officer said to do something, I did it! When a teacher said for me to do something, I did it! And when a Sergeant told me to do something, I sure as heck did it! But today, almost everything seems to be eroding. We seem, as a society, to be lacking a certain amount of respect. An observer mentioned, when an order is given now it is taken as the start of negotiations.

We have allowed ourselves to become a nation of victims. We have allowed ourselves to move away from the concepts of self-responsibility and self-reliance. Instead it is simplier to say that I am a victim of whatever society has done to me. And we wonder why children grow up in an environment that is disrespectful.

I would argue that part of that emanates from the fact that we, as a society, are not showing sufficient respect for the symbols of our society. What kind of society is it that allows its Flag to be desecrated and expect its children to grow up with respect? I cannot think of any civilization known to man that does not protect the symbols of that society, be they religious or be they national. That is part of respect.

How can the same court system that tells us to be mindful of the restrictions on free speech and free expression then say that there are unlimited rights when it comes to desecrating the symbols of our society? Do we really want to bring children up in a society

where it is okay to knock over the Cross? Do we want our children to be able to spit on a symbol of anybody's religion, or paint over the Star of David, or burn the American Flag? How can that society then expect its children to grow up with respect?

This is not an issue between nations, this is not an issue that should divide liberals and conservatives or democrats and republicans. If there was ever an issue that is present in America that should unite us, it should be this issue. Our Constitution should be amended to allow our society to protect the symbol that is so important to each and every one of us, and to every generation that has served this nation.

Now I know that you, as an organization, feel that there are occasions when veterans are left out, and I think your feelings are valid. The problem is that no sooner do we make peace, no sooner do we lose our common enemy then we suddenly turn into ourselves, only to find ourselves within years in another war. I think we have an opportunity, and you as an organization have an opportunity, to define where it is that we want America to go, and what kind of values we want this country to have.

We know from history that time and time again, when the United States completes its task of protecting world peace, and protecting world order, that we immediately go home, dismantle the defense budget, ignore the obligations that the country has abroad, and then find ourselves in another conflict, and more blood lost. It seems at times that the only thing that we learn from history is that we choose to learn nothing. I pray this time, we have the wisdom to understand that while the Soviet Union has collapsed and disintegrated, it does not mean that our strength should also dissipate. I would argue quite the opposite.

If we are to maintain order in this world, then we must have economic, education, technological, as well as military strength. There is nothing quite like respect to also bring about peace, and weakness does not create respect.

I want each and every one of us to pledge to ourselves and to pledge to our communities that we want our children to succeed. But they can't succeed in a society that is committed to violence. They can't succeed in a society that is ambivalent about its values. They can't succeed in a society where there is lack of respect.

If there is anything that we can do, it is to rebuild that tradition of respect, so that each and every child growing up in America grows up with a tremendous allegiance to the values of this nation and a commitment to the future of this nation, and a sense of self-responsibility that says, "I owe it to myself, not only to respect the past, but to build upon that past by strengthening my own future, working hard in school, making certain that I am a law-abiding citizen, making certain that I am respectful of others, including those that disagree with me, and committing part of my life to the service of the community."

If we do that our children will emerge into the 21st century as winners, and that is precisely what we want! There are many who have given much, so that we could enjoy the opportunity to compete. We are now blessed with that opportunity, and we want our children to succeed, but we want them to succeed in a society that has values and definitions, and knows where it is going.

So I applaud you, as members of The American Legion, for all that you have done to allow America to begin to understand that it has to focus on where it is going, so that our children can succeed. We can and we must, and we will work in partnership towards that end. Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: I thank the Governor for his attendance here this morning. I had the opportunity to meet with Governor Carlson on my travels through

the Department of Minnesota, at a legislative breakfast. I saw his commitment that the Flag, that symbol of America, is protected, and that moved this Commander very much. As we have leadership throughout this country, as Governor Carlson, I can assure you that the effort in leading and helping the Citizens Flag Alliance will again bring about the respect that this Flag that we so honor and love will be protected by an amendment.

So thank you, Governor, for all your support on this issue and the many issues that you work with, the veterans of the Department and the State of Minnesota.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: Our next guest this morning is probably not a familiar face to many in this convention hall, but to thousands of people from Minneapolis he is well known. He was the senior news anchor for nine years at KMSP-TV here in Minneapolis. He left the broadcast industry to represent the families of Minnesota's Sixth Congressional District. He was elected to the House of Representatives in 1992, and quickly earned the leadership role as freshman Republican Whip. He serves on the Committee on Banking, Finance, and Urban Affairs as well as the Committee on Science, Space and Technology.

Please welcome Congressman Rod Grams.

THE HONORABLE ROD GRAMS
Congressman, Minnesota

Thank you, Commander, for those kind words, and good morning. Thank you very much for your thoughtful invitation to be here this morning. It is a great honor for me to stand here and be able to address this Convention today.

Recently, I attended the funeral of my uncle. While I was standing at the grave side, I thought about my invitation to be here this morning. Like my father before him, and my grandfather, my uncle was also a member of The American Legion, having served in the Pacific, and was part of the occupation forces in Japan in 1945. One of the most important part of the services was when my office was presented the Flag for his services in World War II.

His military service was a very important part of his life. It was an important part of what he did in 1945, and it is very important that what we do today for veterans to honor their service.

In 1919, the Founders of The American Legion gathered for the first time, in Minneapolis. How appropriate it is that 75 years later, you decided to return to Minneapolis to celebrate your Diamond Jubilee. What an appropriate spot to consider how times have changed during the past 75 years, times in which the Legion has survived and thrived.

As Legionnaires, you have lived up to your committment. Unfortunately, this country's leadership has not honored those committments in return. As members of the Armed Forces, you fought to keep freedom here in America and in the world. But today, freedom is being threatened, and the administration has turned its back on veterans and those who serve in the military.

President Clinton's poor response recently in sending condolences to North Korea on the passing of Kim Il Sung was a clear slap in the face to our allies in South Korea, and also to the men and women who sacrificed so much during the Korean War. This administration ignored and insulted the military, and has threatened our national security by slashing defense budgets. We have seen this repeated in Somalia, and Rwanda, and Cuba, and

especially Haiti. President Clinton wants to send troops to Haiti, but I say putting even one American life in jeopardy is paying too much to putting Aristide back in power.

In 1994, the battleground is for our nation and our families. The Minnesota delegation is demanding freedom from oppressive government intervention, freedom from the ever-rising taxes that are choking our families, that threaten our freedoms by government overspending, and also threatens our fiscal structure and financial security from the massive defecit nooses around our necks. We need to get government off our back, and get government out of our pockets. Look at what 40 years of mixed message liberalism has done for our country. Look at the way the government has delivered. We have taught our children the importance of hard work, by their respected elders and teachers, but the bureaucracy ends up teaching them idleness with welfare.

We teach them about personal responsibility, but the President and the liberals in Congress want to spend their future, and want to take away whatever they can. The liberals tell a lot of fancy tales, always chasing rainbows at the end of your pay check. For the sake of our children, the sake of our children's children, it is time that we take back America, take hold of our own government, because if all areas of government-spending had been cut as much as defense budgets and veterans' budget, we would have balanced the federal budget a long time ago.

What will happen when we take back America? We will have a balanced budget, and Congress and its reform will be a reality, not just a replacement. The Lobbyists Reform Act this year was all smoke and mirrors, and actually reformed nothing.

With the American taxpayer in charge, our bills will be paid, our financial house will be in order, and we will no longer be taxed to support mountains of debts passing them on to our children. We will be able to keep the money we earn, and it won't go to more taxes to feed a bloated, gloating bureaucracy.

Hopefully, my legacy will be passed into law and it isn't shuffled into the background by a bureaucracy calloused to its aims. My bill, in case you haven't heard, would provide a $200-$500 per child tax credit that will return $25 billion every year to education nationwide. Children would be able to play safely in their backyard, and men and women would walk in their own neighborhood without becoming a crime statistic. And we won't be wasting our dollars providing robbers and rapists with taxpayer-sponsored recreation.

What the American people will be doing is calling the shots. Our national defense will once again be strong and secure, will once again be respected as a world power no longer at the mercy of war lords or thugs and will honor our military men and women and businessmen an pass amendments to the United States Constitution protection the Flag from those who would burn it in the name of free speech. That is what we have to look forward to, not to the present government that wants to be our benefactor, who wants to deliver security, but a limited government that trusts the individual.

The debate over our health care reform clearly demonstrates these two very different approaches to government.

In Stillwater, Minnesota, a few weeks ago, a gentleman put his hand on my shoulder. He said, "Keep the government out of my health care, and keep government out of my pockets, and keep my mail delivered on time. That is all I ask of you guys."

But the President wants the government to play the part of a controlling dinosaur, the plans being pitched in different programs, so you won't notice the price-control, the rationing, the job losses it will cause.

I suppose the stress of theHealth Care Act is modeled on the benefit package offered

to the President and all federal employees. It is proven plan of market-driven health care that would deliver the best product at the best possible price. Consumer's choice keeps the VA hospital system intact, preserving the specialized services that have been promised to our veterans. Again, we should keep our promises.

Most of the debate in Washington, centers around the freedom to Americans, or delivering them security. But as you know, security, begets security, and when government is big enough to give you everything you want, it is also big enough to take everything. And that is something to consider when you watch what is happening in Washington. But I will be there, and there will be accusations of bi-partisanship, and gridlocks, but they won't be there at all. It will be a battle over great ideas, over the future of this great nation. It is a fight for sanity and clear thinking.

If you want others to take your dollars and make those choices for you. You vote for them, but then you will pray that they will deliver the security.

Members of The American Legion know about freedom. And I am proud to say that your newest members, the young veterans who fought in Vietnam and the Persian Gulf Wars are rightfully and proudly taking their place alongside the veterans of the wars past. They will be ready. And each night, when they tuck their children safely in bed, they will know that they have fought to keep freedom alive, as did all who fought for and died for the cause of freedom, the American ideals of opportunity and responsibility.

As Americans, we share the same values and beliefs, we hold the same dreams for our children and grandchildren and families. As an American I know if all the things I worked disappeared, and if I were to have to start over, with just my children and my wife, I'd thank my lucky stars to be living here, because the Flag still stands for Freedom, and they can't take that away.

Thank you, and may God bless the United States of America.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: Thank you, Congressman Grams. It is indeed a pleasure to have those that we elect bring us such inspiring words.

MBNA AMERICA

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: MBNA America, one of The American Legion financial partners since 1988, has been a great supporter of the programs of our organization. In the years since we first offered The American Legion Visa Card, more than 200,000 Legionnaires and family members have used the card. That use has generated more than $10 million for Legion programs.

At this time, I would like to introduce Pat Murray of MBNA America, for the purpose of a drawing for Certificate of Deposit.

PAT MURRAY
MBNA America

I to salute The American Legion. This is not only a working partnership, but a partnership that works for MBNA and the Legion.

We have set an all-time high for the number of applications taken at a National Convention when we passed the 500 mark about a half hour ago. During this Convention, or shortly thereafter, we will pass the $10 million mark in contributions back to The

American Legion from MBNA America. We will also introduce for the first time, a completely new CD card for everybody in The American Legion. We have also introduced a business card for all the Departments and all the Posts. Also MBNA America has committed itself to matching all contributions made by an American Legion MBNA a credit card to the Citizens Flag Alliance for up to a total of $50,000. We have just passed the $125,000 mark in our contributions to the Disaster Relief Fund. For the first time, we were at The American Legion Baseball World Series and we set up a booth and accepted applications there.

So we are very, very pleased with our business relationship with The American Legion, and I want to thank everybody in The American Legion for that.

And now for the most important part, the drawing for the $1,000 Certificate of Deposit. National Commander, would you draw it?

Jeanette S. Ruan, Route 2, Box 4626, Baines, Vermont.

JACKSON NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY OF MICHIGAN
The American Legion Annuity Program

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: Once again, I want to remind you of the outstanding investment opportunity that is offered to you through Jackson National Life Insurance of Michigan. The American Legion Annuity Program will be paying 10.5% for the first year, and that's an excellent return on your investment. For the details, please watch the screen.

. . . At this time, a video was presented.

ANNOUNCEMENT AS TO PRIZE DRAWING WINNERS

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: Right now I would like to introduce to you Jim Luther of Jackson National Life, for the purpose of drawing for a TV/VCR.

MR. LUTHER: Thank you, Commander. It's a privilege to be part of an organization. I'm from Carmel Post 155 in Carmel, Indiana, the Sons of The American Legion. It's a privilege to be able to offer an additional membership benefit to all the members of The American Legion and to the future members. Go back and tell them about our investment opportunities and the things we can do for the members of The American Legion.

I appreciate all your questions, and we have had several hundred people with questions. There is a toll-free number that you will be able to call, and we'll be contacting you in each state. We have 17 locations throughout the United States that will be able to serve you and answer all your questions. I wish we could have answered them all here, but we couldn't. Someone will contact you and answer all your questions about using this financial planning too.

At this time, I would like to have the Commander draw for a color TV/VCR set that you registered for.

. . . National Commander Thiesen drew the following name:

Shirley Olinger, Corning, New York.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: With The American Legion's long commitment to national security and a strong national defense, the Delegates to our 76th

National Convention will find our next guest a man who can explain the role the United States Coast Guard is playing today, especially with exiles fleeing Cuba in make-shift rafts. He is a graduate of the Industrial College of the Armed Forces and has earned masters degrees from Wesleyan University and the University of Rhode Island. He has served in a variety of assignments from Vietnam to Washington, D.C. Today he is the Commander, Atlantic Area and Commander, U.S. Maritime Defense Zone Atlantic.

Please welcome to Minneapolis, Vice Admiral James M. Loy.

VICE ADMIRAL JAMES M. LOY
Atlantic Area Commander
United States Coast Guard

Thank you and good morning. Commander Thiesen and Founder Geroge Bentley, distinguished Veterans and defenders of our great nation. It is indeed a pleasure to be here today representing the Commandant of The United States Coast Guard, and to serve as this year's American Legion National Convention Military Speaker.

It is truly an honor, not only to have the opportunity to address you and to expose you, if I may, to some insights into the Coast Guard operations, but also to thank you for your important contributions to our proud service.

On behalf of our new Commandant, Admiral Bob Kramek, and all the women and men of the Coast Guard, I would like to thank The American Legion for the extensive testimony delivered to Congress annually in support of the Coast Guard and Coast Guard programs. Your efforts and the tremendous influence of your organization undoubtedly are helping us through the ever more complicated budget process that is part of our lives today.

I would also like to thank you, perhaps a bit ahead of time, for the draft resolution I understand will be voted on shortly after Commander Thiesen gets me off the podium. The Commandant and I have been provided advance copies, and speaking both for Admiral Kramek and myself, I say with great conviction that we are truly heartened to know that this group of American patriots holds the Coast Guard in high enough esteem to propose such a resolution. Both of these forms of assistance strive toward one goal, a goal for which we, too, in the Coast Guard are increasingly striving. And that is to make the American taxpayers aware of the value they receive for every dollar they spend for their United States Coast Guard.

The daily acts of heroism and sacrifice undertaken by our Coast Guardsmen on their behalf need to be made public knowledge. I encourage the leadership and the rank and file of The American Legion to embrace this effort and assist us in broadcasting the many success stories our small, but proud service has enjoyed.

Our most recent success story is Operation Able Vigil in the Florida Straits off Cuba. That operation is putting our seamen, our deck watch officers and our pilots on the front page of newspapers nationwide, and on virtually every news broadcast one tunes in. As I speak, Team Coast Guard is pulling off another magnificent effort in a very high visibility mission for this nation. The statistics are absolutely staggering. Over 32,000 Cuban migrants have been interdicted and transported to Guantanamo Bay just since August the 20th of this past month. That's ten times the number rescued in all of 1993, more than in the whole decade of 1983 to 1993. But amazingly, the real story lies not in the sheer numbers, but how daunting a task it really is to safely effect the multiple transfers at sea that produce those numbers. We're witnessing nothing short of an operational miracle in the Florida

Straits, professional seamanship combined with magnificent human compassion for our fellow man. It's a tremendously proud chapter in Coast Guard history that we're writing in Cuba, and this commander is truly humbled by the performance of these daily Coast Guard heros.

Last week, after Admiral Kramek and I toured the operations in the Florida Straits, he released a message when he got back to Washington, in which he cited the contributions made by all members of our Coast Guard team.

> Coast Guard efforts are not restricted to the Straits of Florida. Active duty, reserve and auxiliary members throughout the Coast Guard, throughout our Nation, are working overtime and standing extra watches to support the goals and the personnel of Operation Able Vigil. Their efforts have upheld the traditions of the United States Coast Guard. You continue to be Semper Paratus and the guardians of the sea. On behalf of the Secretary of Transportation, the Honorable Federico Pena, and a grateful nation, I applaud your heroic efforts. Bravo Zulu.

But that was not the full extent of his praise, for as good as he may believe his guardsmen and women to be, he is well aware that alone we would not be pulling this off. Earlier in that message, Admiral Kramek commented on the important contributions made by dozens of U.S. Navy ships engaged in the operation, and the 350 plus Marines serving in security detachments aboard both Navy vessels and our 38 cutters on scene.

So let me again personally thank those members, past and present, of the Legion, the United States Navy, the United States Marine Corps, who have helped support the other fine naval service, the United States Coast Guard.

An axiom that I have personally long lived by is that preparation equals performance. It has never been more aptly demonstrated than in the Florida Straits off Cuba.

Shortly after the Muriell boat-lift experience of the earl 1980s, Coast Guard planners developed our current Operation Plan for a major migraton from Cuba. We knew then, it was only a matter of time. Support plans were drafted, solid thinking and planning were devoted to those plans and that package has been kept current over the ensuing decade.

The point to be made here is that we're not accidentally doing a good job in the Straits of Florida, but we are doing it superbly because we were prepared when it happened. That's what good leadership in the military is all about, being prepared to execute policy and defend our national interests wherever they lie and whenever they are threatened.

Leadership is a favorite topic of mine, and it's good to recognize it when it happens, and believe me, it is happening today off the coast of Florida.

Now, I don't have my aide here today, but he attends many of these events with me. He's heard my Duty-leadership Speech many times. In fact, just last week I was going to give some motivational remarks in Cape May, which is our boot camp, to a company of new recruits. On the plane, my aide let me know, in no uncertain terms, that he was really sort of tired of listening to that leadership speech. Since he's a bit mature-looking for his age, and that I, of course, appear so much younger than the considerable years necessary to reach the rank of a Vice Admiral, I offered him the opportunity to don my shoulder-boards and tell everyone he was the Admiral and to make my remarks.

And so we arrived at Cap May. I carried his briefcase and sat in the front row where he normally sits, and listened attentively as I had always hoped that he would listen to me.

Well, he did pretty well, completed the speech and started fielding questions. He did this well too, until a crusty old boot pusher in the back row, a Chief Boatswain Mate stood up and asked him a tough question to which neither he, nor I had a clue. I thought our little charade was uncovered and half expected the aide to sort of run off the dias about then and out the emergency exit. But instead, he just sort of coolly chuckled and pointed at me and said, "Chief, that question's so easy, I'm going to let my aide answer it."

Now that's good leadership.

Well, the Coast Guard, like our sister services, has always taken pride in preparing for the challenges of tomorrow, but by doing the preparation today. For when tomorrow comes, it's often too late to prepare. And of course, we're all struggling with our preparation in the face of a declining budget picture. In the Coast Guard, we are planning on cuts of $100 million annually for the next four years. And of great consequence to us, is the translation of those dollars to probably 1,000 personnel a year over the next four years. And in a service of just 38,888 active duty members, those are no small numbers.

Our reserve forces are already on the way to 8,000 from a high a few years ago of 12,500.. While we have enjoyed some savings from the end of the Cold War, the threat for our service has not changed for us as fundamentally as it has for the other Armed Forces.

Our operational demands continue unabated and, in fact, grow annually in areas like environmental compliance a growing boating population for search and rescue, and maritime regulations of that industry.

We are stretched literally to locations worldwide. Just two weeks ago our icebreaker, the Polar Sea, planted the American Flag atop the North Pole in support of American scientific pursuits. This month, Coast Guard Squadron 44 closed out another important contribution to Operation Desert Storm when they transferred responsibility after several years for enforcement of the United Nations sanctions in the Red Sea to a shore based organization. We still have boarding teams operating in the Northern Arabian Gulf and in the Adriatic in support of the United Nations' initiatives against Iraq and the former Yugoslavia. We have members on the front lines of the War on Drugs in Colombia, Panama, Bolivia, and Peru where they are working to develop indigenous capabilities to stem the tide of illicit drugs which disrupt their domestic economies and eventually find their way to our streets.

Closer to home, over the Labor Day Weekend, an emergency H-60 helicopter launched out of Nassau in the Bahamas, resulting in the saving of the life of a merchant mariner suffering a heart attack in the middle of the old Bahama Channel. In the Miami River, the Coast Guard seized eight kilos of cocaine aboard an Ecuadorian freighter. Off Cherry Pointe, North Carolina, a C-130 launched from Elizabeth City located and guided a disoriented sea-plane through visibility less than three nautical miles, and winds of over 30 knots, back to a safe landing ashore. Returning to Portsmouth, Virginia, from Operation Able Vigil, the Coast Guard cutter Legare encountered a disabled 30 foot sportfisherman drifting out to sea, performed the necessary repairs, and escorted the vessel back to safety.

Hundreds, yes thousands, of such responses to requests for assistance, investigations of small pollution spills, and checks for drunken boat operators were conducted across this nation over this past holiday weekend. These are the activities that fill our days, everyday, day-after-day. These are the threats that we face and the services that we provide. They are not going away, and we are not lessening our efforts to meet and conquer them. To meet that constant threat of declining funding, we are embracing the Vice President's National Performance Review, and searching for ways for us to do more things efficiently. We are

seeking not only to maintain our level of service to the American public, but to actually increase the contribution that we are making to these national objectives.

Let me discuss at least two in greater detail, both dealing with the fundamental need to maintain the integrity of our borders. They are counter-narcotics and national defense.

In the field of counter-narcotics, Admiral Kramek has been recently designated as the United States Interdiction Coordinator. As such, he will work directly with Director. Lee Brown, the national drug czar [National Drug Control Policy Office], to shape national policy. New techniques have emerged that allow us to redefine our operatoins from the 1980's, and we support the attention being given todecreasing the demand faoar narcotics, but continue to emphasize the value of a strong law-enforcement posture.

In the field of national defense, we are finding new ways to contribute to the new naval war fighting strategy "from the sea." These contributions form the central military strength of the Coast Guard, actual warfare. Whether it was pulling 400 American servicemen from the waters of the English Channel on D-Day, or preventing waterborne arms smuggling, and denying the communists control of Vietnam's strategic waterways, the Coast Guard, as I'm sure everyone here is well aware, has played an important role in of every one of our nation's armed conflicts.

We are planning to continue that tradition through General Jenkin's new branch of the Chief of Naval Operations Organization, the Expeditionary Warfare Division, N85. It is a new and far less stable world we live in, and we must be ready to make our contributions mobile and effective anywhere in the world.

Our staff planners have hosted numerous exercises focusing on our ability to protect harbors and strategic objectives on any coast line in the world. They have put our port security units, which proved themselves in Operation Desert Storm, and our harbor defense commands, which are new, through their paces and many drills in an effort to contribute even more the next time armed conflict becomes inevitable and our young men and women are called upon to defend this nation's interests. They have dealt in a most professional and distinquished manner with the CINC staffs and the JCSs planners to make sure that we are included in virtually every contingency plan. When the time comes, we will again be prepared to do our part. Our performance will once again, result directly from our preparation. As I mentioned earlier, we, as leaders, and standard-bearers of American patriotism, must do a better job of communicating that preparation and that stellar performance which our men and women demonstrate daily.

As most old sailors want to do, I'm fond of telling a sea story or two when the opportunity arises. I find them one of the best means to both honor our heros of the past and to provide a perspective from where we have come, where we are going and where we would like to go.

Let me share a couple with you. Neither occurred during a famous battle, and I'm willing to bet that 99% of the people in the room have never heard of any of these protagonists. The first one happened right outside my office in New York Harbor some 67 years ago. The New York area was preparing for the 4th of July weekend prohibition was in effect, and the revelers were waiting for their fresh-off-the-boat party gin throughout the city.

Well, Ensign Charles Duke, United States Coast Guard Commanding Officer of the Coast Guard ship 2327, a 38 foot picketboat on patrol in the Verrazaona Narrows, had a hunch that the darkened rundown, rust bucket of a freighter he just sighted was up to no good. The freighter's name was the SJ Economy.

So Ensign Duke and his crew, armed to the teeth with one revolver and five bullets, gave chase. Duke drew alongside and hailed the Economy to heave to. The only reply was a refusal, and she showed no sign of slackening her pace. Not to be deterred, Duke fired two rounds for emphasis. I guess the rules for firing warning shots were a little different then than they are today. We would have had to have gone back to Washington for a parlay on whether or not that maneuver was necessary today. Mathematics being what it is, he was left with three bullets.

He then maneuvered to further close in on the vessel. That required a 20 knot speed which put his stem into every swell, and quickly soaked his little crew. He ordered the helmsmen to bring him within arm's length of the quarry. He reached out, grabbed a rail and pulled himself aboard the Economy at 20 knots. He increased his armament by taking along a flashlight. Well, feeling his way forward on the darkened vessel, Duke encountered a burly sailor blocking his path. The flashlight came in handy. He dispatched that obstacle and continued to the wheelhouse where he found six men, including the vessel's master.

Ensign Duke had the audacity and the element of surprise as his only allies. Well, I guess figuring that was sufficient, he pushed his revolver into the side of the master and demanded the vessel be stopped and brought to anchor. When the skipper proved reluctant despite the prodding of gunpoint, Duke took matters in his own hands by spinning the unattended ship's wheel and grounded her in ten feet of water. He thus, single-handedly, both captured the ship and prevented the crew from escaping. He hailed his crewmen and sent them for assistance and settled in for the wait. It was not until 0600 that he could be relieved of his prize, nine hours after his boarding adventure began. Well, when the inspectors got aboard the following morning, they found 60,000 gallons of gin in the hold of the Economy. Rules and procedures have changed, but the devotion to duty of our servicemen has not, that little story about Ensign Duke is one that we all ought to know a little better.

Let me offer you a more recent example. Two years ago, while transporting to a remote jungle base-camp from which they would launch a waterborne raid on a cocaine processing lab, two U.S. advisors, Machinery Technician 2nd Class Rick Holmes and Machinery Technican 1st Class William Coker, both U.S. Coast Guard Petty Officers, were aboard a Bolivian aircraft. The rest of the party on board were Bolivian. The plane aborted its initial landing attempt on the short grass runway, and as the pilot pulled up sharply to make a second pass, part of the plane caught the top of a tree. Despite the pilot's best efforts to control the plane, it stalled and plummeted into the jungle vegetation. Dazed and suffering from multiple injuries and drenched in aviation fuel, Petty Officers Holmes and Coker crawled from the overturned wreckage. Realizing that the pilot and flight engineer were still pinned in the cockpit, the two Coast Guardsmen braved potential explosion and fire, returning inside that smoldering wreck to assist the Bolivian Air Force personnel. Despite his injured back, Petty Officer Holmes unbuckled the unconscious and severely bleeding pilot, carried him to safety and administered first aid. Petty Officer Coker, overcoming the tremendous pain of broken bones in both elbows, performed a similar act of heroism for the flight engineer. Both of those Air Force personnel survived, and the Coast Guardsmen received the Coast Guard Medal.

These are two stories about heroes, from the past and the present, and we who wear the uniform today owe an eternal debt of gratitude to them and to many of you in this audience. You have left us with the best, the strongest, the freest nation on earth. You have ensured that we are the envy of the world, that we fear no enemy, that we will meet any

challenge to peace. But let us not forget our obligations to the heroes of tomorrow. We must teach them that preparation today produces performance tomorrow. We owe them the appreciation of a nation, grateful for their sacrifices and their excellence yet to come. That means we owe them nothing less than what our forfathers left us.

Thank you, Commander Thiesen for this opportunity to address your Convention, and thank you, Legionnaires, for helping us to spread the good word about our young heroes in uniform today.

From Admiral Kramek and every sailor and airman in Team Coast Guard, you have our gratitude for the full depth of your support.

Thank you very much. Semper Paratus.

THE AMERICAN LEGION FOURTH ESTATE AWARD

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: Each year The American Legion invites the news media to enter the Fourth Estate Award competition. This wide variety of entries, from a diverse mixture of news operations, makes the judging by an independent panel challenging. This year, the judges watched a 30-minute television special produced by a station in Wichita, Kansas and walked out of the room wiping their eyes. "The Healing Journey" provided an emotional trip for every viewer. Please watch just a few moments of this year's Fourth Estate winning effort.

. . . At this time a videotape was displayed to the delegation.

That is just a sample of what touched the hearts of not only the select panel of judges, but viewers in Kansas as well. I've asked Diane Carlson Evans to be with us this morning on stage to assist in the presentation of the award to KSNW-TV.

Representing KSNW-TV is Ted Lewis, the chief photojournalist who lead the production team of "The Healing Journey."

Ted, If you would, please come forward. The Fourth Estate Award reads:

> The American Legion 1994 Fourth Estate Award for Distinguished Public Service in the Field of Journalism Is Presented to KSNW-TV Wichita, Kansas for the Signature Three Program "The Healing Journey." Presented at the 76th National Convention September 8, 1994 Minneapolis, Minnesota.

It is signed by myself as National Commander, Robert W. Spanogle, National Adjutant and Thomas Kouyeas, Public Relations Commission Chairman. Ted, congratulations to you and the other members of KSNW-TV news for a tremendously moving program.

TED LEWIS
Fourth Estate Award Winner

Thank you very much, Commander Thiesen, and Diane and Tom. This is a great opportunity. I need to do one thing, I hope I'm not out of line but, "Hey Kansas." I've always wanted to do that, I don't know if I will ever have that opportunity again, so I wanted to get that out of the way.

It's with a great deal of pride that I accept this award. I'm proud of it for my family

and I'm proud of it for my state, and proud for the people that I worked with on that project.

But I must admit I'm a bit humbled standing here before all of you. I haven't done a great deal with the Legion personally or professionally through the years, but after the State Convention and now this, I must say that I have missed out. This is a tremendous gathering. The response has been unbelievable, and your causes are to be commended, and the truly special people that I've had the opportunity to meet in this short period of time I've been here makes this an honor that I can't explain. So, I thank you very much for that.

And with that, I would just like to extend thanks to the PR team here, headed by Lew Wood and especially Lee Harris, who made this a great experience for me, and to my group back home. It's a small group that works on these projects and you have made their day. They will truly be thrilled.

I suspect not many of you have seen the entire program "The Healing Journey." But briefly, it was a story told through a woman's eyes. That woman, Teresa Palmer from Wichita, basically told a story on behalf of all of the women that have served. It's a tremendous piece, and to her I'm forever indebted, I express my deepest appreciation to her for allowing me to come aboard.

So with that, I'm excited and I'm thrilled, and I thank you for allowing me to share something with you. You are so kind as to give me something in return.

To coin a phrase, thank you very much, you all are the heroes, I just took a little piece of your story and told it, and that's something I'll never forget and I will always treasure.

Thank you very much.

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION
BRAIN SCIENCE FOUNDATION

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: Our next order of business is to recognize a unique project here in Minnesota. It involves The American Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary and the University of Minnesota.

This project brought the three organizations together in an effort to help not only veterans, but countless others in Minnesota, and around the nation. Legionnaires and members of the American Legion Auxiliary raised one-million dollars and the University of Minnesota matched those dollars. The money was used to fund a Brain Science Chair at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center. The Chair continues to coordinate and conduct research into diseases of the brain.

This is the second time that Minnesota Legionnaires and members of the Auxiliary have worked together to endow a research chair. Several years ago heart research received a boost because of their efforts.

Today it is my pleasure to recognize three organizations involved in this outstanding example of American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary commitment to others. I have a special Certificate of Appreciation to present to representatives of the three organizations. Donald Nelson, president of the Brain Science Foundation, Dr. William Brody, Provost for the Academic Health Center of the University of Minnesota and Charles Milbrandt, Director of the Minneapolis VA Medical Center.

Gentlemen, please join me. It is a honor to make this presentation of a Certificate of Appreciation to each of you. The Certificates are to the Brain Science Foundation, the Minneapolis VA Medical Center, and the Academic Health Center of the University of Minnesota.

The Certificates read:

In recognition of the initial and ongoing cooperative effort in establishing The American Legion Chair for Brain Sciences at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center for services, research and education. Awarded with sincere appreciation by The American Legion during its 76th annual National Convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota on September 8, 1994.

It is signed by myself as National Commander and also by Robert W. Spanogle, the National Adjutant. Again, let's give these gentlemen a big round of applause for all that they do.

DONALD NELSON

MR. DONALD NELSON: Commander Thiesen, fellow Legionnaires and Auxiliary members, on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Brain Science Foundation, the Minnesota American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary, I want to thank all of the members of The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary for showing that you care enough to support the Brain Science Chair.

We also thank The American Legion national organization for their recognition, not only of our efforts in the brain science field, but insuring cooperative efforts between the Minneapolis Veterans Affairs Medical Center and the University of Minnesota. Without them, this would not have been possible.

MR. CHARLES MILBRANDT: I'm Chuck Milbrandt, from the VA Medical Center in Minneapolis. It's a real privilege to accept this Certificate on behalf of the Medical Center Staff and patients, as well as the Brain Science Center.

This, as the Commander mentioned, is an unparalleled venture between The American Legion Department of Minnesota, the American Legion Auxiliary, the University of Minnesota and the VA Medical Center. We think this venture will benefit not only veterans, but also mankind with the type of research that's being conducted. Dr. Georgopoulos is the Chair of the Brain Sciences Center and is receiving world recognition for the research he is doing. He has been on the cover of *Science Magazine* three times; and has published numerous articles, again receiving international recognition.

The Center is unique. It combines a very talented staff with the very sophisticated technology available at the Medical Center in Minneapolis for research into diseases of the brain, such as stroke, schizophrenia, chemical dependency, depression and so on. And again, we hope that the research will benefit not just veterans, but all of mankind.

I want to thank you again and this distinguished group for the special recognition of the VA Medical Center and the Brain Sciences Center.

DR. WILLIAM BRODY: Commander Thiesen, Legionnaires and guests. I'm Bill Brody, the Provost for the Academic Health Center of the University of Minnesota.

I've been truly impressed with the support that we received from The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Minnesota. Through the years, since the end of Wold War II, you have supported research and education, first in heart disease and now in this critically important area of brain sciences. This is the decade of the brain. These problems are particularly important to our aging population, and you have joined in this

unique partnership to invest in the education and the research in this needed field.

Thank you for your support and for the partnership that we enjoy.

BLOOD DONOR WRAP-UP

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: It has been seven years since we began conducting National Convention Blood Drives. This year the efforts required considerable coordination between agencies.

To learn how effective our efforts were this year, I am pleased to introduce two individuals to you: the Director of Education for the Memorial Blood Center here in Minneapolis, Becky Rose, and Erick Hucke, Assistant Director of Donor Resource Development for the Blood Center in St. Paul.

BECKY ROSE
Memorial Blood Center, Director of Education

Good morning, I'm Becky Rose from Memorial Blood Center. On behalf of the Blood Center and the American Red Cross in St. Paul, and the Veterans Administration Hospital in Minneapolis, I would like to thank The American Legion for allowing us to come in and have a blood drive here. And I especially thank all of the Legionnaires who took the time out to donate blood for us. These donations were particularly critical because we were going over a holiday weekend, and during holidays, usually our blood demand is high and our blood supply is low. So you helped us get through that weekend and helped us replenish our blood supplies.

The blood banking business has changed a lot over the years. Thirty years ago, we drew a unit of blood from somebody and we gave it to a patient. Technology has advanced now to where we can take a pint of blood from a donor and divide it into it's different components and just give the specific part of the blood that the patient needs. For example, we will have just the red cells, and these are given to patients who are bleeding, either from surgery, gun shots, or car accidents. We can take out the platelets and give those to cancer patients who are having chemotherapy. We can take the plasma and divide it into different parts, or make different products out of it, like Factor 8 Concentrate that's given to hemophiliacs or serum albumin that's given to burn patients. So now when you donate a unit of blood, instead of helping one person, you help three people. One donation help saves the lives of three to four people.

We collected 266 units of blood this year over three days, and that's an increase of 30% over your donations last year, and you should be congratulating yourselves. This blood we collected will go to over 170 hospitals throughout Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, North and South Dakota, as well as the Veterans Hospital here in Minneapolis.

So once again, thank you for allowing us in and thank you for donating your blood.

ERIC HUCKE
Donor Resource Development for the Blood Center

As you know, blood is a precious resource. In spite of all the developments of medical technology, we still do not have a replacement for the blood donated by individuals like yourselves. Blood can only come from people who are willing to take the time to donate,

and we are always in need of blood.

Some of the components that Becky mentioned are only able to be stored for a short time. Red cells for 32 days; platelets for only five days. This means that we need blood donors 52 weeks a year.

As you may know, blood donations have not always kept pace with the need. For instance, this last winter we experienced a critical national blood shortage, due in part to the severe weather, the flu epidemic and the usual drop in donations that occurs around the holidays. While this situation is no longer critical at this time, still there are many areas of the country that are in short supply. You can help us out. Throughout the nation many Legionnaires, both individually and through their Posts, support the local blood center in their community with continuing donations. On behalf of those blood centers throughout the country, we thank you for your generosity. Keep up the good work. Continue to donate blood and continue to support your local community blood center. The next time the blood mobile comes to your community, encourage a friend to come with you and donate. With your help, we can continue to provide the Gift of Life to those who need it. Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: The Chair, at this time, recognizes Tony Jordan of Maine, Chairman of the National Convention on National Security for the purpose of making his report.

REPORT OF NATIONAL CONVENTION COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY

Anthony G. Jordan (ME), Chairman

At 9:00 a.m., Sunday, September 4, 1994, 298 Delegates and alternates assigned to the Convention Committee on Security met initially in Room 205 A, B, C, and D of the Minneapolis Convention Center in Minneapolis, Minnesota. At this meeting, motions were approved authorizing the Committee Chairman and his Secretary to make technical corrections to the resolutions reported out of the Committee to ensure proper wording and form without changing the substance or meaning of the resolutions. Mr. Anthony G. Jordan (ME) was elected Chairman and Mr. Walter G. Miete (ME) was appointed Secretary.

The six authorized Convention Committees (Aerospace, Defense Civil Preparedness, Law and Order, Merchant Marine, Military Affairs, and Naval Affairs) met in separate Meeting Rooms. An additional Ad Hoc committee was appointed for General Security resolutions which required special attention. In compliance with NEC Resolution 18, a Subcommittee on Conservation of Natural Resources was appointed. The following were elected Chairmen and Secretaries of the Convention Security Committees:

Aerospace:	Robert C. Gabrielson (SD), Chairman William A. Lindsay (MT), Secretary
Defense Civil Preparedness	Frank J. D'Amico (NY), Chairman Byron Lewis (UT), Secretary
Law and Order	Dudley W. Robbins (NC), Chairman Jack M. Rainey (VA), Secretary

Merchant Marine	Charles Moreland (FL), Chairman Charles P. Powell (VA), Secretary
Military Affairs	Norbert Harmeyer (IA), Chairman Ronald Smith (VA), Secretary
Naval Affairs	John J. Wrenn (MA), Chairman Daniel Burkhardt (MD), Secretary
General Security Ad Hoc	Wilson R. Timmons (FL), Chairman Alexander MacInnes (NY), Secretary
Conservation of Natural Resources	George E. Harvey (MI), Chairman Pat McCreery (WY), Secretary

On Sunday afternoon, September 4, 1994, the Delegates again assembled in Room 211 A and B of the Minneapolis Convention Center at 12:00 p.m. for a final meeting of the Convention Committee on Security. Reports of all Convention Committees were read and their recommended actions on resolutions considered. A total of 99 resolutions were assigned to the Convention Committee on Security or prepared by the Committees to meet problems which were held to be of concern to The American Legion and germane to its principles and objectives.

The first committee report to be presented will be by the Chairman of the General Security Ad Hoc Committee, Wilson R. Timmons.

GENERAL SECURITY AD HOC COMMITTEE
Wilson R. Timmons (FL), Chairman

RECOMMENDED ACTION ON RESOLUTIONS
APPROVED

Resolution No. 71: Accelerate Military Airlift and Sealift Capabilities
Origin: MT
Submitted By: National Security Committee
Consolidated with 70 (MT) and 258 (MD)

WHEREAS, Lessons learned from the Persian Gulf War praised the rapid and sustained movement and resupply of troops and cargo to the Middle East, such success masked serious strategic vulnerabilities in our airlift and sealift capabilities as the United States had nearly six months to position its forces, a luxury it might not have in the future; and

WHEREAS, During Operation Desert Shield, 85 percent of the authorized C-141 aircraft, with an average age of 26 years, were utilized, with aircraft averaging 10.1 hours of flight time per day; and

WHEREAS, The C-17 aircraft is vital to modernizing and expanding the United States airlift capabilities and offers much lower support cost than the C-141 or C-5A and combines the advantages of strategic and tactical airlifters; and

WHEREAS, It has been proven that sealift provides at least 90 percent of the long-term

sustainment of deployed U.S. forces, yet the Department of Defense spends only five percent of its budget on strategic sealift; and

WHEREAS, In 1950, U.S. flag ships carried more than 50 percent of America's oceangoing trade, today they carry less than four percent; and

WHEREAS, In order to satisfy sealift requirements during the Persian Gulf War, the Military Sealift Command had to employ foreign shipping and activate some 45 older ships from the Ready Reserve Force, of which, 10 were unable to sail due to mechanical failures; and

WHEREAS, The Navy does not possess adequate numbers of amphibious ships to lift the assault echelon of a Marine Expeditionary Force and one Marine Expeditionary Brigade, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion urges the Congress to expedite the funding and production of additional sealift assets such as fast sealift ships and amphibious shipping, as well as modernized airlift, so as to enhance the rapid deployment and sustainment of U.S. forces when committed abroad.

Resolution No. 215: National Security for the Future
Origin: DC
Submitted By: National Security Committee
Consolidated with 74 (MT), 247 (MD), 262 (MD), 264(MD), 265 (MD), 277 (MD), 291 (WI), 352 (WA), 354 (AK), and 367 (MO)

WHEREAS, Over two centuries ago, our distinguished forefathers wrote the Preamble to the Constitution which began with the words: "We the People" shall "provide for the common defense...," and by so doing, they established the principle that protecting our nation from hostile threats was the fundamental purpose of the Government of the United States; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion since its founding in 1919 has always supported a strong national defense which is reflected in its own Preamble to the Constitution, namely, "To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America," and "to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation;" and

WHEREAS, The American Legion believes that the American people expect its civilian and military leadership to develop a reasonable and common sense National Military Strategy to protect American citizens and our vital national interests in the post-Cold War period; and

WHEREAS, Although the threat posed by the former Soviet Union is diminished, and the United States is faced with a myriad of short and long term threats and challenges which are far more complex, perplexing and difficult to deal with than was the more predictable and unified threat posed by the former Soviet Union; and

WHEREAS, Defining a National Military Strategy for the post-Cold War era must begin with our national security interests and objectives and these include: first and foremost, the United States must ensure its security as a free and independent nation, and the protection of its people, fundamental values and institutions; global and regional stability which encourages peaceful change and progress; open international trading and economic systems which benefit all participants; and an enduring global faith in America - that it can and will lead in unilateral or collective responses to world crisis, if so required; and

WHEREAS, In spite of known and foreseeable threats and challenges to our national

security well-being, we as a nation are undergoing the largest military downsizing since World War II, and the United States Army is currently ranked as the sixth largest in the world, behind such communist powers as Red China, Russia, North Korea, and Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion has reviewed the Administration's five-year assessment known as The Bottom-Up Review and has received copies of the White House "National Security Strategy of the United States" and is expected to receive copies of the "National Military Strategy of the United States;" and

WHEREAS, The Bottom-Up Review calls for the Armed Forces to be capable of fighting and winning two major regional conflicts on the order of the Persian Gulf War, nearly simultaneously, while further reducing military manpower levels from 1.6 million to 1.4 million by 1999 and cutting active military force structures to 10 Army Divisions, 11 active Navy aircraft carriers and one Reserve carrier, and 13 Air Force fighter wing equivalents; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion believes that the Administration's strategy, force levels and defense budgets are based more on meeting budget deficit reduction targets rather than representing a prudent assessment of America's true defense needs in an unstable world; the Bottom-Up Review does not match its missions with resources which could cost American lives in future conflicts;

WHEREAS, The National Executive Committee adopted a similar resolution at its Spring 1994 meeting; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion urge the Congress and the Department of Defense to develop a common sense National Military Strategy and to incorporate the following actions and guidelines into its strategy and policies:

1. The Bottom-Up Review and the military drawdown should be placed on hold until America's true defense needs have been more adequately assessed and budgeted.
2. The credibility of the United States in an unstable world needs to be maintained by retaining the requisite military capabilities to fight and win two major regional conflicts. Such a strategy requires that the Armed Forces be more fully structured, equipped and budgeted to achieve this strategy. Active military end strengths should be maintained at an absolute minimum of 1.6 million for the foreseeable future. Active military force structures outlined in the FY 1994 National Defense Authorization Act, namely, 12 Army Divisions, 12 deployable Navy aircraft carrier battle groups, 3 Marine Corps Expeditionary Forces, and 15 or more active Air Force fighter wing equivalents should be retained as the minimum baseline foundation.
3. The National Guard and Reserves must be realistically manned, structured, equipped, trained, fully deployable and maintained at high readiness levels in order to accomplish their indispensable missions and roles in our national defense.
4. The existing gap between these minimally essential military force structures and proposed defense budgets must be closed.
5. Peacetime Selective Service registration should be retained so as to maintain

our capability to rapidly reconstitute forces in the event of emergencies.

6. Force modernization for the Services needs to be realistically funded, and not further delayed, or the United States is likely to unnecessarily risk American lives in the years ahead.

7. The American people expect that whenever U.S. forces are committed, that they will be committed only when America's vital national interests are threatened and only as a last resort after all reasonable alternatives have been explored and tried. Once the decision to commit U.S. forces has been made, forces sent into harm's way should be deployed only to win.

8. The United States should not allow its stated preference for multilateral action to become an excuse for continuous U.S. military action when clearly its national interests may not be at stake, nor should we delay American unilateral action when our national interests are at stake.

9. Peacekeeping, peace enforcement, peace-making and humanitarian operations can detract from our declining combat power and readiness. Such operations should be congressionally approved and separately appropriated on a case-by-case basis.

10. The honorable nature of military service should be upheld, as it not only represents fulfillment of American patriotic obligation but is also a privilege and responsibility that embodies the highest form of service to the nation.

11. The United States Government must honor its obligations to all service members, veterans, military retirees and their families, and lasting compensations and incentives should be equitable.

12. Major incentives for military service to include an enhanced GI Bill for education and training, and the reinstitutionalization of the 20-year plus retirement as the norm, need to be immediately implemented to recruit and retain a quality and fully-manned force which is professionally led.

13. The United States Government must ensure that the defense industrial base can reasonably meet the technological needs of the Armed Forces, and that transfers of crucial defense technologies abroad should immediately be discontinued.

Resolution No. 217: Commitment of United States Military Forces in Peacekeeping and Humanitarian Operations

Origin: DC

Submitted By: National Security Committee

Consolidated with 73 (MT), 145 (IL), 162 (WV), 196 (TX), 259 (MD), and 332 (MO)

WHEREAS, The stated purpose of the "War Powers Act" (P.L. 93-148) was to "...fulfill the intent of the framers of the Constitution to insure that the collective judgment of both the Congress and the President will apply to the introduction of the United States Armed Forces into hostilities or into situations where imminent hostilities were clearly indicated;" and

WHEREAS, Our Constitution reserves for Congress alone the right to declare war, which it has done only five times in our history and has not done since World War II; and

WHEREAS, During the Cold War, former Secretary of Defense Weinberger in 1985 set forth specified conditions that had to be met before American military forces were committed to combat, namely, that the United States Government had to determine that our

vital national interests were at stake; that we were prepared to commit sufficient forces to win; that political and military objectives were clearly defined; that there was reasonable assurance of support from the American people; that U.S. forces should be committed as a last resort; and that the United States had a clear exit strategy; and

WHEREAS, The successes of United States military operations in Grenada, Panama, and the Persian Gulf demonstrated what our Armed Forces could achieve with well-defined goals and objectives and the unquestioned support of the American people; and the tragedies of Lebanon and Somalia have shown what can happen when they had neither; and

WHEREAS, To enhance public support, Americans need a clear definition of United States vital national interests in all military deployments to include peacekeeping and humanitarian operations, particularly when the authority to authorize and commit American military forces appears to have been Delegated to the United Nations to decide where, when, and for how long U.S. troops should be put in harm's way; and

WHEREAS, When the United Nations, through Resolution 814, changed the mission in Somalia from a humanitarian operation to one of "nation-building" involving U.S. combat operations which resulted in American casualties and one detainee, it was done without the benefit of Congressional input or the acknowledgment of the American people; and

WHEREAS, According to current Department of Defense policy, United States military personnel captured during such peacekeeping, peacemaking, humanitarian, or nation-building operations are not designated as prisoners of war but as hostages or detainees with no defined legal rights under the Geneva Convention; and

WHEREAS, The National Executive Committee adopted a similar resolution at its Fall 1993 meeting; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion urge the United States Government to include the following principles as an integral part of its national security and foreign policy decision-making process when considering the commitment of United States military forces: America needs a clear definition of its vital national interests as they relate to all military operations to include peacekeeping and humanitarian operations; that Congress should approve the commitment of United States troops to any further peacekeeping and humanitarian operations; that United States military forces should not be placed under foreign or United Nations command except in exceptional circumstances, where Congress grants specific approval; and that American service men and women captured during these types of operations should be granted full POW status and afforded all the protections of the Geneva Conventions; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion is convinced that a stronger policy is required by the United States Government to ensure that every service man or woman captured by hostile forces knows that his or her Government will take whatever measures are required to secure their release, including the use of force, and that those belligerents who violate such a policy should be held accountable and face the full wrath of the United States.

Resolution No. 218: Expansion of the High School JROTC Program
Origin: DC
Submitted By: National Security Committee

WHEREAS, High School Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps programs are cost-effective and build character, citizenship and leadership among the nation's youth while exposing them to discipline and instilling a sense of patriotism and pride in our Country; and

WHEREAS, Although collegiate ROTC programs are downsizing as the military downsizes, JROTC programs are increasing, largely as a result of former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Colin Powell's call for a doubling of JROTC programs, from approximately 1,600 total programs to 3200 units by 1997; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Defense has appropriated over $70 million to fund some 297 Army, 85 Navy, and 107 Air Force additional JROTC programs across the country in school year 1993-1994; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion ROTC Achievement Program, which attempts to associate Departments and Posts with specific ROTC units, brings prestige to the Post, Department and The American Legion and promotes the national security well-being of our country; and

WHEREAS, The National Executive Committee adopted a similar resolution at its Spring 1994 meeting; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion strongly urges the Congress and the Department of Defense to continue to expand the high school JROTC program on an annual basis; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion continue to encourage all Departments and Posts to actively participate in The American Legion ROTC Achievement Program and to recognize and welcome newly established JROTC units.

Resolution No. 244: Maintain Collegiate and High School ROTC Programs
Origin: MD
Submitted By: National Security Committee

WHEREAS, The trend of declining Department of Defense budgets and the downsizing of the Armed Forces has reduced the number of collegiate ROTC programs across the country and the number of junior officers commissioned through ROTC programs; and

WHEREAS, Collegiate ROTC programs continue to serve as the largest source of commissioned officers in the Active and Reserve components and, despite the drawdown, there will be a continuing need for commissioning junior Officers into the Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, High school ROTC programs are cost-effective and build character, citizenship, and leadership in our youth while exposing them to discipline and instilling a sense of patriotism and pride in our country; and

WHEREAS, The United States' victory in the Persian Gulf War has renewed pride in the Armed Forces and has increased the demand for more high school ROTC programs; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion has strongly supported both high school and collegiate ROTC programs as part of its National Security Program; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion go on record as supporting the continuance of both high school and collegiate ROTC programs as invaluable sources of leadership for the Armed Forces of our country; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion urges the Congress and the Department of Defense to support, fund and retain high school and collegiate ROTC programs as being in the national interest.

Resolution No. 250: Support for the Theater Missile Defense System
Origin: MD
Submitted By: National Security Committee

WHEREAS, The strategic defense of the United States against an intercontinental ballistic missile or conventional hostile attack is based upon a strategy of deterrence using the nuclear triad made up of submarine launched ballistic missiles, land-based intercontinental range ballistic missiles and strategic bomber carried and launched missiles and gravity bomb weapons; and

WHEREAS, The current threat to the continental U.S. from ballistic missiles is low but growing, and foreign-based American service personnel, their dependents, U.S. security interests overseas and those of our allies are critically vulnerable to short and medium range ballistic missile delivery systems launched from third-world countries and equipped with weapons of mass destruction that include nuclear, chemical and biological warheads; and

WHEREAS, A number of smaller nations now have the capability to manufacture, assemble, use and sell ballistic missiles or their technology thus allowing Third World nations to hold neighboring countries or regions hostage and subject to political-military blackmail; and

WHEREAS, The means to acquire such ballistic missile technology and warhead weapons systems are becoming progressively easier since missile and weapon non-proliferation treaties are increasingly difficult to monitor and enforce, and since these nations are becoming less intimidated and deterred by conventional military power and mobility; and

WHEREAS, The most practical missile defensive system is a theater missile defense and interceptor system positioned on friendly or allied territory near or adjacent to known potentially hostile third world nations and equipped with the ability to neutralize a ballistic missile and its payload while in its boost or mid-course phase so that the aggressors missile can be destroyed while it is still over his territory; and

WHEREAS, The United States has the technology to deploy theater missile defense systems but low urgency to do so in North America, but does have significant rationale and indications to defend U.S. and allied interests in the Middle East, Mediterranean and Korean peninsula regions that have high potential of becoming the targets of ballistic missiles now or in the not too distant future, and since arms control negotiations are on-going and could undermine or diminish U.S. capabilities to deploy theater missile defense systems; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion urges the Congress to support and fund theater missile defense systems research, acquisition and deployment and approve a policy in concert with our allies, for the assembly of an appropriate Theater Missile Defense system in high threat theaters of operation to serve as a deterrent to those countries who now possess and are likely to use ballistic missiles on their regional neighbors; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion urges that U.S. arms control negotiating strategy preserve the options for a ground or space-based theater missile defense command, control, communications and intelligence system that could be deployed and used in defense of the continental U.S. as its top priority, or in an overseas high threat theater of operations in which the U.S. has a crucial national security interest to, if necessary, neutralize ballistic missile threat launches equipped with weapons of mass destruction or annihilation.

Resolution No. 251: The Honorable Nature of Military Service
Origin: MD
Submitted By: National Security Committee

WHEREAS, When our citizens in the early days of the Republic were forced to live with danger, they prepared themselves for it. One of our earliest traditions as a nation was the Minuteman, keeping his powder dry and musket oiled. He helped give us our nation and our heritage; and it was his sacred duty to provide for the common defense; and

WHEREAS, Our distinguished forefathers wrote the following words into the Preamble of the Constitution: "We the people....shall provide for the common defense..." By doing so, they established the principle that protecting our society from hostile threats was the basic imperative of the Government of the United States, and these words suggest that our national defense is a shared responsibility of its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, To this day, the American people have come to realize that the military institution is unique and necessarily different from other societal institutions. One source of uniqueness is the overriding mission of the Armed Forces: the protection of the nation's vital interests, the deterrence of war, and the attainment of our national objectives if war should come. Fulfilling this mission requires the best efforts of capable, dedicated people; and

WHEREAS, Military service requires yielding the freedom of choice enjoyed by other Americans. A military force can be effective only if all of its members subordinate their personal desires for the greater purposes of the military organization. The most stressful aspects of military life--overtime work without pay, long tours at sea or in remote areas, field duty in foul weather and rugged terrain, frequent moves and family separations, and the ultimate dangers of combat--all are imposed without choice on the part of the service member; and

WHEREAS, Military members, beyond having the mandatory physical, mental and moral attributes, must have a special measure of dedication and loyalty to their comrades in arms for which there is little comparison in civilian life: these qualities are underlaid with a love of country and its ideals; and

WHEREAS, There are intangible compensating factors that make these sacrifices more acceptable: the opportunity for service to the nation, the intense satisfaction of being relied upon as a member of a team with a highly important mission, the unequaled camaraderie, the opportunities for assuming responsibilities and new challenges. Clearly, however, there must be tangible benefits to provide fair compensation for such selfless service to the nation; and

WHEREAS, Time and technology have changed from the early days of the Republic, but without trained and dedicated military men and women, the latest state-of-the-art technology would be inconsequential; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion and the vast majority of the American people continue to uphold the honorable nature of military service as it not only represents fulfillment of American patriotic obligation but is a privilege and responsibility that has always embodied the highest form of service to the nation; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion strongly believes that the United States Government must continue to honor its obligations to all service members, veterans, military

retirees and their families who have served the ideals of this great nation through their numerous sacrifices, and who have often paid the ultimate price for the common defense of the United States and its vital national interests.

Resolution No. 260: Foreign Investments in Defense Industries
Origin: MD
Submitted By: National Security Committee

WHEREAS, In this era of rapidly changing technology the United States must maintain ownership and control of critical defense industries so that U.S. technological secrets can be protected and adequate production facilities can be maintained to meet any national emergency; and

WHEREAS, The generally declining strength of the dollar in the mid-1980s and the downsizing of our defense industrial base in the 1990's have made it very lucrative for foreign entities to purchase U.S. firms, including those involved in national defense production; and

WHEREAS, As of 1986, 3 of the largest 36 foreign business investments in the United States were manufacturers of electronics and semiconductors, both of which are areas of vital importance to maintaining U.S. national security; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Treasury Department's Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States investigated the proposed sale of LTV Missile and Aircraft Divisions to the French-owned CSF, which was eventually thwarted; and

WHEREAS, Such proposed sales threaten the security of classified U.S. military technologies and U.S. technological superiority; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion urges the U.S. Government to ensure that foreign entities are not permitted to own critical U.S. defense industries, especially those involved in the high technology, supersensitive electronics area.

Resolution No. 261: Integrated National Industrial Base
Origin: MD
Submitted By: National Security Committee

WHEREAS, Dramatic changes in the international political climate dictate a change in our approach to national defense strategy which previously focused primarily on large-scale conflict with the Soviet Union or its client states, but, now anticipates that conflicts in the foreseeable future will be on a smaller scale, with shorter notice and against, as yet, unspecified opponents, where this change in the global conflict possibilities has necessitated a restructuring of the composition of the forces; and

WHEREAS, Improved methods are needed to manage the defense industrial base to assure that an efficient, flexible, capable and responsive base is maintained to produce critical military supplies as needed (an industrial base which will get smaller and will not be supported by defense dollars alone) and which must be able to conduct research and development and rapidly go into production when needed; and

WHEREAS, The industrial base must integrate the capabilities of government depots, plants and arsenals with the capabilities of the defense contractor base and commercial sector; it must be capable of surge production; and, in concert with war reserves, it must be able to sustain the critical war fighting needs in contingency operations; and

WHEREAS, The business base for the industrial base will consist of direct and foreign

military sales, commercial sales of related items, integrated production of military, dual-use and commercial products with dedicated defense capability to be maintained only for critical war fighting needs that cannot be provided by the commercial sector; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion supports development of an integrated defense industrial base using all the capabilities of the commercial sector, defense contractors and government facilities to: ensure logistical sustainment; shape the future industrial base to ensure it is capable of supporting the full spectrum of contingency operations; integrate the U.S. defense and commercial industrial sectors to achieve an efficient total industrial base; and support only those segments of the defense industrial base that are critical and cannot be supported by any means other than U.S. dollars.

Resolution No. 263: Preserving America's Defense Industrial Base
Origin: MD
Submitted By: National Security Committee

WHEREAS, America's winning technological edge in the Persian Gulf War had its genesis in research and development performed in the decade of the 1980's and earlier; and

WHEREAS, Critics in years pass condemned the M1A1 Abrams Tank, the Patriot missile system, A-10 and F/A-18 aircraft, the AH-64 Apache and other systems; however, these weapons systems performed superbly in the Persian Gulf and without a viable defense industrial base, these technological advances would not have been available to the United States; and

WHEREAS, The FY 1991 through 1994 Defense Authorization Acts and the FY 1995 Defense Budget Request have eliminated production of over 100 major systems many of which have been proven in combat and for which replacement systems have not or will not be developed; and

WHEREAS, Military procurement has fallen more than 50 percent between FY 1985 and FY 1993; and

WHEREAS, The proposed FY 1995 Defense Budget Request emphasizes technological research and development but not production, and it is too late when a conflict develops to determine whether we have the capabilities to produce the requisite technologies for the Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, The United States is currently the world's leader in the development of new technology but must ensure that it does not become vulnerable to a disruption in material vital to our national security, and that its industrial base can surge when required; and

WHEREAS, Upgrading such systems in the past the B-52 bomber and F-111 fighter have proven to be not only cost-effective but vital to our national security until replacement stealth technologies were in-place; and

WHEREAS, Research being performed now will be essential to victory in systems fielded into the 21st century; and

WHEREAS, This country owes it to the American fighting man that whenever he is put in harm's way that he be equipped and armed with state-of-the-art technology if we expect him to win on the modern battlefield, on and under the sea, and in the air; and

WHEREAS, Much of our defense industrial base, to include the ship-building industry, is rapidly eroding as evidenced by plant closures and large-scale layoffs; now, therefore, be

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion urges the President and the Congress to preserve America's defense industrial base by continuing to fund research, development and acquisition budgets so as to retain our technological edge in the 21st century and to assure our military production can surge whenever U.S. military power is committed.

REFERRED TO THE STANDING COMMISSION ON NATIONAL SECURITY

Resolution No. 249 (MD) 1994 NC: **Strategic Nuclear Forces**

REJECTED

Resolution No. 366 (PR) 1994 NC: **Relocation of the United States Southern Command**

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, that concludes my report.

CHAIRMAN JORDAN: Now we will hear from the Conservation of Natural Resources Chairman, George Harvey of Michigan.

CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES
George Harvey (MI), Chairman

RECOMMENDED ACTION ON RESOLUTIONS
APPROVED

Resolution No. 120: Domestic Energy Production
Origin: UT
Submitted By: National Security Committee
Consolidated with No. 124 (UT)

WHEREAS, The United States' continued reliance on foreign sources of energy places our national security and economic well-being, as a nation at risk during times of crisis and

WHEREAS, The United States continues to import approximately 50 to 60 percent or more of its oil while its domestic production continues to drop to its lowest levels in over 24 years, thus further compounding our foreign trade deficit at a time when our energy demands continue unabated; and

WHEREAS, War and the continuing threat of conflict in the volatile Persian Gulf region has brought into sharp focus the heavy reliance of the United States on imported foreign oil which necessitates a re-evaluation of our current and long-range energy policies; and

WHEREAS, Like our domestic oil and gas resources, nuclear energy is a safe resource where price and supply are not subject to manipulation by foreign countries; and nuclear energy is our second-largest source of electricity in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Despite the passage of the "Energy Policy Act of 1992," many of its provisions, to include further development of domestic energy resources, need to be more actively pursued in order to reduce our reliance on foreign sources of energy; now, therefore,

be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion urges the Congress and the Department of Energy to implement those provisions of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 which call for further development of domestic sources of energy to include:

1. Increasing U.S. petroleum production in an environmentally sensible manner.
2. Building new nuclear energy plants.
3. Implementing domestic oil and gas exploration subsidies.
4. Imposing sliding oil import fees to be used as an incentive to reduce our demand for foreign supplies while encouraging the development of domestic energy resources.
5. Development and implementation of sources to separate and recycle domestic recyclable materials thus preserving our natural resources for future generations.
6. That the provisions of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 be implemented and carried out as mandated in the Act.

Resolution No. 121: Federal Oil and Gas Leasing System
Origin: UT
Submitted By: National Security Committee

WHEREAS, Current Federal oil and gas leasing practices under the "Mineral Leasing Act of 1920" encourage exploration and development and provide a fair return to the public; and

WHEREAS, The present system of oil and gas leasing on federal land allows smaller independent operators and companies an opportunity to compete with major companies for federal leases; and

WHEREAS, Most of the wildcat leasing and exploratory drilling throughout the Nation is done by independent companies; and

WHEREAS, Combined oil and gas make up a large portion of the total production, most of which is produced from federal land leases that are vital to a reliable and continuing fuel supply for transportation and national security; and

WHEREAS, Imports of foreign oil have been increasing at an alarming rate and could reach the 60 percent level in this decade; and

WHEREAS, Heavy reliance on foreign oil sources weakens the U.S. economy, undermines national security, eliminates American jobs, and increases the trade deficit; and

WHEREAS, Oil and gas leasing and development is subject to comprehensive environmental regulations which dictate a thorough environmental review and analysis of activities with public participation encouraged throughout the process; and

WHEREAS, There has been pending in both Houses of Congress bills that would amend the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 to further restrict exploration and development on public lands that would add additional environmental and land use restrictions on oil and gas exploration; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion supports the current federal oil and gas leasing system and opposes any legislative changes in the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 that would seriously jeopardize this Nation's national security by not being able to supply our petroleum needs in a time of national emergency.

Resolution No. 122: Curtailment of Additional Wilderness Areas
Origin: UT
Submitted By: National Security Committee

WHEREAS, 729 million acres or 92% of public lands in the United States are located in Western states with 90 million acres already designated as federal wilderness areas. Congress is presently considering designating an additional 30 million acres of public lands to wilderness status which, if added to presently designated wilderness lands, would equal an area with the combined size of California, Nevada, and Utah; and

WHEREAS, The designation of additional wilderness areas appears to vastly exceed discretionary requirements for conservation of wildlife and natural resources so as to adversely impact on our national security interests by denying or severely limiting the military and citizenry access to these areas; by precluding the development of minerals, timber, coal, oil and other energy sources vital to our national security interests during crises or times of emergencies; and thereby reducing our capabilities while placing heavier reliance on the foreign importation of essential resources; and

WHEREAS, Additional wilderness restrictions have a negative impact on the ability, ground maneuverability, and overflight rights of the U.S. Army and U.S. Air Force to include Active Duty units, Reserves and State National Guard forces to conduct essential and realistic combat-oriented training; and such restrictions further deprive the nation's armed forces of state-of-the-art simulated combat environments that are in the best interest of United States national security, now, therefore, be it,

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion urges the Congress, in conjunction with the Secretary of Interior and the Director of the Bureau of Land Management, who have been, and are presently conducting, oversight Congressional and public hearings to evaluate the impact of additional public lands and wilderness areas for further diversification without a complete and comprehensive study as required; and ensure that any potential negative impact on our national security and economic interests have been completely evaluated for the well-being of the United States and her citizens.

Resolution No. 123: Oil Exploration on the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Coastal Plain
Origin: UT
Submitted By: National Security Committee

WHEREAS, This Nation's national security and transportation system is dependent primarily upon petroleum as a fuel source; and

WHEREAS, Imports of foreign oil have been increasing and could reach the 60 percent level in this decade; and

WHEREAS, Heavy reliance on foreign oil sources weakens the U.S. economy, undermines national security, eliminates American jobs, and increases the deficit; and

WHEREAS, Development of domestic energy resources is vital to a reliable and continuing fuel supply for national security and transportation; and

WHEREAS, Development of such resources to actual production involves a time frame of years, not weeks or months; and

WHEREAS, The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska is believed to contain as much as 9.2 billion barrels of oil; and

WHEREAS, The petroleum industry has amply demonstrated the ability to explore and

develop environmentally sensitive areas without catastrophic damage, as witnessed in the Prudhoe Bay area along with the Alaska pipeline; and

WHEREAS, Legislation has been introduced that would allow exploration and development of the energy resources in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge area; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Department of the Interior has asked Congress to permit oil exploration on the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Coastal Plain under the close supervision perfected at Prudhoe Bay; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion urge Congress and other interested parties to oppose legislation that would close off and lock up the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge resources and preclude exploration and development of this much needed reserve for our national security.

Resolution No. 127: Nuclear Energy and Nuclear Waste
Origin: UT
Submitted By: National Security Committee
As amended

WHEREAS, Nuclear energy has contributed greatly to U.S. energy independence, having displaced 4.6 billion barrels of oil and saved over $145 billion in oil payments since the 1973 Arab oil embargo; and

WHEREAS, Oil imports are the largest contributor to the U.S. trade deficit, $880 million a week in 1992; and

WHEREAS, The United States must have a secure reliable supply of energy to fuel our economy and to protect our national security; and

WHEREAS, A growing supply of electricity is essential to U.S. economic growth, U.S. industry and the general well-being of the American people; and

WHEREAS, With a moderately growing economy, the U.S. will still need about 200,000 megawatts of new generating electrical capacity by 2010; and

WHEREAS, The virtues of using a diversity of energy sources including nuclear energy, to produce our electricity are well-recognized; and

WHEREAS, Nuclear energy is our second-largest source of electricity providing 20 percent of our electricity supply - safely, reliably and without damage to the environment; and

WHEREAS, The 109 U.S. nuclear power plans operating in 1993 continue their record-breaking electricity production performance by generating 610 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity; and

WHEREAS, The National Energy Policy Act of 1992 calls for new, safer, plant design and standardization, as well as Nuclear Regulatory Commission certification, continued studies of Yucca Mountain, and modernized licensing procedures; and

WHEREAS, Relicensing of nuclear power plants are subject to a rigorous program of NRC oversight, inspection, preventive and corrective maintenance and extensive equipment testing ensuring required safety standards are met; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion supports the Administration, the Congress, and state and local governments to work together with industry using all resources to ensure continued growth of our nuclear electric capacity with proper storage and disposal of nuclear waste material.

CHAIRMAN HARVEY: That concludes my portion of the Conservation of Natural Resources Section of the report, including nuclear energy and nuclear waste.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN JORDAN: Now we will hear from Bob Gabrielson, for the report of the Aerospace Committee.

AEROSPACE COMMITTEE
Robert C. Gabrielson (SD), Chairman

RECOMMENDED ACTION ON RESOLUTIONS
APPROVED

Resolution No. 72: Aerospace Production and Research
Origin: MT
Submitted By: National Security Committee

WHEREAS, The United States has been the world leader in aeronautics for 75 years, since the creation of the Nation's first aeronautical research laboratories; and

WHEREAS, The United States has become the global pacesetter in military and commercial aircraft and space technology through long-range research and development; and

WHEREAS, U.S. progress in aviation and space research has had a profound impact on our Nation's quality of life and its economic social and political institutions; and

WHEREAS, For every dollar increase in shipments of U.S. aircraft internationally, the U.S. economy output increases by an estimated $2.30; and

WHEREAS, For every dollar invested in technology to put man on the moon, more than $7 is returned to the U.S. economy; and

WHEREAS, U.S. advancements in aeronautics and space technology have made all areas of our earth more accessible and made possible communication on a global scale; and

WHEREAS, In this century, American men and women of courage, vision and know-how have brought the peoples of the world closer through flight and space exploration; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. aerospace program has inspired generations of Americans, especially the young; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion has committed itself to the advancement of aeronautics and space exploration and the necessary research, engineering and development to propagate these technologies by creating within the National Security Commission an Aerospace Committee; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion deems it imperative that the United States, in the face of increasing competition, maintain its hard won status as the world leader in aeronautics and aircraft production and in space exploration and research. To realize this goal, we, The American Legion, urge the Congress to provide:

1. Increased funding for the nation's civilian and military aerospace research and development programs.
2. Increased funding to build, upgrade and enhance the nation's civilian and military aerospace research facilities.
3. A renewed national commitment to education involving aeronautical

engineering; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion believes that as we move into the 21st century, we must continue to venture beyond earth and into the promises of space.

Resolution No. 240: Maintain the Combat Readiness and Modernization of the United States Air Force
Origin: MD
Submitted By: National Security Committee

WHEREAS, The Secretary of the Air Force has emphasized that the two major challenges facing the United States Air Force are to retain its capability to deal with residual threats to the United States and to continually prepare for the uncertainties of the 21st Century; and

WHEREAS, The United States Air Force has three major objectives which include sustaining the deterrence of our nuclear forces, providing versatile combat forces for theater operations and power projection, and continuing to maintain a quality Air Force; and

WHEREAS, The restructured missile force will emphasize stability and system safety at lower levels to include, as a minimum: Maintaining an adequate inventory of peacekeeper missiles sufficient to maintain the deployed system irrespective of relations with the former Soviet Union; No further reductions in the production of advanced cruise missiles; and continuing to upgrade the Minuteman III to extend its life beyond the year 2010; and

WHEREAS, Air Force efforts will be primarily focused toward regional concerns and power projection capabilities as well as modernization critical in a changed world to include: Funding 20 B-2 bombers; continued production of the Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missile (AMRAAM); fully funding the B-1B bomber expansion program and upgrades to remaining B-52s; fully funding the F-22 program; full funding of the C-17 program; and improving space-based command, control, communications and intelligence systems; and

WHEREAS, In order to maintain its high state of personnel quality, the Air Force recognizes it needs to continually provide reasonable career prospects to include timely promotions, advancement opportunities, and career stability; and to compensate with adequate base pay and allowances to offset inflation, change of station moves, and bonus programs; and to recruit and retain the highest quality enlisted, non-commissioned, and commissioned officer personnel; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion urges the Congress to appropriately support and fund Defense Budgets which reflect the three major objectives of the United States Air Force which include sustaining the deterrence of our nuclear forces, providing versatile Air Force combat forces for theater operations and power projection, and continuing to maintain a quality force; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion further urges Congressional action to support the combat readiness of the United States Air Force and the enhancement of quality of life features as well as its continued modernization to include: Maintaining an adequate inventory of peacekeeper missiles, no further reduction in advanced cruise missile production, upgrading the minuteman III program; fully funding 20 B-2 Bombers, continued production of the Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missile; fully funding the B-1B upgrade program and upgrading remaining B-52s; fully funding the F-22 program; full funding of the C-17 program, and improving space-based command, control,

communications and intelligence systems.

Resolution No. 268: Support for the National Space Program
Origin: MD
Submitted By: National Security Committee

WHEREAS, The sound fiscal, economic, national security and technological welfare of the United States are of paramount importance to the people of America; and

WHEREAS, The dissemination and use of space systems technology, the research programs on which it is based, and the spin-off products, techniques and services derived from the U.S. space program are vital components of the nation's economy and the well-being of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. space program has kept the nation on the leading edge of the technological frontier, has created jobs, improved diagnosis and treatment of medical care for veterans and all Americans, fostered new scholastic interest in space science, provided insight into the evolution and current state of the earth, its environment and its solar system, and has provided visions and objectives for the future for business, industry and academia and the nation's youth; and

WHEREAS, In view of changes in domestic and international priorities in the areas of geopolitics, foreign policy, national security, economics and science, affirmation of new long range and lasting objectives are required for the manned and unmanned U.S. national security, civil and commercial space programs; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion urges the Congress to adopt the following objectives with regard to the National Space Program:

1. A managerially efficient NASA as the steward of the nation's civil and commercial space programs dedicated to focusing on the low-cost use and exploitation of space and technology derived from our efforts there; and
2. A consolidated approach to the organizational and operational aspects of national security, civil and commercial space initiatives with emphasis on continuity and efficiency in maintenance of the interrelationships of programs such as launch, on-orbit and retrieval operations; and
3. Continued research and development on affordable lift into space using new launch systems, propulsion systems, metals and fuels; and
4. Establishment of special working liaisons and agreements with other spacefaring nations who share U.S. goals in space and who will also share costs, technologies and resources; and
5. Endorse and actively support those specific goals of the U.S. space program that have high probability to achieve cost effectiveness and nation-wide beneficial results in national security, scientific research and exploration goals based on a permanent national space policy which allows clear, definable progress for the nation at consistent, predictable funding levels.
6. That programs such as the nation's space activities are crucial to America's well-being and must co-exist with other national budgetary priorities.

CHAIRMAN GABRIELSON: Mr. Chairman, that concludes my portion of the report.
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN JORDAN: The next report is the Defense Civil

Preparedness Committee by the Chairman Frank J. D'Amico.

DEFENSE CIVIL PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE
Frank J. D'Amico (NY), Chairman

RECOMMENDED ACTION ON RESOLUTIONS
APPROVED

Resolution No. 241: Support for the Non-federal Roles of the National Guard
Origin: MD
Submitted By: National Security Committee

WHEREAS, Members of the National Guard swear dual allegiance to support and defend the United States as well as the individual states in which Guardsmen reside and serve; and

WHEREAS, In the history of our country, activated National Guard units have served with distinction in all of our Nation's wars, and in combination with Reserve Units, composed 20 percent of the total United States' forces deployed in the Persian Gulf War; and

WHEREAS, National Guard units also perform such invaluable non-federal roles as quelling domestic civil disturbances to include, for example, the employment of Guardsmen in the recent Los Angeles rioting; providing relief assistance in man-made or natural disasters as in Hurricane Hugo and the California earthquakes; as well as civil defense and drug interdiction functions, and other vital missions as determined by state authorities; and

WHEREAS, National Guard units are often the first relief or rescue forces to provide immediate on-scene response in the event of such emergencies; and

WHEREAS, Rioting and looting on the order of that in Los Angeles and the reoccurrence of large scale natural and man-made disasters could be repeated across the country requiring the immediate intervention of military units to supplement and assist state and local authorities and our citizenry; and

WHEREAS, With the proposed reduction of National Guard Units, their participation in these traditional non-federal roles may be severely limited or even eliminated in some cases and may be accomplished by more frequently tasking available active forces; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion urges the Congress to retain National Guard Units at reasonable levels so that in addition to their federal mobilization missions they may continue to provide civil disturbance and natural and man-made disaster assistance; perform civil defense and drug interdictions functions; as well as other essential state roles as required.

RECEIVED AND RECORDED

Resolution No. 9 (MA) 1994 NC: **Support of Blood Banks**
Resolution No. 38 (NE) 1994 NC: **Support of Blood Banks**

CHAIRMAN D'AMICO: Mr. Chairman, that concludes my portion of the report.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN JORDAN: Next is the Law and Order Committee Report by W. Dudley Robbins, North Carolina, Chairman.

LAW AND ORDER COMMITTEE
W. Dudley Robbins (NC), Chairman

RECOMMENDED ACTION ON RESOLUTIONS
APPROVED

Resolution No. 146: Combating Violent Crime in America
Origin: IL
Submitted By: National Security Committee

WHEREAS, The seemingly uncontrollable increase of violent crimes in our nation during the past decade is a matter of grave concern to all citizens; and

WHEREAS, Many laws have been enacted in national, state and local jurisdictions to control the ownership and use of target competitions, collectable, and hunting firearms, under the assumption that these firearms are the cause of many serious criminal acts; and

WHEREAS, Many politicians are jumping on the anti-crime bandwagon this year; and

WHEREAS, Proposed federal legislation now looms to banning and taxing ammunition, installing national licensing, registration of all guns and owners, home "arsenal" licensing and repealing the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution; and

WHEREAS, Such regulatory laws are only obeyed by law abiding citizens and are ignored by criminals, with little or no effect in halting the increase in crime; and

WHEREAS, Logic indicates that effective deterrents to criminal activity must come from strict enforcement of existing laws with certain and severe penalties for the criminal misuse of firearms; and

WHEREAS, The American people have always believed that all serious crimes against society must be punished speedily and vigorously to discourage others from committing such crimes; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion hereby reaffirms its long held stand that the efforts of government should be directed to the enforcement of existing criminal laws rather than the regulation of the purchase, licensing, registration, taxing, banning and possession of firearms by the millions of law-abiding citizens who own them for traditionally legitimate purposes; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion urges the Congress to cease the enactment of more Federal criminal laws but rather provide the funding and manpower for more effective enforcement of present laws directed against criminal activity to include assuring speedy trials, curtailing plea bargaining in violent crimes, imposing safeguards against unwarranted probation and parole of convicted persons, and initiating long overdue reforms of our penal system so that they incarcerate criminals while rehabilitating less- hardened criminals.

Resolution No. 166: Regional Information Sharing Systems Program
Origin: VA
Submitted By: National Security Committee

WHEREAS, The American Legion is a strong advocate of law and order and a supporter of law enforcement efforts to curb the Nation's crime and drug problem; and

WHEREAS, The Regional Information Sharing Systems (RISS) Program serves the

needs of Federal, state and local law enforcements by providing specialized resources to support their efforts to identify, target and remove criminal conspiracies and activities spanning jurisdictional boundaries that involve drug trafficking, organized criminal activity and white collar crime; and

WHEREAS, RISS is a Federally funded law enforcement assistance program administered by the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs; and

WHEREAS, Since the Program's full implementation in 1980, member agencies, with RISS support, have recovered narcotics, currency and property valued in excess of $3 billion at a total cost that approximates 5% of that amount, or a twenty dollar return for every dollar of Federal funding; and

WHEREAS, During the 1990-92 timeframe, RISS was instrumental in the arrests of 13,000 criminal suspects by member law enforcement agencies; and

WHEREAS, RISS membership and participation has grown at a dramatic pace, currently serving more than 300,000 sworn law enforcement officers in over 4,000 criminal justice agencies in the United States and two Canadian provinces; and

WHEREAS, Member law enforcement agencies have significantly enhanced their investigative abilities through the interagency cooperation and pooling of resources generated by their participation in RISS; and

WHEREAS, The future funding of this established and proven program is threatened annually by calls for new and untried initiatives such as the administration's proposed Crime Bill; and

WHEREAS, RISS funding has not kept pace with continued membership growth and increased demand for services; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion fully supports the preservation, growth, and complete and adequate funding of the Regional Information Sharing System Program in its endeavor to effectively identify, target and assist in removing criminal activities.

Resolution No. 170: Combating Violent Crime in America
Origin: NC
Submitted By: National Security Committee
As amended

WHEREAS, One of the major principles contained in the Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion is "... to maintain law and order"; and

WHEREAS, Although the United States in its history has endured previous periods of high crime rates. Americans in recent years have been experiencing an unprecedented crime wave characterized by escalating and senseless violence and perversion which have permeated all communities and affected all age categories and walks of life; and

WHEREAS, Statistics show that four out of every five Americans will become a victim of violent crime at least once in their lives, and a violent crime occurred once every 22 seconds in 1993; and

WHEREAS, Persons under the age of 21 committed one-third of all murders in 1990, and young people are also increasingly becoming victims of violent crime; and

WHEREAS, Violent offenders serve on the average only 37 percent of their sentences, so that at any given time approximately 75 percent of convicted criminals are either on

probation or parole; and

WHEREAS, The link between federal funding and state performance is vital as 95 percent of all violent crime is covered by state, not federal statutes; and the "war on crime", with a hope of victory, will require a get-tough federal-state partnership to apprehend criminals, put them in prison, and keep them there; and

WHEREAS, The deterrent effect of the current judicial system of punishment and reprisal from society have become less intimidating to would-be criminals, and the elevation of the rights of criminals has surpassed the rights of their victims and survivors; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion believes that the time has come for the Federal and State Governments to implement stiffer and more consistent penalties that are as tough and distasteful as the crimes inflicted upon innocent victims; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion recommends that the following measures be considered by municipal and state authorities for application to repeat juvenile offenders:

1. More frequent charging of juveniles as adults.
2. Separate prison facilities for chronic, violent juvenile offenders.
3. Mandatory sentences for gang-related crimes and for violent crimes committed with firearms.
4. More incarceration for certain first-time offenders.
5. Holding parents responsible for fines imposed on youthful offenders, as appropriate.
6. Establishing more boot camps for youthful offenders. and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion further recommends that the current system of paroles and probations be drastically revised; that parole for first degree murder be abolished; that the system of endless appeals and delays for executions be more realistically curtailed; that "good time" and community service paroles be eliminated for violent felony convictions; that more drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs be established in adult and juvenile prison systems; and that the criminal justice system work faster and more effectively, and that convicted criminals be required to make monetary restitution to their victims or to surviving family members, as appropriate; and be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion firmly believes that these types of penalties can impact on reducing repeated criminal activity; and in the final analysis, we are convinced that the most effective deterrent to crime is the strong influence of families and family-oriented programs that foster, strengthen and transmit family and societal values to young adults.

Resolution No. 171: Department Law and Order Committees and Their Recognition of Law Enforcement Officials

Origin: NC

Submitted By: National Security Committee

As amended

WHEREAS, The Preamble of the Constitution of The American Legion includes as one of its objectives "...to maintain law and order"; and

WHEREAS, Americans in recent years have been experiencing an unprecedented crime

wave which has permeated all States and communities, and crime is rapidly becoming America's number one problem area; and

WHEREAS, Violent crime is also taking an ever-increasing death toll among our law enforcement agencies; and

WHEREAS, According to a recent internal survey, at least 20 Departments of The American Legion have developed Law and Order Committees, and Departments and Posts recognize outstanding law enforcement officials in their States and communities; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion encourages all its Departments to develop Law and Order Committees and to recognize outstanding law enforcement officers in their states and communities; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion honors all law enforcement officers who have laid down their lives in protecting our communities and society from criminal activity; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion reiterates its recommendation that a program to recognize a National Law Officer of the Year be established.

Resolution No. 415: Support for the Second Amendment
Origin: National Security Committee
Submitted By: National Security Committee
Consolidated with 75 (MT), 135 (SD), 174 (ID), 175 (ID), and 340 (OH)

WHEREAS, The second amendment to the Constitution of the United States guarantees each law abiding American citizen the right to keep and bear arms of his or her choice; and

WHEREAS, It is estimated that over 60 million individuals, representing over half of the households in America, have chosen to exercise that right with one or more arms; and

WHEREAS, It is estimated there is over a 200-year supply of guns and that handguns are used over one-half million times and firearms over 1 million times each year by law abiding citizens; and

WHEREAS, The 1934 Act of Congress to require the registration of automatic weapons directed at the "Tommy Gun" has had little or no effect on the purchase and use of Uzi's, AK 47's and similar arms by criminals; and

WHEREAS, The registration of guns and waiting requirement to purchase guns has had no effect in large urban areas such as New York City, California and Washington D.C. and has not prevented criminals from obtaining weapons and committing crimes; and

WHEREAS, Although The American Legion deplores the use of arms in illegal activities, efforts to control arms is reminiscent of Amendment 18 to the Constitution of the United States of America, when governmental efforts to prevent citizens from the natural pursuit of their freedom required the passage of Amendment 21 repealing this misguided effort; and

WHEREAS, The restriction of law abiding citizens to purchase fire arms will create an illegal supply of weapons and further governmental costs to enforce any restriction of registration; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion reaffirms its recognition that the Second Amendment of the Constitution of the United States guarantees

each law abiding American citizen the right to keep and bear arms; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion recommends the rejection of further restrictive firearms laws that only serve to limit law abiding citizens in the exercise of their Constitutionally guaranteed rights under both the Second and Ninth Amendments, while having no effect on the activities of the criminal element in our society, and we urge our duly elected members of the Congress of the United States of America to seek out the reason for this illegal activity and provide appropriate legislation to eliminate the cause; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the membership of The American Legion urges our nation's lawmakers to recognize, as part of their oaths of office, that the Second Amendment guarantees law-abiding citizens the right to keep and bear the arms of their choice, as do the millions of American veterans who have fought, and continue to fight, to preserve those rights, hereby advise the Congress of the United States and the Executive Department to cease and desist any and all efforts to restrict these rights by any legislation or order.

REJECTED

Resolution No. 360 (AR) 1994 NC: **The War on Crime**
Resolution No. 361 (ME) 1994 NC: **Oppose National Police Forces in the Crime Bill**
Resolution No. 368 (OR) 1994 NC: **Oppose the National Rifle Association**

CHAIRMAN ROBBINS: Mr. Chairman, this completes the Law and Order Report.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN JORDAN: Merchant Marine, by Charles F. Moreland, Florida, Chairman.

MERCHANT MARINE COMMITTEE
Charles E. Moreland (FL),Chairman

RECOMMENDED ACTION ON RESOLUTIONS
APPROVED

Resolution No. 56: Funding Replacement Training Ships for the Maritime Academies
Origin: NJ
Submitted By: National Security Committee

WHEREAS, The American Legion has long recognized that the United States Merchant Marine is a vital component of America's national security and economic well-being; and

WHEREAS, Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm demonstrated that there is a critical shortage of U.S. flagged merchant ships and trained manpower necessary to meet our present and future strategic sealift requirements; and

WHEREAS, America's six state maritime academies and one federal academy are prime sources of Merchant, Coast Guard, Naval and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Corps officers. The cornerstone of this unique educational process is time spent at sea aboard training ships which develop professional skills; and

WHEREAS, Three of the five existing aged and obsolete training ships will be retired from service and no replacements are planned. The unfortunate result is that the United States will probably lose some of its academies as a viable source of merchant mariners and

leaders for the military service and industry; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion has urged Congress to fund training ships for the Maritime Academies and such funding has not been forthcoming; and

WHEREAS, The United States Government is presently maintaining thirty World War II victory ships in three locations within the continental United States; and

WHEREAS, These ships no longer retain any service value to the United States Merchant Marine; and

WHEREAS, The annual maintenance cost of each of the four retention ships is approximately $15,000 and each of the 26 non-retention ships is approximately $5,000; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion urges the United States Government to expedite the sale of unserviceable ships for the eventual purpose of purchasing or building more modern training ships for the Maritime Academies.

Resolution No. 57: Retain Full Federal Funding for the United States Merchant Marine Academy

Origin: NJ

Submitted By: National Security Committee

WHEREAS, The Report of the National Performance Review, referred to as "Reinventing the Government," has recommended that Federal funding for the United States Merchant Marine be reduced by one-half and that the Academy should charge tuition to cover expenses; and

WHEREAS, Such a recommendation, if implemented, would further degrade the United States Merchant Marine and, in all probability, would result in the closing of this Federal academy; and

WHEREAS, The Merchant Marine Academy benefits the United States Maritime industry but also conveys a greater benefit to the United States overall, as the Academy is the single largest source of Reserve Navy Officers and is the undisputed leader in maritime education worldwide; and

WHEREAS, The Merchant Marine is one of the few civilian industries that supports United States war efforts by actually going to war as was demonstrated in the Persian Gulf War, and it is this unique relationship that was the driving impetus for establishing the Academy; and

WHEREAS, As the nature of U.S. military involvements has evolved, so has the role and curriculum of the Academy; the United States still requires a mechanism to produce trained Merchant Marines to crew the Reserve fleet and commercial ships called into service during crises; and

WHEREAS, State Maritime Academies are beyond Federal control and each is pursuing independent tracks in non-maritime programs in an effort to meet diversified local educational needs; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion urges the Congress to retain full Federal funding for the United States Merchant Marine Academy.

Resolution No. 242: Rebuild the Merchant Marine

Origin: MD

Submitted By: National Security Committee
Consolidated with 351 (WA)

WHEREAS, The American Legion has long recognized the urgent need to restore the U.S. privately owned and operated merchant marine to its former premier position in world trade and national security; and

WHEREAS, Our maritime industry now ranks last among the 16 major fleets of the world, while the Commonwealth of Independent States ranks second; and

WHEREAS, There are currently 393 ocean-going cargo vessels in the active United States flag fleet. Today there are about half that many carrying less than 4% of our total foreign trade, and without bold governmental action, the U.S. foreign trade merchant marine fleet could be virtually extinct by the year 2000; and

WHEREAS, Since 1978, nearly 60 shipyards have ceased operations. A total of approximately 60,000 workers in the U.S. have lost their jobs, and at least 14 ship building companies are operating under Chapter 11 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Act. The last commercial tanker built in the United States was in 1985; and

WHEREAS, American ship builders are at a disadvantage as they cannot compete with foreign yards with cheaper labor and government subsidizes; and

WHEREAS, The Persian Gulf War demonstrated the lack of available shipping to supply our troops in a timely manner, requiring several months to build up our forces. We cannot always rely on the luxury of advanced lead times for us to establish offensive forces in overseas areas; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion urges the U.S. Government in cooperation with maritime management and labor, to rebuild the United States merchant marine to its former position as second to none in the world under the Merchant Marine Act of 1920, as amended; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion urges action to enforce the Merchant Marine Act of 1920, as amended, to promote the U.S. flagging of U.S. owned ships now under foreign registry.

Resolution No. 319: Support for the Maritime Security and Trade Act
Origin: FL
Submitted By: National Security Committee

WHEREAS, The American Legion has long recognized the urgent need to restore the United States Merchant Marine Fleet to its former position in world trade and national security; and

WHEREAS, Our Merchant Marine industry ranks last among the 16 major fleets of the world; and

WHEREAS, The Administration has proposed legislation referred to as the Maritime Security and Trade Act of 1994 which aims to upgrade and modernize the American Merchant fleet, ensure American presence in international commerce, and provide needed sealift for national emergencies; and

WHEREAS, This Maritime Security program, if adopted by Congress, would provide $1 billion in funding for 52 additional maritime vessels for a ten year period until 2004; and

WHEREAS, Participating vessels must be enrolled in an emergency preparedness program established to provide sealift support in time of war, national emergencies, or as determined by the President; and

WHEREAS, This proposal would overcome the major shortcomings of previous maritime proposals by identifying a specific funding source: to offset the costs of the program, this Act proposes to increase existing tonnage fees imposed on vessels entering U.S. ports from foreign ports; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion urges the Congress to support funding the Maritime Security and Trade Act of 1994, thereby developing a more modernized Merchant Marine Fleet, ensuring continued United States presence in international commerce, and providing the additional sealift capabilities for national emergencies.

CHAIRMAN MORELAND: Mr. Chairman, this concludes my portion of the report.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN JORDAN: Military Affairs Committee Report by Norbert Harmeyer of Iowa, Chairman.

MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
Norbert Harmeyer (IA), Chairman

RECOMMENDED ACTION ON RESOLUTIONS
APPROVED

Resolution No. 26: Fitzsimons Army Medical Center
Origin: CO
Submitted By: National Security Committee

WHEREAS, The Fitzsimons Army Medical Center in Aurora, Colorado has a long and distinguished history serving the United States Armed Forces since it was established in 1918 as General Hospital #21 and renamed Fitzsimons General Hospital in 1920 and redesignated in 1973 as Fitzsimons Army Medical Center; and

WHEREAS, Fitzsimons is one of the world's largest military medical installations and has treated hundreds of thousands of military personnel during its long tenure; and

WHEREAS, Fitzsimons served as the temporary "White House" for President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1955 when he was recovering from a heart attack; and

WHEREAS, The present complex of 282 buildings and 99 other structures sits on 576.5 acres, including the main 400 bed hospital building originally dedicated on December 3, 1941. Fitzsimons is also a self-contained Army installation and serves close to 70,000 military personnel, retirees, and their families in a 40-mile metro area; and

WHEREAS, Fitzsimons Army Medical Center employs over 2,100 military and 2,000 civilian employees, has an annual payroll of over $150 million, and spends over $32.2 million for local contracts; and

WHEREAS, Today this Medical Center provides a medical facility providing a broad range of services and facilities covering most medical specialties; and

WHEREAS, Fitzsimons serves all branches of the Armed Forces in addition to furnishing specialty referrals for Army and Air Force hospitals in 12 surrounding states; and

WHEREAS, Fitzsimons Army Medical Center's receives approximately 69,900 visits each month to the facility's more than 50 clinics; its laboratories process above 4 million tests each year, and its pharmacy fills nearly 1.4 million prescriptions annually; and

WHEREAS, The Medical Center's mission is multi-faceted and focuses on medical

training utilizing long-standing affiliations with numerous area medical institutions, including the Denver Veterans Administration Medical Center, while delivering services to a 12-state area (including assisting the Public Health Service in providing care to the Native American population), assisting military preparedness, and serving as home to other Department of Defense tenants; and

WHEREAS, Fitzsimons Army Medical Center has, and continues to deliver, cost-effective medical care in fulfilling its broadly defined mission; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion urges the Department of Defense and the Congress to ensure that plans to construct a replacement facility for the Fitzsimons Army Medical Center are aggressively pursued; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion urges continued efforts to be made to ensure that the design of the new facility at the Center be completed in as expeditious a manner as possible.

Resolution No. 216: Maintain Full Funding for the Military Commissaries
Origin: DC
Submitted By: National Security Committee
Consolidated with 169 (VT)

WHEREAS, The Department of Defense is evaluating options to downsize or eliminate the Military Commissary System by seeking reduced federal funding or otherwise reducing the number of operating military commissaries; and

WHEREAS, The value of commissaries in the quality of life equation for junior enlisted families and military retirees and others is indisputable: Military commissary usage ranks second only to medical health care in the non-pay compensation package according to surveys conducted among active duty and retired beneficiaries as commissaries save patrons on the order of 17-25 percent in food costs; and

WHEREAS, The $1 billion in subsidized congressional appropriations permits commissaries to sell items virtually at cost, and the removal of this funding would drastically raise food costs which would effectively cause commissaries to close; and

WHEREAS, Contrary to popular belief, military commissaries are not competitive with civilian grocery chain stores as commissary sales represent only 1.7 percent of total U.S. grocery sales; and

WHEREAS, Without commissary savings, pay compensation for active duty and military retirees would have to rise, and the Administration has demonstrated its aversion to further active duty pay raises and military retiree COLA increases; and

WHEREAS, With the continued downsizing of the military to include reductions in force and the on-going congressional assault on military benefits, any effort to reduce or dismantle the integrity of the military commissary system would be seen as a serious breach of faith with a benefit system that currently serves as a mainstay for the active and reserve components, military retirees and military survivors, military personnel involuntarily discharged or released from active duty, and 100 percent service-connected disabled veterans and others; now, therefore, be it

WHEREAS, The National Executive Committee adopted a similar resolution at its Spring 1994 meeting; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion urges the

Department of Defense and the Congress to continue full federal funding of the military commissary system and to retain this vital non-pay compensation benefit system which is essential to the morale and readiness of the dedicated men and women who have served, and continue to serve, the national security interests of the United States; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion opposes DOD or congressional efforts to raise commissary surcharges above the five percent level for military retirees or members of the active and reserve components.

Resolution No. 245: Establishment of the Military Draft as a Backup to the All-Volunteer Force

Origin: MD

Submitted By: National Security Committee

WHEREAS, The American Legion has a long established policy in support of the draft as the most practical and equitable system for furnishing manpower for the armed forces; and

WHEREAS, The all-volunteer system for manpower for the armed forces has been implemented with complete success; and

WHEREAS, The success of the system, has been demonstrated by the recent action in the mobilization and action in the Persian Gulf; and

WHEREAS, The all-volunteer system, while suitable for a "show of force" or short war, shows considerable inequity and weakness in a long war, particularly in implementation or failure to implement a rotation program as well as a necessary deep calling up of Reserves; and

WHEREAS, As the Persian Gulf war progressed, it became increasingly necessary to rotate the troops; and

WHEREAS, The emerging National Military Strategy calls for deep reductions in both Active and Reserve components and is geared for regional conflicts of short duration and not extended conflicts or global warfare; and

WHEREAS, An implementation of a draft system of manpower source would require at least 6-months' delay for training and other reasons; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion urges that necessary legislation be passed without delay establishing the draft as a back-up system for future wars; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion urges Congress to adopt by legislation using the all-volunteer force concept as the primary source of manpower during peacetime and with the draft as a back-up for longer wars; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That action be taken by The American Legion to bring this matter to the attention of Congress.

Resolution No. 246: Quality of Life Features

Origin: MD

Submitted By: National Security Committee

As amended and consolidated with 221 (DC), 243 (MD), 257 (MD), and 267 (MD)

WHEREAS, The American Legion has always supported quality of life features for members of the Armed Forces and their dependents as well as military retirees, as people are the foundation of our Nation's fighting forces; and

WHEREAS, Without highly qualified, dedicated men and women, even the most sophisticated weaponry will not provide the deterrent force necessary for this Nation to remain at peace; and

WHEREAS, The United States Government has the inherent and moral responsibility for providing for the well-being of members of the active and reserve components and their dependents and military retirees and their dependents; and

WHEREAS, Military pay must be reasonably comparable to compensation in the private sector if the Armed Forces aspire to compete for quality volunteers and retain an experienced military force for the long term; and

WHEREAS, Military compensation is only one factor in the quality of life equation as to whether a good service member and his family remain in the service: Other major factors include fair treatment, career stability and regular promotions, adequate quarters, adequate health care and commissaries, and day care facilities, all of which ease the numerous sacrifices that are demanded of service members and their families; and

WHEREAS, Our military retirees and their dependents and military survivors are deserving and rightfully entitled to adequate health care treatment and regular cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) to military retirement pay and survivor benefit plans; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion urges the Congress and the Department of Defense to support and fund such quality of life features including but not limited to, the following:

1. Military Pay comparability for the Armed Forces.
2. Adequate medical and dental services; morale, welfare and recreational facilities; and non-privatized exchanges and commissary facilities.
3. Preserving an attractive retirement system for the active and reserve components.
4. Requiring that the Services perform mandatory physical examination, without waivers, for all separating veterans.
5. Fully funding the concurrent receipt of military retirement pay, military separation pays, and VA disability compensation.
6. Amending Public Law 99-145 as to eliminate the automatic age 62 offset of Survivors' Benefits Plan benefits with Social Security benefits particularly for those survivors who have earned Social Security benefits in their own right.
7. Adequate health care treatment for military retirees, their dependents and military survivors, and regular cost-of-living adjustments to military retirement pay and survivor benefit plans.
8. Non-taxation of military allowances to include moving allowances.
9. Congressional re-enactment of Impact Aid to fund the local public school education of military dependents.
10. Repeal that portion of the FY 1992 Defense Authorization Act which grants Reserve, not Regular, commissions to graduates of the Service Academies, ROTC and OCS programs beginning in FY 1997.
11. Amend IRS codes to increase the current monthly exclusion for all officers serving in a combat zone from $500 to $2,000.

Resolution No. 252: Department of Defense Health Care Reform for Military Beneficiaries
Origin: MD
Submitted By: National Security Committee
Consolidated with 147 (IL), 254 (MD), and 275 (MD)

WHEREAS, The promise of lifetime military health care for military retirees, their dependents, and military survivors is contained in law and tradition and dates back to the Army Appropriations Act of 1884; and

WHEREAS, A sense of the Congress resolution contained in the Fiscal Year 1993 National Defense Authorization Act states that "members and former members of the Uniformed Services and their dependents and survivors should have access to health care under the Health Care delivery System of the Uniformed Services regardless of age and health care status;" and

WHEREAS, The present health care system for military retirees direly requires reform as the CHAMPUS entitlement system for beneficiaries under 65 has been annually underfunded, bureaucratically administered and inconsistent; and military retirees over 65 comprise the only group of retired Government "employees" who essentially lose their military health care entitlement, after having served 20 or more years in the most demanding and dangerous of professions; and

WHEREAS, The DOD in conjunction with the President's proposed American Health Care Security Act seeks to preserve a separate military health care system and would allow the DOD to develop and manage military and civilian health care plans for active duty dependents, military retirees, their dependents and military survivors in a reformed Military Health Care System referred to as TRICARE by 1997; and

WHEREAS, Under the TRICARE system, beneficiaries would choose among three options: TRICARE Prime, whereby patients rely on a single primary care provider for most health care needs; TRICARE Extra, a preferred civilian provider network with a higher choice of physicians; and TRICARE Standard, a fee-for-service plan which is essentially the CHAMPUS system. Those who choose TRICARE Extra or Standard would waive their rights to military hospitals or pharmacy benefits; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion has a number of concerns with the TRICARE package, namely, that military beneficiaries would be required to pay annual "registration" fees whether they used their plan or not; questions remain concerning the amount of increased out-of-pocket expenses; premiums for self-employed military retirees; the viability of MEDICARE reimbursement to Department of Defense; and whether a CHAMPUS-equivalent program would be retained for military beneficiaries residing overseas; and

WHEREAS, Military retirees, dependents and military survivors constitute at least 43 percent of the total 9.2 million eligible military medical beneficiaries; and over 500,000 retirees have lost or will lose their access to military health care as a result of military treatment facilities' closures; and

WHEREAS, The voice of The American Legion and other organizations needs to be heard by Congress, the Administration and the American people regarding military retiree entitlement to quality, timely and consistent health care which retirees were always promised; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion recommends the following minimal guidelines be incorporated as an inherent part of the proposed

Department of Defense TRICARE Health Care package, or any military health care package, for military retirees, dependents and military survivors:

1. The U.S. Government must honor its obligation to provide lifetime health care to military members in exchange for their numerous sacrifices made over 20 or more years of service to the nation.
2. Timely access to a continuum of quality, comprehensive and equitable health care benefits covering the full array of services ranging from preventive health care and dental treatment plans to prescription services for all military retiree beneficiaries, regardless of age or health care status.
3. Preservation of the space-available system for all military beneficiaries in military treatment facilities depending on facility capabilities.
4. Any cost-sharing charges and fees should be reasonable, standardized and statutorily fixed by law.
5. Military treatment facilities should be reimbursed by the Health Care Financing Administration for care provided to MEDICARE-eligible military beneficiaries.
6. There should be no registration fees or penalties for MEDICARE-eligible military beneficiaries who enroll in TRICARE health care plans.
7. Pharmacy networks and mail-order pharmacy programs should be extended beyond the 40-mile radius of closing military bases and they should operate on a flat-fee basis rather than one based on percentages of costs.
8. CHAMPUS-equivalent entitlements should continue as the primary coverage for 100 percent disabled military retirees under age 65 with MEDICARE used as supplementary coverage.
9. CHAMPUS or comparable military and civilian health care plans should be retained for military beneficiaries residing overseas where MEDICARE is unavailable.
10. Amending the United States Codes for the continuation of CHAMPUS benefits to all eligible veterans and their dependents over age 65.
11. Authorizing the use of Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Centers by non-service-connected military retirees who are CHAMPUS or MEDICARE eligible, without deductibles and co-insurance payments, particularly in those areas where military bases with medical facilities are programmed to close.

Resolution No. 255: Support for the Selective Service System Registration Program
Origin: MD
Submitted By: National Security Committee
Consolidated with 219 (DC)

WHEREAS, From its On set, The American Legion has given long-standing support to universal military training; and despite the success of the All-Volunteer Force, Selective Service Registration continues to serve as our life insurance policy during these unstable times; and

WHEREAS, The present Administration is preparing to end the nation's 13-year old requirement for registration as it claims that the United States no longer faces a threat significant enough to justify registration; and

WHEREAS, Despite the end of the Cold War, American service men and women are

deployed worldwide to include their participation in the peace-keeping mission in Somalia and enforcing no-fly zones in Iraq and Bosnia: the unpredictability and volatility of worldwide tensions urges us to think in terms of continued preparedness, not demobilization; and

WHEREAS, The inevitability of smaller active forces only reinforces the need for combat-ready National Guard and Reserve units and the need to reconstitute our forces in a timely manner; and

WHEREAS, World Wars I and II began long before our country became involved, allowing the United States the benefit of abundant time to accomplish registration before troops were actually committed - a luxury that we cannot expect to enjoy in today's unpredictable environment; and

WHEREAS, The Selective Service Registration Program has enjoyed remarkable success as at least 97 percent of our 18-25 year olds have registered, and there is virtually no resistance to the Registration program; and

WHEREAS, The cost to administer the Registration Program is approximately $6 million per year, making the program extremely cost-effective and efficient; and

WHEREAS, Registration is one of the few remaining obligations our nation requires of its young men. Removing this "right of passage" for all men would reduce each man's level of consciousness about military service and the obligation to defend our nation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion strongly supports the retention of the Selective Service Registration Program as being in the best interests of all Americans, and its maintenance is a proven cost-effective, essential, and more rapid means of reconstituting the required forces to protect our national security interests.

Resolution No. 256: Total Force Policy and Viable National Guard and Reserve Forces
Origin: MD
Submitted By: National Security Committee
Consolidated with 253 (MD) and 274 (MD)

WHEREAS, The National Guard of this Country has served as the bedrock for our defense and its service predates the Nation's founding; and

WHEREAS, Under the Total Force Policy, National Guard and Reserve units have been integrated into Active Force structures, and they continue to serve as the bridge between the Active Forces and the American people; and

WHEREAS, The inevitability of a smaller Active Force strengthens the imperative for fully manned and combat ready National Guard and Reserve Forces which are completely integrated into the Total Force; and

WHEREAS, During the Persian Gulf War, National Guard and Reserve personnel comprised 20 percent of deployed United States forces, thereby, representing both the first and second line of America's defense capabilities; and

WHEREAS, The National Guard, besides serving our national interests in Federal capacities, also performs invaluable State missions to include natural disaster assistance, civil disturbance and law and order missions, participating in drug interdiction, and numerous community service programs; and

WHEREAS, Our emerging National Military Strategy is primarily oriented to deal with regional conflicts of short duration and not with extended conflicts or global warfare which

could require the full employment of the National Guard and Reserves and, possibly, the reinstatement of conscription to meet manpower needs; and

WHEREAS, The National Guard will be reduced to 47 brigades, with 15 enhanced brigades fully-manned and ready for deployment within 90 days; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion urges that National Guard and Reserves be realistically manned, structured, equipped, trained, fully deployable and maintained at high readiness levels in order to accomplish their indispensable missions and roles in our national defense.

Resolution No. 269: Transitional Assistance Benefits for the Reserve Components
Origin: MD
Submitted By: National Security Committee

WHEREAS, The Department of Defense proposes to reduce more than 100,000 National Guard and Reserve positions in the near future, to include numerous unit deactivations, which would raise unemployment and underemployment levels significantly; and

WHEREAS, The opportunity for members of the Reserve components to earn a Reserve Retirement annuity has served as the main incentive for officers and Non-commissioned officers in making service in the National Guard and Reserves a career; and

WHEREAS, Monthly compensation for service in the Guard and Reserves serves to supplement family incomes and often constitutes the sole source of income for many citizen-soldiers; and

WHEREAS, Service in the Reserve components is fulfillment of patriotic duty to the nation and such duty has often been characterized by countless sacrifices which have been minimally compensated; and

WHEREAS, Transition Assistance benefits for the active forces, to include separation pay, voluntary separation incentives and special separation benefits, were adopted by the Congress in 1990 yet took more than a year to implement, and a similar or modified package of transitional benefits needs to be adopted for members of the Reserve components; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion urges immediate congressional action to adopt a comprehensive package of transitional benefits to voluntarily assist in drawing down the Reserve components to include, but not limited to, the following: temporary early retirement authority, voluntary separation incentives, and special separation benefits for full-time Reservists; and for part-time members of the Guard and Reserves: special separation pay for Reservists with 20 or more years of service; early qualification for retired pay at age 60 for those who have served 15 to 20 years; separation pay for Reservists with six to 15 years of service; post-separation commissary and exchange privileges for two years; continued use of Montgomery GI Bill educational assistance benefits; and priority affiliation with other Guard and Reserve units.

Resolution No. 270: Homosexuals Serving in the Armed Forces

WHEREAS, The American Legion, in its adopted policy mandates, has supported the retention and codification of the former Department of Defense ban on homosexuals entering and serving in the Armed Forces which stated in part that "homosexuality is incompatible with military service; and

WHEREAS, Based on the Administration's original intention to entirely lift the ban, the Congress conducted extensive hearings with input from the Joint Chiefs of Staff and many others, and the Congress restated and codified in the National Defense Authorization Act of 1994 (P.L. 103-160) elements of the former policy excluding acknowledged homosexuals from the military with the major exceptions that recruit screening was to be discontinued; more emphasis was to be placed on homosexual conduct rather than homosexual orientation; and criminal investigations conducted solely to determine sexual orientation were also to be discontinued; and

WHEREAS, Congress passed the law with the assurance of Department of Defense officials that they would support and defend the new law in the court system and in their Directives, yet such support has not been fully forthcoming; and

WHEREAS, The Congress rejected certain controversial elements of the Administration's announced policy of "don't ask, don't tell, don't pursue," as conclusive testimony convinced the Congress that those elements would not be clear, enforceable or defensible in the judicial system; and

WHEREAS, Many of these discarded concepts have reappeared, without legal authorization or merit, in the implementing Department of Defense Directives: in effect, the Department of Defense appeared to be reneging on its assurances to Congress and attempting to subvert the law by redefining it; and

WHEREAS, As an example, DOD Directives stated that sexual orientation was not a bar to entering the Armed Forces while the law emphatically states that: "The presence in the Armed Forces of persons who demonstrate a propensity or interest to engage in homosexual acts would create an unacceptable risk to the high standards of morale, good order and discipline, and unit cohesion that are the essence of military capability;" and

WHEREAS, It has become clear that the Administration intended to transform an exclusion policy into one of inclusion which could be indefensible in the judicial system and could threaten to turn adopted legislation into a legally unstable house of cards designed to fall of its own weight, thereby undermining sound military values and morale; and

WHEREAS, The Supreme Court in past decisions has granted judicial deference to the Armed Forces in matters which impacted on military morale and readiness as the Court has recognized that the military institution is necessarily unique from civilian society, and these differences "...result from the fact that it is the primary business of Armies and Navies to fight or be ready to fight wars should the occasion arise" (Parker vs Levy, 1974); and

WHEREAS, Both the former Department of Defense ban and the current Public Law regarding service of homosexuals in the Armed Forces are currently being challenged in the judicial system; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion urges the Congress to continue to review and revise, as necessary, the Department of Defense Directives on homosexuals serving in the Armed Forces so that these Directives more accurately reflect the intent, spirit and language of the Public Law; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion urges the Secretary of Defense to reinstate recruit homosexual screening, as authorized in the law, if it is determined that current

policies are undermining morale, good order, readiness and unit cohesion in the Armed Forces; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That if the current law regarding homosexuals serving in the Armed Forces should be struck down by the Supreme Court, that The American Legion would urge the Congress to enact and restore the former Department of Defense ban, existent prior to January 1993, to include the explicit language that "homosexuality is incompatible with military service."

Resolution No. 271: Uniformed Services Former Spouses Protection Act
Origin: MD
Submitted By: National Security Committee
As amended and consolidated with 39 (NE)

WHEREAS, The Uniformed Services Former Spouses Protection Act (USFSPA) was adopted by Congress in 1982 in order to protect divorced spouses of military members particularly in those states which had no provisions for alimony; and

WHEREAS, Prior to passage of this law, military spouses always had the full range of remedies in divorce courts as any other spouse in America; and

WHEREAS, Since the passage of the law (P.L. 97-252), divorce courts have been awarding up to 50 percent of disposable military retirement pay to former spouses based on the guiDELEGATEines in the Federal Law; and among the many inequities in the law are the continuance of lifetime annuities to former spouses whether they remarry or not, and military retirees are the only federal retirees to whom this provision applies; and

WHEREAS, The provisions of the USFSPA were made retroactive so as to be effective one day before the supreme court ruling (McCarthy vs McCarthy) which reaffirmed that military pay could not be divided as property. As a result of this action, divorces settled over 25 years ago were reopened by former spouses; and

WHEREAS, The USFSPA threatens grave harm to the goals of the Military Retirement System which serves as the major incentive to the long-term maintenance of a competent and professional military force; and

WHEREAS, As well-intentioned as it was meant to be, the law has created an even larger class of victims than the former spouses it was designed to assist, namely, the remarried active duty service member and military retiree and his or her new family; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion supports the principle that spouses of military personnel have the right to adequate support, that military pay should only be included in judicial determinations of appropriate support on a case-by-case basis; and that the Federal Law (P.L. 97-252) to distribute military retired pay as property between service members or military retirees and former spouses should be repealed and that, as a minimum, payments to former spouses should be immediately discontinued upon their remarriage.

Resolution No. 272: Concurrent Receipt of Military Separation Pays and Veterans Disability Compensation
Origin: MD
Submitted By: National Security Committee
As amended and consolidated with 201 (NY)

WHEREAS, The same unfair principle of dual compensation which serves to prohibit concurrent receipt of VA disability compensation and military retirement pay is also applied by the Department of Veterans Affairs to military service members who apply for Voluntary Separation Incentives (VSI), Special Separation Benefits (SSB), and 15-year early retirements; and

WHEREAS, Service members who apply for and receive both VSI and VA disability compensation are required to pay for their own disability compensation on a monthly basis like disabled military retirees, and service members who apply for and receive both SSB and VA disability compensation are required to have their entire lump-sum SSB payment recouped by service finance centers before they become eligible to receive VA disability compensation; and

WHEREAS, Although the Services require voluntarily separating service members to sign that they fully understand these unfair provisions of the Law before applying for VA disability compensation, such action serves as an effective deterrent to applying for rightfully compensable service-connected injuries or ailments; and

WHEREAS, The purpose of separation pay is to compensate service members and their families for lost military career opportunities and to ease their adjustment to civilian life after years of faithful military service; and

WHEREAS, The continuation of this unfair practice can only serve to adversely impact on the recruitment and retention of quality service members who would otherwise consider entering or remaining in the Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, VA disability compensation is awarded not for being "in-service" but for becoming disabled as a direct result of honorable military service which may reduce the earning potential for its intended recipients; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion strongly urges the Congress to amend Title 38 USC 5305 to authorize the concurrent receipt of military separation pays and VA disability compensation as the current prohibition transcends logic, equity and fairness to the dedicated men and women who have unselfishly sacrificed life and limb to honorably serve the best interests of the United States in war and peace.

Resolution No. 276: Malcolm Grow Medical Center
Origin MD
Submitted By: National Security Committee

WHEREAS, The United States Army and the United States Navy have magnificent hospital installations at Walter Reed Army Medical Center for the Army and Bethesda Naval Hospital for the Navy; and

WHEREAS, The Air Force has an old installation at Andrews Air Force Base greatly in need of modernization; and

WHEREAS, The personnel who administer to the patients at Andrews Air Force Base are excellent, but they are greatly hindered in the performance of their duties by the overcrowding and inadequacy of that installation by modern standards; and

WHEREAS, Military personnel and their dependents and the many retired personnel, most of whom are veterans, and other personnel legally entitled to medical service at Andrews Air Force Base merit care comparable to that administered at Bethesda Naval Hospital and Walter Reed Army Medical Center; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in

Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion call upon the Department of Defense and the United States Congress to update Malcolm Grow Medical Center at Andrews Air Force Base to a state comparable to that of the Navy hospital at Bethesda and the Army hospital at Walter Reed.

Resolution No. 278: Concurrent Receipt of Military Retired Pay and Va Disability Compensation

Origin: MD

Submitted By: National Security Committee

Consolidated with 67 (MT)

WHEREAS, Title 38 United States Code, Sections 5304 and 5305, prohibit the concurrent receipt of military retirement for longevity and disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs and, as a result, disabled military retirees essentially fund their own disability compensation by dollar-for-dollar reductions from their military retirement pay; and

WHEREAS, Civil Service employees, as well as other Federal Government employees, who retire with longevity pay may concurrently receive retirement annuities with VA disability compensation; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion believes that it is inequitable and unfair to authorize one group of federal employees to receive both VA disability compensation and retirement pay, and prohibit another group from receiving both; and

WHEREAS, The rationale for this disparity for disabled military retirees according to the Deputy Secretary of Defense is that "VA disability compensation is for disabled veterans who have left the service before completing a career and before qualifying for retired pay...disabled military retirees did not experience a reduction in earning potential during their military career;" and

WHEREAS, Such rationale defies both logic and the facts: there are currently 147,000 disabled military retirees who qualified for military retirement yet, during the process, sustained service-connected injuries which will adversely impact not only on their post-military retirement earning potential but on their quality of life as well; and

WHEREAS, VA disability compensation is awarded not for being "in-service" but for becoming disabled as a result of military service; and the fact that a 20-year veteran completed his or her career despite serving with service-connected ailments should be awarded rather than penalized; and

WHEREAS, Veterans rated by the Department of Veterans Affairs at 30 percent or more disabled are also entitled to receive a dependents' allowance which is also denied when a portion of earned military retired pay is waived in order to receive the tax-free disability compensation; and

WHEREAS, Disabled military retirees who are Medal of Honor winners, and their dependents, are also disallowed receipt of extraordinary heroism pay when disability compensation is not paid concurrently with military retirement pay; and

WHEREAS, As of May 1994, twelve State legislatures have passed memorializing resolutions urging the Congress to authorize the concurrent receipt of military retirement pay and VA disability compensation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion strongly urges congressional action to amend Title 38 United States Code so as to remove the inequitable

and unfair restriction against the concurrent receipt of military retirement pay for longevity and VA disability compensation; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion also strongly supports legislation which would not subject dependents' allowance and extraordinary heroism pay to the same unfair offset of military retirement pay with an equivalent amount of VA disability compensation.

Resolution No. 418: Maintain the Combat Strength, Readiness and Modernization of the United States Army

Origin: National Security Commission

Submitted By: National Security Committee

Consolidated with 220 (DC) and 273 (MD)

WHEREAS, The United States has adopted a new National Security Strategy, marked by the development of new national security and military strategies; and

WHEREAS, The United States Army is America's strategic land combat force for power projection and sustained land combat operations; and

WHEREAS, Unlike the Cold War strategy of containment, the emerging strategy demands a versatile Army - a smaller Army capable of a wider range of operations and organized to generate tailored forces; and an Army capable of meeting the following demands: the capability to deploy rapidly and to fight two nearly simultaneous major regional conflicts; a continuing robust Army forward presence is required in Europe and Asia; refining its capabilities to conduct peacekeeping, peace enforcement and other interventions; pursuing and expanding a series or nation assistance programs; and to provide domestic support to local authorities in times of disaster; and

WHEREAS, The ability of the Army to maintain its combat readiness in the face of budgetary and manpower reductions is increasingly threatened by the pace of peacetime operations; and the mix of declining resources, increasing missions and an uncertain strategic environment necessitate constant review of the relationships between maintaining our national military capabilities, Army force structures and required resources; and

WHEREAS, On any given day, nearly 20,000 troops are committed worldwide and the average soldier spends nearly 138 days a year away from home; and since 1989 nearly 700 Purple Hearts were presented to soldiers wounded or killed in combat; and

WHEREAS, The Army's procurement and research and development budgets have become billpayers to ensure near-term readiness accounts are sustained: the downward trend in procurement dollars could jeopardize the lives of servicemen and women in future conflicts; and

WHEREAS, America's Army at the end of FY 1993 consisted of four Corps, 14 active Divisions, and eight National Guard Divisions which contrasts with Cold War Army of five Corps, 19 active Divisions and 10 National Guard Divisions; two active Divisions (the 6th and 7th Divisions) are to be inactivated during FY 1994, and two more Divisions are to deactivate by FY 1997, bringing the total active Divisions to 10 and National Guard Divisions to five (+) Divisions by FY 1997; and

WHEREAS, Early access to the Army National Guard and Army Reserves, which provide strategic depth, is the critical linchpin to a smaller, U.S. - based power projection Army; and strategic mobility is the cornerstone of the emerging National Military Strategy; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion urges the

Congress to retain and fully fund no fewer than 12 active Army Divisions and an end strength of approximately 550,000 troops for FY 1995 and the foreseeable future as the absolute minimum levels in order to maintain America's credibility in the new strategic environment; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion also urges the Congress to sustain readiness accounts as well as procurement and acquisition accounts in FY 1995 and beyond, to include the procurement of, for example, additional Blackhawk helicopters, vehicles, new radios, M1 tank and Bradley Fighting Vehicle upgrades, the Apache Longbow system, the RAH-66 Comanche; and fielding digital technology for Force Package One priority units by the year 2000 and the rest of the Army by 2010; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion has long recognized that a strong Army requires strong people programs and is highly dependent on recruiting and retaining quality soldiers, and it urges that voluntary and involuntary separation programs be phased-out so as to stabilize the Army's fighting capabilities while retaining a quality and fully-manned force which is professionally led.

Resolution No. 416: Service of Women in the Armed Forces
Origin: National Security Commission
Submitted By: National Security Committee

WHEREAS, That The American Legion has long recognized the invaluable service and contribution of women in the Armed Forces and has supported their service in non-combatant assignments; and

WHEREAS, American military women currently comprise about 12 percent of the 1.6 million service members in the Armed Forces, and more than 40,000 female servicemembers served their Country in the Persian Gulf War with courage, honor and distinction; and

WHEREAS, Due to the fluid and mobile nature of modern warfare, combat support and combat service support units have often been as exposed to hostile fire as front-line combat units: In the Persian Gulf War five female soldiers were killed in action and two were taken as prisoners of war while serving in non-combatant specialties in support units; and

WHEREAS, The key to military readiness is that all servicemembers, male and female, will deploy with their units: Pregnancy rates at the onset of the Persian Gulf War significantly affected the deployability of some units, and non-deployability rates for female soldiers were three times greater than men, largely due to pregnancies; and

WHEREAS, In an effort to open more specialties and assignments to military women, then-Secretary of Defense Aspin in April 1993 directed the Services to permit women to compete for aviation assignments, including aircraft engaged in combat missions, and with Congressional approval, to repeal the combat exclusion law permitting the assignment of women to Navy warships, including aircraft carriers and excluding submarines and special operations units; and

WHEREAS, In early 1994, the Department of Defense announced it intended to rescind the 1988 "Risk Rule" which barred women from assignments to combat support and combat service support units and would continue to bar women from ground combat units that "..engaged the enemy on the ground with weapons, that are exposed to hostile fire, and have a high probability of direct physical contact with the enemy;" and

WHEREAS, The Department of Defense has approved allowing military women to serve in the headquarters of air defense artillery, field artillery and combat engineer units as

well in air cavalry units and in special operations aviation; and

WHEREAS, In 1992, of 900 servicewomen surveyed, only 12 percent of enlisted women and 10 percent of the female non-commissioned officers said they would consider serving in combat units; and

WHEREAS, Roper polls have revealed that of the American people polled 58 percent said that women should not be assigned to Army infantry units, and 52 percent were against women in Marine Corps infantry. The Roper military poll of military members surveyed indicated that 74 percent did not think women should serve in the infantry, 59 percent opposed women in tank crews, and 54 percent did not want women in field artillery units; and

WHEREAS, Historically, those nations that have permitted women to serve in close combat situations (the Soviet Union, Germany and Israel) have done so only because of grave threats to their national survival; and

WHEREAS, Any proposal to lifting direct ground combat exclusion policies pertaining to military women may undermine the justification used by the Supreme Court to uphold the constitutionality of the all-male draft registration and conscription system; be it therefore

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion supports the approved expansion of women's roles in the Armed Forces when it is demonstratively proven with convincing evidence that their expanded roles will not impair the deployability, readiness and unit cohesiveness of the Armed Forces in effectively responding to worldwide emergencies or conflicts.

REFERRED TO THE STANDING COMMISSION ON NATIONAL SECURITY

Resolution No. 199 (NY) 1994 NC: Health Care Agreement Between the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs in Plattsburgh, New York

REJECTED

Resolution No. 137 (SD) 1994 NC: Women in Combat Roles
Resolution No. 163 (WV) 1994 NC: Award of the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal
Resolution No. 182 (TX) 1994 NC: The American Defense Service Medal

CHAIRMAN HARMEYER: Mr. Chairman, that concludes my portion of the report.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN JORDAN: The next report is Naval Affairs by John J. Wren of Maine, Chairman.

NAVAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
John J. Wrenn (MA), Chairman

RECOMMENDED ACTION ON RESOLUTIONS
APPROVED

Resolution No. 248: Support for the United States Coast Guard
Origin: MD

Submitted By: National Security Committee

WHEREAS, By public law the United States Coast Guard is at all times one of the Armed Forces of the United States; and

WHEREAS, Included in the numerous peacetime and wartime missions of the Coast Guard are law enforcement in its many facets to include drug interdiction and interception of illegal aliens; environment protection, maritime safety including search and rescue responsibilities and inspecting and licensing Merchant Marine ships; and National Security to include port security and serving as an essential wartime partner of the U.S. Navy; and

WHEREAS, To carry out these critical missions it is essential that highly skilled and motivated men and women continue to be attracted and retained by the Coast Guard and its Reserves and that ships, aircraft, and required facilities be fully funded; and

WHEREAS, It is vital to the National Security, economic and environmental well-being of the United States that waterway safety receive high priority within the Nation's transportation infrastructure so as to assure the safe and efficient maritime transport of critical raw materials, petroleum products and finished goes to domestic and international markets; and

WHEREAS, It is also in the national interest to maintain the Coast Guard's Polar Icebreaker Fleet; and

WHEREAS, Without adequate resources, the United States Coast Guard will be unable to meet its national and international commitments to the detriment of the American people; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion urges the Administration and the Congress to fully fund the United States Coast Guard to carry out its numerous vital missions, including law enforcement, environmental protection, maritime safety and national security and other missions as assigned; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion supports the continued funding and construction of a third Polar icebreaker as being in the national interest.

Resolution No. 266: Modernize the United States Navy and Marine Corps
Origin: MD
Submitted By: National Security Committee

WHEREAS, Water covers three quarters of the world, and the United States is an "island continent" washed by the shores of the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans; and

WHEREAS, To maintain their high state of readiness, the Navy and the Marine Corps recognize they need to balance force and personnel levels for proper manning in squadrons and battalions, aboard ships and at shore locations; provide reasonable career prospects which include on-time promotions and good advancement opportunities, while minimizing involuntary separations; compensate with adequate base pay and allowances to help offset inflation and provide full and stable funding for change-of-station moves and bonus programs; and enhance quality of life for service members and their families to include more enlisted oriented morale and welfare activities, better child-care, and improvement in government and leased housing; and

WHEREAS, Our national survival and the security of our allies depend on the ability of the United States to maintain sea superiority in order to foster the strategic sealift capability, power projection capability and the strategic combat capability of the United States Navy and Marine Corps; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corps have superbly shown the United States' ability to project power, when and where needed to uphold U.S. foreign policy; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion supports defense budgets which reflect a viable U.S. Navy and Marine Corps so as to project American seapower abroad; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion supports enhancing the manpower readiness of the Navy and Marine Corps while assuring quality of life measures and the continuing modernization and acquisition of Navy and Marine Corps platforms and weapon systems.

Resolution No. 417: Support for United States Naval Training
Origin: National Security Commission
Submitted By: National Security Committee

WHEREAS, The United States Navy and Marine Corps have historically been called upon to respond to global crisis as America's first response to threats against our national interests and security; and

WHEREAS, Training is the cornerstone of the Navy's readiness to fulfill its multi-faceted mission, often in remote areas of the world, far-removed from repair activities; and

WHEREAS, Today's technologically advanced naval combat systems require highly trained professional, and disciplined personnel who can maintain, repair and operate those systems; and

WHEREAS, Complex training equipment, aircraft and combat systems simulators have become the most efficient methods of training at regional training naval facilities; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion strongly supports and emphasizes the need of our nation's leadership to provide whatever funding, equipment, and physical plant facilities as may be required to ensure continuance of the best and most professional training and education in the world for our sailors, Marines, and Coast Guard personnel. This will enable our deployed fleet naval and Marine forces, albeit reduced in size and numbers, to maintain the combat edge and superiority which will continue to guarantee free and open maritime commerce and ensure America's ability to respond quickly to any global crisis which threaten our national interests and security, "From the Sea;" and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion supports the consolidation of military training in combat systems mutually agreed upon by all services but strongly maintains the integrity of each service to train its own personnel in service-unique specialties, such as at-sea helicopter training, carrier aviation training and others, where the demands of Navy-Marine-Coast Guard operations at sea are uniquely different for those of other land-based services; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion supports funding for adequate quality of life living quarters and recreational facilities at all training locations, providing Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard students with a comfortable academic but realistic atmosphere conducive to a total learning environment.

REJECTED

Resolution No. 365 (CA) 1994 NC: **Closure of Marine Corps Air Station El Toro**

CHAIRMAN WREN: Mr. Chairman, that completes the report of the Naval Affairs Committee.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN JORDAN: Mr. Commander, National Officers, and Fellow Delegates. I am particularly pleased to announce the winners of the National Blood Donor Awards for this past year.

Category I	Departments with 100,000 or more members
	Post and Individual Participation- Department of Illinois
Category II	70,000 to 99,999 members
	Post and Individual Participation- Department of Wisconsin
Category III	40,000 to 69,999 members
	Post and Individual Participation- Department of Nebraska
Category IV	25,000 to 39,999 members
	Post and Individual Participation- Department of Tennessee
Category V	10,000 to 24,999 members
	Post and Individual Participation- Department of Rhode Island
Category VI	Less than 10,000 members
	Post and Individual Participation- Department of Delaware

The results of the competition for the Paul H. Griffith ROTC Trophy are as follows:

Over fifty Departments participated in the ROTC Awards Program this year. A total of over 10,000 Medals were awarded to deserving Cadets in College ROTC and Junior ROTC Units. There was a ten-way tie among the Departments of Alaska, District of Columbia, Delaware, Florida, Illinois, Missouri, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Tennessee, and Vermont, which speaks well for these Departments and The American Legion in its recognition of the youth of America enrolled in ROTC programs.

Mr. Commander, as a Delegates to this Convention from the Department of Maine, I move the adoption of this report.

. . . The motion was duly seconded and carried.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: Thank you very much, Tony, for a great report.

I want to say thanks to Tony, because The American Legion is committed to a strong national defense, and all that was reported was very important programs and issues and policies of The American Legion.

CITIZENS FLAG ALLIANCE

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: There are some presentations, I know, that will be made to the Citizens Flag Alliance, I would like Frank D'Allessandro of Massachusetts, George Derrick of Florida, and Dan Wheeler, President of Citizens Flag Alliance, to come to the podium at this time.

PRESIDENT WHEELER: Mr. Commander, I'm both pleased and honored on behalf of the World War II members from Quincy Post 85 in Massachusetts, to make a presentation from Frank D'Alessandro. Frank was at our Department Convention. We spoke of the Flag Alliance, and Frank reached in his pocket and wrote a check for $5,000, which I am most happy to present to this organization today.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: Thank you very much.

MR. DERRICK, FLORIDA: George Derrick, National Executive Committeeman from Florida, Commander Thiesen, Roy Stone led a daring raid on the Southern Block and we confiscated $516 for the Citizens Flag Alliance, including some Yankee money from some people who were present down there.

We would like to mention that, in addition to that, during the Southern Block, Horace Borders, NECman from Georgia presented a $425 to the Southern Block from Georgia to contribute to the National Emergency Fund, that was the money that didn't float away, down there in Georgia. The Southern Block added another $85 to it, to make a $500 contribution to the National Emergency Fund! Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: Thank you very much, George. I was just given a report from Dan Wheeler, the President of the Citizens Flag Alliance that gives us $60,000 collected right here at this National Convention. Give yourself a hand.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: At this time, I would like the Sergeant-at-Arms to prepare for a special ceremony.

. . . Sergeant-at-Arms tolls bell three times.

CEREMONY FOR PANAMA, CANADA AND ITALY

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: Hear Ye! Year Ye!

May all those assembled here know that the bell tolls just heard are for the Departments of: Panama - chartered February 7, 1921; Canada - chartered July 22, 1924; Italy - chartered January 3, 1927.

These tolls are symbolic of their faithful service given to the world's greatest veterans organization for many years. The United States is a nation of many symbols. The American Flag which symbolizes all that this nation stands for and hopes to be. The Statue of Liberty, a legacy France bestowed upon this new nation, symbolizes liberty, equality, and paternity. The Liberty Bell stands as a symbol of American independence.

Like our country, The American Legion has acquired an inheritance of many symbols, for God, for Country, Law & Order, Freedom, Justice and Democracy. The American Legion has always had a history of maintaining the highest standards that contributed to the welfare of the community, state, and nation.

These three Departments, Panama, Canada and Italy have had an active role in contributing time, effort, and resources to the men and women of all wars, to the widows and families of our fallen comrades, and to their children.

We all learn from history. The lessons of life set the stage for our future growth. One of the lessons each of us has learned is that change is inevitable. The history of these Departments has been long and meritorious, yet we have reached a point where change is necessary.

At the May, 1994, meeting of the National Executive Committee, the need for change was addressed. Changes are necessary to improve the delivery of services to members in those departments and enhance their opportunities for comradeship and mutual helpfulness. The members of the National Executive Committee at that meeting in May exercised their constitutional right to dissolve the Departments of Panama, Canada, Italy.

At the close of the 76th Annual National Convention, the Departments of Panama, Canada, and Italy will no longer exist. Their members will be serviced by other departments ready and willing to continue the fine traditions of The American Legion service to God and country. As the last bell tolls, it serves as a final salute, ruffle, and flourish, to forever seal the honorable achievements of Panama, Canada, and Italy into the historic fabric of The American Legion.

My fellow Legionnaires, this solemn ceremony marks an important change in the history of our great veterans organization, a history that will continue to be written long after we are gone from this earth. As you can see, each and every Convention that we attend at the National level, some way or other, affects the history of this great organization. I extend my congratulations for all the fine work that these Departments have rendered for The American Legion over the many years that they have been chartered, it is also an expression of gratitude.

As an organization, I'm sure that as our history is written, their efforts and their good will they brought to many of the veterans they have represented around the world will not be forgotten.

Thank you again to those three Departments for all they have given to this organization, and the many, many years that they were chartered and served.

CLOSING REMARKS
National Commander Bruce Thiesen

At this time, it does indeed give me a great pleasure to say to each and every one of you how much I have enjoyed serving you as your Diamond Jubilee Commander. As I have served, I have come to gain better knowledge and understanding of how The American Legion and the Legion family works in the many communities around this great nation of

ours. Your impact in each of those communities where Post and Units and Squadrons are represented deserve a lot of credit, because of the influence and respect that you graciously granted to the Red Cap that is before you today.

As your National Commander, I have visited between 350 and 400 Posts. The American Legion will continue to be a guiding force to this nation, whether it is advising government, or helping with the children and youth of this nation, or making sure that the direction of this country and the purposes of this country and the freedoms that we enjoy as a nation are not forgotten.

The National Vice Commanders have given this organization a great deal of leadership: Kenny Ohl, Indiana; John Mulkern, Massachusetts; Curtis Twete, North Dakota; Ron Cintron, Puerto Rico; Doug Mason, Utah. Doug's leadership started by direct mail, he is a program master, and he has been involved in the porgram that this organiztion can be very, very thankful for.

I thank those who have served as National Officers. This includes Raymond Kozlowski for all the prayers he has provided, not only for myself and my family, but for the Legion as a whole, and anyone who had been stricken or had needs to be addressed. There were prayers from his office to those in need, and he had always been there for me.

Thanks to our Historian, Marjorie Simpson, from the Department of Georgia for her efforts to make sure that the history of this great organizaion and its Diamond Jubilee will go down in history, and never forgotten.

And then, of course, to one that I have had the opportunity to work with for many, many years, none other that my own Seargent-at-Arms, Frank Ortiz from California, who served us well in making sure that some sort of order was maintained, and was always on hand at every meeting we were adddressing. I know that many of you have come to know each and every one of these officers on a more personal basis.

But more than that, I want to say thanks to a couple of others that I have developed friendships with. Thanks to our National Adjutant, our Chief Executive Officer, Bob Spanogle, for his efforts in leading and maintaining this organization, so as the Commander travels, he is kept up to date on the issues.

Bill Jackson and John Sommers of the Indianapolis and Washington offices, should be commended while you are here as well, for each and every staff member falls under their guidance. Without that guidance and those efforts it would have made it difficult to serve during this Diamond Jubilee Celebration Year.

But I look to the future, and will always enjoy the success that you have had. Today is going to take care of itself. You and I need to focus on the future of this organization. Many times it is said, when the mantle of leadership changes, we have to start over again. But we don't. Your leadership in this organization is continuing. We pick-up from where we are today and move forward searching to do better each and every day of our lives.

And I hope that I can be a provider of some of that effort for the rest of the life that the good Lord has in store for me, because of what this organization has come to mean to me, this past year.

I will take a personal privilege, if I might, to have my National Vice Commanders, the Historian, the Chaplain, our Treasurer, and the Sergeant-at-Arms to come forward.

PRESENTATION

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER MASON: Commander, we understand that during

your term this past year you had a little problem with your boots on occasion. On behalf of the, National Officers, it's been our privilege to serve with you this year. We would like to give you, as a token of our appreciation, a certificate for a new pair of boots. We have asked George to take you to your favorite boot store in Fresno and procure those boots.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: Well, thank you very much.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: At this time, I would like to acknowledge others who have really been involved in where I stand today. I did mention one earlier, Ed Starkey, a 75 year member. But the one that goes back a few years before that was a long-time friend. Sometimes I wonder if I've served everyone and done everything the way it should have been. But as I said, you can't look back, you have got to look forward. It's a pleasure to have before me those who have supported me so well, but mainly those that stand out in the California Delegation, those 160,000 members back in California for their long-time support of my efforts of work to make sure that the programs of The American Legion are never forgotten. To the Commander of last year, Mike Gombar, and to this year's Commander, Stan Standard, National Executive Committeeman Russ Wood, Alternate Jim Shank, and those who are going to be moving into the offices this afternoon, I just want to say thanks for all of the support that you have given to me, because you don't know how much it means to one in this position, as he travels as long and as hard as I have, to be involved across this country.

I do want to acknowledge the fact that one other person and his family have really had to endure some hardship this year as well, and he has served me very well. Thanks to my aide, George and his wife Mary Sinopoli. George, would you please come forward?

And then of course, I couldn't be here if it wasn't for some support on the home front. Many of you might realize where your best support comes from, and I know that your probably think it's your folks. But you've also got to consider your in-laws, isn't that right? Well, they are here, and they have been a great support not only to myself, but to their daughter as they have helped her through this year as she has been home alone. I would like for them to stand up and be recognized, Mr. and Mrs. Herbie and Elaine Ralph, Graetian's folks. Thank you mom and dad for everything. I appreciate it.

And then, of course, there's my own folks, who got me to this point and allowed me some success. I think they really motivated me to make sure that we could do whatever the situation warranted. I would like to acknowledge that my folks are here. My dad, as many of you might know, still owns a motorcycle, but he sort of put it to rest in the last couple of years because they're getting heavier than he thought they should be. A full-dressed Harley is a lot heavier than many of your probably think. But he still warms it up at least once or twice a month and remembers those days that he could ride it across the country, as he has done for the past 15 years. They are here as well, my folks, Al and Ethel Thiesen.

Then, of course, my kids are at home. Those of you who have a 19 year old son and a daughter who is 16, know about teenagers. I'm sure they're doing what kids do best, you know, but they are my kids. Also my son-in-law, Kirk Zaro has really been supportive this year. It's really gratifying when one travels as I have, to come home and have the family there to bring me back to reality within a moment's notice. But it has been enjoyable and they have been very supportive, and I'm looking for the time I can get back to them and become part of their lives, as well as re-establish myself in the community, in a community that has been very supportive of my efforts.

But at this time, I would like to introduce to you the one who has brought me to where

I am today and stood by my side, long and well this past year, and for the years that I have been working with The American Legion, a lady who joined, who her mother saw fit to enroll her as a Tidy Tot, so she carries a few more years in the American Legion Auxiliary than I do in The American Legion, none other than my wife, the First Lady of The American Legion, Graetian. Hon, thank you.

MRS. BRUCE THIESEN: Thank you from the bottom of my heart to the greatest extended family that a family could ever have. Thank you for your prayers, your encouragement and your support this year. You have traveled with Bruce many, many miles, and the Lord has brought him back safely to us. I am excited to take my husband home, home to the state of California and soon to be the Past National Jubilee Commander, my husband, Bruce. We love you all, and God bless you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: Vice Commander Ken Ohl will preside over the next order of business.

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER OHL: Ladies and Gentlemen, it is a distinct honor for me to preside over the next order of business during the 76th National Convention. This is the time when we present to our National Commander, Bruce Thiesen of California, a plaque and the Colors of his year in office. I now call on Leo Burke, of California, a member of the Foreign Relations Commission, to present the plaque.

MR. BURKE: Thank you. May I please invite the Commander of the Department of California, Mr. Stan Standard, to my right, for the purpose of the presentation? Commander, Sir.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STANDARD: Thank you, Leo. Delegates to this Convention and distinguished guests, it is my privilege and honor to present to Bruce something that I think fits very well. It is family oriented. Bruce and Graetian represent God, family and Country admirably for The American Legion and its goals and objectives during the past year. We of California are very proud that we have been able to provide such stalwart leadership to the National Organization, and we welcome them back home where they will continue their active roles in The American Legion.

I would like to invite to the podium two others to help me with this presentation, Alternate National Executive Committeeman Jim Shank and our Department Adjutant Charles Allemann.

Bruce, Graetian, this is something that we thought would not only be desirable, but useful to you. It's something that we picked up on when we were able to attend your wonderful homecoming in Clovis last fall. This is a certificate to continue the family collection of Pewter-Ware. Thank you very much.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: Thank you very much.

MR. BURKE: Mr. Commander, Distinguished guests. My fellow Delegates, Ladies and gentlemen, how quickly a year passes. It seems just a few days ago we watched as Commander Thiesen donned his red cap. Now we begin the ceremony that will mark the end of his term as our National Commander.

The events of Bruce Thiesen's year as National Commander of The American Legion have been many. He has represented this great organization in foreign countries, at special ceremonies marking 50th year anniversaries of the battles of World War II. He has carried our concerns to Capitol Hill and the Oval Office. He's agonized over some issues, laughed

over others, and never once lost the focus of his decades of service to veterans.

And, when it came to addressing the issue of protecting the Flag of our nation, he never faltered. Just as you remember, Bruce remembers being overseas, and knowing the heartwarming spirit that is so hard to explain when young men and women in uniform gaze at the Stars and Stripes flying over foreign soil.

It is a great honor to ask Bruce to join me at the lectern.

Bruce, I would like to present to you, on behalf of the National Organization of The American Legion, this plaque which shows that you were elected by the National Convention to serve the high office of National Commander of The American Legion for the year 1993-1994. It is given to you in appreciation of your dedicated leadership, in recognition of your devoted service to God and country, and as a token of the high esteem of your fellow Legionnaires. This citation is presented to you by the authority of the National Executive Committee. Given on this 8th day of September, 1994, before the Delegates assembled at the National Convention, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Congratulations, Commander Thiesen.

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER OHL: At this time, I call on Past National Commander John Geiger of Illinois to present the Colors.

PRESENTATION OF COLORS

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER GEIGER: Thank you, Mr. Vice Commander. We are now about to present the Colors that are so proudly displayed on our behalf throughout the past year. Will the Delegates to this National Convention please rise? Ladies and Gentlemen, the Ceremonial Color Guard is the 1993-1994 National Champion Color Guard from Speedway Post 500, Speedway, Indiana.

Color Guard! Prepare to retrieve the Colors of the National Commander.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER GEIGER: Right hand, Salute!

Commander Thiesen, thank you for keeping The American Legion moving forward this past year, especially when it came to protecting the flag of our nation. Together the 3.1 million members of the greatest veterans organization in the world have accomplished much.

Under your leadership we have made great strides in protecting the benefits of our newest generation of veterans from the Persian Gulf War and at the same time saw progress on long-term efforts for veterans of previous wars. You have traveled extensively and you continually reflected the commitment and pride that are hallmarks of the men and women of The American Legion. Under your leadership our programs continued to prosper, and with this prosperity came more visibility for our community involvement. Each of us knows how important The American Legion is to our communities, our states and our nation. Your efforts to make certain others learned of our accomplishments and shared our energy are appreciated.

It was especially meaningful to countless Legionnaires to talk with you during your travels. You never missed an opportunity to tell them how their dedication and involvement was essential to The American Legion. As you told these Delegates on Tuesday, the prestige and recognition that seems to befall a National Commander is truly an outward recognition for the importance of every member. For it is their involvement that moves mayors, governors, and, yes, even the President of the United States, to meet with you as their representative.

Commander Thiesen, please accept our thanks for your commitment and a job well done. The beautiful set of Colors, the symbol of our nation recognized around the world, and the distinctive red banner of the National Commander will serve as reminders of your year of leadership. I am confident you will recall many fond memories of your year as National Commander, each time your eyes fall on these Colors. The plaque, presented to you by Leo, certifies your service during the 1993 - 1994 Legion year. May this beautiful certificate always serve as a reminder to all who see it, of the countless miles you traveled during your year.

The men and women of the Department of California and the members of your family share with you the pride and accomplishments that these colors and plaque represent. On behalf of the 3.1 million members of The American Legion, we present them to you with deep gratitude and appreciation for your outstanding leadership. May God bless you and your family.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: At this time the Color Guard will retire my Colors. Right hand Salute.

I would like to, take a special privilege and thank an long time friend, John Geiger, for presenting to me my Colors, and a fellow Legionnaire and also a friend from the Department of California, Lew Burke for presenting the plaque on behalf of the Legionnaires of this great organization. Thank you ladies and gentlemen for making my year the success it was.

ELECTION OF NATIONAL OFFICERS

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: We have come now to a special order of business, the election of National Officers.

The National Judge Advocate, Philip Onderdonk, of Maryland, will read the rules of convention governing the nomination and election of officers.

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE ONDERDONK: The rules for election of National Officers are as follows:

15. Voting shall be by acclamation, except when a roll call is demanded by the Chairman of at least three departments. Election of National Officers shall be by roll call.
17. Prior to the election of National Officers, the National Commander shall appoint subject to the approval of the convention, a judge of election and such number of tellers as he deems necessary, provided that the total tellers so appointed shall be an odd number. In a contested election each candidate going to the ballot shall be entitled to one teller of his choice.
18. Nominations for National Officers shall be from the floor on roll call of the departments alphabetically arranged. Each department may present as many candidates as it chooses.
19. Nominating speeches for National Officers shall be limited to five minutes each. Not more than two seconding speeches shall be made for any candidate, and said speeches shall be limited to three minutes.
20. When more than two candidates are nominated for any office, balloting shall continue until one candidate receives a majority of the votes of the convention, except in the election of National Vice Commanders.
21. In a contested election for National Vice Commanders, balloting shall continue until (a)

majorities and (b) pluralities are established for one or more candidates under the following provisions:

If, on any ballot taken, less than five candidates receive the necessary majority to elect, the candidate or candidates receiving a majority vote shall be declared elected and a new ballot shall be taken for the remaining number of places to be filled, the candidate receiving the lowest number of votes on the preceding ballot shall be disqualified; except should two candidates remain to fill one place, a new ballot shall be taken.

22. The convention will nominate and elect a National Commander, and five National Vice Commanders, in this sequence.

23. At the conclusion of balloting on National Vice Commanders, each Department delegation Chairman shall deliver a written ballot to the tellers. Such ballots shall be in the hands of the tellers before communication is made to the National Commander for announcement of the results.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: As Chairman of this convention, I now appoint as Judge of the Election, Charles Allemann, Adjutant of California; and as Tellers of the Election, Jim Tripp of Louisiana, Al Davis of Minnesota and Romaine Roethel of Nevada.

Will the Judge and Tellers of the Election please come forward?

National Adjutant Robert Spanogle will now call the roll of the departments. The purpose of the roll call is to receive nominations for National Commander of The American Legion.

ROLL CALL

NATIONAL ADJUTANT SPANOGLE: Thank you Mr. Commander. Would the sound crew turn on all microphones, and I would encourage all delegation chairmen to line yourselves up at the closest mike. Alabama.

DELEGATE JIM FRANOUGH, ALABAMA: Jim Franough, a Delegate from the great state of Alabama. Alabama yields to the great state of Louisiana for the purpose of nominating the next National Commander of The American Legion.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: At this time the Chair will recognize J.B. Brusard, Louisiana, for the purpose of nomination.

DELEGATE J. B. BRUSARD, LOUISIANA: Commander Thiesen, distinguished guests, Legionnaires, Delegates to the 76th National Convention, ladies and gentlemen, I am J.B. Brusard, a Delegate to this Convention from the Department of Louisiana.

It's my pleasure this morning to place in nomination to the Office of National Commander of The American Legion for 1994-1995, a Vietnam Veteran and hes a native of New Orleans, Louisiana. He received a BS Degree in Sociology and Political Science at Loyola University of New Orleans in 1961. In 1963 he received a Juris Doctor Degree of Law from Loyola School of Law. After graduating from the U.S. Army Intelligence School at Ft. Benning, Georgia, and the U.S. Army Intelligence School at Ft. Holabird, Maryland, he served as the Operations Officer of the G-2 staff, in the office of the Commanding General U.S. Defense Command, Ft. Bliss, Texas.

He is a Life member of the Ed Brauner American Legion Post 307 of New Orleans. He served as a Commander of his Post, served his District as a Vice Commander, as Area Commander, and as District Judge Advocate for 15 years. From 1969 to 1986, some 17

years, he served as a Department Judge Advocate for the Department of Louisiana. He also chaired various commissions and committees. He was Louisiana's Delegate to the Vietnam Ad- Hoc Advisory Committee that was called by the Washington Convention in 1967. In 1977, he was a National Commander's Representative to the National Convention Commission. He was appointed Chairman of the National Public Relations Commission in 1978 and served in that capacity for eight years. In 1986, he was elected as a National Vice Commander, serving under the Administration of Past National Commander James Dean of Mississippi. From 1987 to 1992, he served as Chairman of the National Foreign Relations Commission and is a member of the Policy Coordinating and Action Group. From 1991 to 1992 he served as an Ex-Officio member of the Special National POW/MIA Committee. He currently serves as a consultant to the Policy Coordinating and Action Group and as a National Commander's Representative to the Legislative Commission. In addition, he was recently appointed to The American Legion Advisory Committee on a Constitutional Amendment to protect the American Flag.

In 1983 he received the National American Legion Press Association Image Maker Citation, and the following year received the President's Award from the National American Legion Press Association. He was appointed by President Nixon to the Veterans' Administration National Rehabilitation and Education Advisory Committee to the Administrator in 1973 and was named Chairman of the Committee in 1975.

He currently chairs the Agent Orange Family Systems Project Advisory Committee of the LSU Medical School of Allied Health in New Orleans and is the Chairman of The American Legion Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc., which maintains a Louisiana Vietnam Veteran Monument.

Since September of 1965, he's been engaged in the private practice of law in New Orleans. He served as an Assistant District Attorney for the Parish of Orleans from 1970 to 1974, and was elected Constable of the First City Court of the City of New Orleans, in November, 1978. He was re-elected, without opposition, in September of 1984, and again re-elected in September of 1990, to a third six-year term with over 73% of the votes. He's admitted to practice before all of the courts of the state and federal districts in the State of Louisiana, as well as the U.S. Supreme Court. He's a Past President of the Louisiana City Marshals and City Constable Association, the Tennessee Williams/New Orleans Literary Festival, and was recently elected to his fifth two-year term to the House of Delegates, Louisiana State Bar Association.

He is married to Maureen Reed and is the father of two sons and two daughters. They have one grandchild.

At this time, it is an honor for me to place in nomination for National Commander of The American Legion for the year 1994-1995, Louisiana's favorite son, William M. "Bill" Detweiler.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: At this time, the National Adjutant will continue the Roll Call.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT SPANOGLE: Alaska.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN GEORGE STERBENZ, ALASKA: George Sterbenz, Chairman of the delegation from Alaska, wishes to yield to the Chairman of the delegation from Maine for the purpose of seconding the nomination for Mr. Detweiler.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: Maine.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN WILLIAM AUDET, MAINE: Mr. Commander, William Audet, delegation Chairman from the Department of Maine, respectfully requests

that Anthony Jordan, National Security's Chairman from the Department of Maine, be recognized for the purpose of seconding the nomination of William M. "Bill" Detweiler from the great state of Louisiana for the high office of National Commander of The American Legion.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: So ordered. Anthony "Tony" Jordan will be recognized.

DELEGATE: ANTHONY JORDAN, MAINE: Thank you, Commander. Delegates to this Convention, my name is Anthony Jordan, Delegate to this Convention from the Department of Maine.

It is an honor to second the nomination of a man who so highly qualified to serve as National Commander. A man who has been involved with the national organization for over 25 years.

He has served on the national level in many capacities. He has served as Chairman of the National Commission on Public Relations and on the Foreign Relations Commission and has been dedicated to the cause of veterans and veterans' issues on the local, the state and the national levels. He believes in the programs and is concerned with the issues facing our veterans in this great country of ours. This is an important time in the history of The American Legion. Our future can only be judged by good leadership.

On a personal note, I have known this man for over 20 years. He comes to this office of National Commander with the credentials to be an outstanding leader.

It is with personal pride that I second the nomination of William M. "Bill" Detweiler, of the Department of Louisiana, for the Office of National Commander of The American Legion for 1994-1995.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: The Adjutant will continue the Roll Call.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT SPANOGLE: Arizona.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN ADRIAN ROBERTS, ARIZONA: Adrian Roberts, the "Arizona Catfish," Chairman of the delegation and Department Commander of the great state of Arizona, we proudly yield to the state of Florida for a seconding speech for Bill Detweiler.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: Florida.

DELEGATE ROBERT PROCTOR, FLORIDA: Bob Proctor, National Executive Committeeman Alternate and duly elected Delegate to the Convention. At this time, I would like the Chair to recognize our immediate Past State Commander and Chairman of our delegation, Mr. Alan P. Hall, for the purpose of a seconding nomination for our next National Commander.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: So ordered. The Chair will recognize Alan Hall.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN ALAN P. HALL, FLORIDA: Commander Thiesen, National Officers, Delegates and guests. I am Alan P. Hall, Chairman of the delegation from Florida, the Sunshine State.

The Legionnaires of Florida have observed and noted the outstanding performance and the many achievements of the nominee from the neighboring southern state of Louisiana. We appreciate his dedication to the principles and programs of The American Legion. We commend him for the many significant contributions that he has made to our great organization, the largest veterans' organization in the world.

And so I thought it a personal privilege and honor to proudly second the nomination of William M. "Bill" Detweiler of Louisiana for the high office of National Commander of

The American Legion for 1994-1995.

. . . At this time a demonstration ensued in support of the nomination of William M. "Bill" Detweiler as National Commander.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: We'll come now back to order and the Adjutant will continue the Roll Call.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT SPANOGLE: Arkansas.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN CLAUDE CARPENTER, ARKANSAS: Mr. Chairman, fellow Delegates, my name is Claude Carpenter, NECman and Chairman of the Arkansas delegation.

Arkansas, the home of the National Champion Arkansas Razorbacks basketball team and the home of the President of the United States of America, proudly seconds the nomination of our friend, Bill Detweiler, for National Commander.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT SPANOGLE: California.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN STAN STANDARDS, CALIFORNIA: California, Stan Standard, delegation Chairman proudly endorses the nomination of Bill Detweiler of Louisiana.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT SPANOGLE: Colorado.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE, COLORADO: Colorful Colorado, home of America the Beautiful, seconds the nomination with 32 votes, the nomination for William "Bill" Detweiler.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT SPANOGLE: Connecticut

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN ERWIN L. "GUS" WILLIAMS, CONNECTICUT: Erwin L. "Gus" Williams, the Chairman of the delegation, also proud to be the 75th Jubilee Commander from the great state of Connecticut, we endorse for National Commander William M. "Bill" Detweiler from Louisiana, and good luck in the coming years.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT SPANOGLE: Delaware.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN PAIGE CHERRIX, DELAWARE: Paige Cherrix, Delegate Chairman, of the great state, Diamond State of Delaware is proud to have had one of our own during the Diamond Jubilee year, Bettylou Evans, as a National Chairman of the Membership and Post Activities Committee. We are also proud to second the nomination of William M. Detweiler.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT SPANOGLE: District of Columbia.

DELEGATE ARNOLD FLOTTMAN, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA: Arnold Flottman, District of Columbia, NEC, the nation's capital, proudly seconds the nomination of Bill Detweiler for National Commander.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT SPANOGLE: France

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN ARNIE MATANKY, FRANCE: Arnie Matanky, the delegation Chairman from the Department of France, the birthplace of The American Legion, proudly seconds the nomination of Bill Detweiler for National Commander.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT SPANOGLE: Georgia.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN MARJORIE SIMPSON, GEORGIA: Marjorie Simpson, Chairman of the delegation, Commander of the Department of Georgia, the home of the 1996 Olympics, proudly seconds the nomination of Bill Detweiler.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT SPANOGLE: Hawaii.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN HARRY HIRT, HAWAII: Harry Hirt, Delegate Chairman for the State of Hawaii, the Aloha State, island state of pristine beaches, tall palm

trees swaying in mild tradewinds, and Legionnaires who march in their shirt sleeves in a Minneapolis parade, endorses the candidacy of William Detweiler.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT SPANOGLE: Idaho.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN ROLAND GARDNER, IDAHO: Roland Gardner, delegation Chairman of the State of Idaho, a state with a small population but a big, big heart, definitely 100% seconds the nomination of Bill Detweiler as the National Commander.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT SPANOGLE: Illinois.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN ARTHUR RAWERS, ILLINOIS: Arthur Rawers, Delegate Chairman of the great state of Illinois, the Land of Lincoln, is proud to second the nomination of Bill Detweiler.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT SPANOGLE: Indiana.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN RON LOW, INDIANA: Ron Low, Delegate Chairman of the Hoosier State, we proudly support our friend Bill Detweiler.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT SPANOGLE: Iowa.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN ARTHUR GRATIAS, IOWA: Art Gratias, Chairman of the Iowa delegation from the Great Hawkeye State, proudly seconds and casts 89 votes for Bill Detweiler.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT SPANOGLE: Italy

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN FRANK BOTTIGLIERO, ITALY: As delegation Chairman, it's an honor to second the nomination of Bill Detweiler for National Commander.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT SPANOGLE: Kansas.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN JAMES GRAVENSTEIN, KANSAS: Jim Gravenstein, delegation Chairman from the Department of Kansas, seconds the nomination of Bill Detweiler.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT SPANOGLE: Kentucky.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Kentucky, the Blue Grass State, seconds William Detweiler for National Commander.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT SPANOGLE: Maryland.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN GARFIELD POTTS, MARYLAND: Garfield Potts, Department Commander, Delegates Chairman of the Department of Maryland, seconds the nomination of Bill Detweiler for National Commander.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT SPANOGLE: Massachusetts.

DELEGATE HENRY BRADLEY, MASSACHUSETTS: Henry Bradley, Department Commander for the great state of Massachusetts, from the City of Quincy, home of presidents, home of Eileen Comer and her husband "Jake," proudly endorses the nomination of William "Bill" Detweiler for National Commander.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT SPANOGLE: Mexico.

DELEGATE SALLY BENNETT, MEXICO: Sally Bennett, Blue Cap Leader, the Department of Mexico, the land of Sunshine, Flowers and Beautiful Senoritas, endorses for the high office of National Commander, William M. "Bill" Detweiler, of Louisiana.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT SPANOGLE: Michigan.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN HENRY SACHA, MICHIGAN: Henry Sacha, delegation Chairman form the state of Michigan, I wish to remind all map makers that the great state of Michigan consists of two peninsulas, the upper and lower, although the residents of the Upper Peninsula consider themselves members of God's country, they wish

to remind everyone they have not relocated in heaven. The great state of Michigan is proud to give their 100% support to Bill Detweiler, our next National Commander.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT SPANOGLE: Minnesota.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN RAYMOND GALAZEN, MINNESOTA: Ray Galazen, Delegate Chairman, seconds the nomination of Bill Detweiler.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT SPANOGLE: Mississippi.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE, MISSISSIPPI: Mississippi, Louisiana's neighbor, proudly endorses William "Bill" Detweiler for National Commander.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT SPANOGLE: Missouri.

DELEGATE ROBERT BOXDORFER, MISSOURI: Bob Boxdorfer of the great "Show Me State" of Missouri, home of General John J. Pershing and Omar Bradley and President Harry Truman, proudly seconds the nomination of William Detweiler for National Commander.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT SPANOGLE: Montana.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN DONALD PEMBERTON, MONTANA: Don Pemberton, delegation Chairman for the Big Sky State of Montana, the last best place in the world. If you are all real good in life, when you pass away you will go to Montana. Montana proudly seconds the nomination of Bill Detweiler of Louisiana for National Commander.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT SPANOGLE: Nebraska.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN RAYMOND JACK, NEBRASKA: Ray Jack, delegation Chairman, Department Commander of the great state of Nebraska, the land of Big Red Football, lush green fields and true blue Legionnaires, cast our votes for Bill Detweiler for National Commander of The American Legion.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT SPANOGLE: Nevada.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN ERNEST McAVAN, NEVADA: Ernie McAvan, Chairman of the delegation from the great Silver State of Nevada, supports the nomination of William M. "Bill" Detweiler.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT SPANOGLE: New Hampshire.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN LINNIAS VANCE, NEW HAMPSHIRE: Linnias Vance, delegation Chairman of the great state of New Hampshire, proudly endorses Bill Detweiler for National Commander.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT SPANOGLE: New Jersey.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN ALBERT ROBOTTI, NEW JERSEY: New Jersey, delegation Vice Chairman Al Robotti, proudly seconds the nomination of Bill Detweiler.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT SPANOGLE: New Mexico.

DELEGATE BENNIE CASAUS, NEW MEXICO: Bennie Casaus, NEC New Mexico, seconds the nomination of Bill Detweiler for National Commander.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT SPANOGLE: New York.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN WALTER BAKER, NEW YORK: Walter Baker, Chairman of the delegation from the Department of New York, the Empire State with its 226 votes, proudly seconds the nomination of Bill Detweiler for National Commander.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT SPANOGLE: North Carolina.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN GARNETT SHROPSHIRE, NORTH CAROLINA: I'm Garnett Shropshire, DELEGATEegation Chairman, a Legionnaire who wore his Legion cap and introduced the President at the Department of Veterans' Affairs commemorating the 50th anniversary of the signing of the GI Bill of Rights, and it was a real pleasure for me to

represent the millions of veterans at that ceremony, proudly endorses and seconds the nomination of Bill Detweiler to the office of National Commander.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT SPANOGLE: North Dakota.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN WESLEY MARTIN, NORTH DAKOTA: Wes Martin, Chairman of the delegation, Department Commander of North Dakota, with our 50% of all eligible veterans signed up as Legionnaires, proudly seconds the nomination of Bill Detweiler for National Commander.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT SPANOGLE: Ohio.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN DONALD C. ERTMANN, OHIO: Donald C. Ertmann, delegation Chairman from the great Buckeye State of Ohio, seconds the endorsement for Bill Detweiler for our next National Commander.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT SPANOGLE: Oklahoma.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: The Department of Oklahoma seconds the nomination for Mr. Detweiler.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT SPANOGLE: Oregon.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN RICHARD SCHENFELD, OREGON: Richard Schenfeld, delegation Chairman from the great state of Oregon, as the host of your next National Convention, it's an honor to second the nomination of William "Bill" Detweiler to the high office of National Commander.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT SPANOGLE: Panama Canal

DELEGATE JOHN LONG, PANAMA CANAL: John Long, Past Adjutant Department of Panama Canal. As the Department of Panama's last Delegate to The American Legion National Convention, I proudly second the nomination of Bill Detweiler for National Commander.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT SPANOGLE: Pennsylvania.

DELEGATE RONALD CONLEY, PENNSYLVANIA: Ronald Conley, NEC, the Keystone State, proudly seconds the nomination of Bill Detweiler.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT SPANOGLE: Philippines.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN GIL ALDEA, PHILIPPINES: Mr. Chairman, I'm Gil Aldea, Department Commander, as the same time, Chairman of the delegation to this Convention. My delegation traveled 25,000 miles from the sunny Philippines of islands, some of which are under water during high tides, a coast line longer than the United States, and the perfect Mayon volcano, where one of the seven wonders of the world can be found. The Epiga Rice Terraces and the site of the most beautiful sunset in the world, the sunset at Manila Bay. Ladies and gentlemen, fellow veterans, allow me the rare privilege and distinction and honor to second the nomination of William Detweiler as National Commander of The American Legion for the year 1994-1995.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT SPANOGLE: Puerto Rico.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE, PUERTO RICO: Puerto Rico seconds the nomination for William M. Detweiler for National Commander of The American Legion.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT SPANOGLE: Rhode Island.

DELEGATE JAMES CONVERSE, RHODE ISLAND: NECman Jim Converse, from the Department of Rhode Island. Rhode Island is proud to second the nomination of William Detweiler.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT SPANOGLE: South Carolina.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Mr. Chairman, the Palmetto State of South Carolina and the home of "General Stone," proudly endorses Bill Detweiler as our next Commander

of The American Legion.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT SPANOGLE: South Dakota.

DELEGATE DONALD CLARK, SOUTH DAKOTA: Don Clark, Delegates from the Department of South Dakota, the birthplace of American Legion Baseball, proudly seconds the nomination of William Detweiler for National Commander.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT SPANOGLE: Tennessee.

DELEGATE CALVIN CHEEK, TENNESSEE: Calvin Cheek, Department Commander of the great Volunteer State of Tennessee and the home of Vice President Albert Gore, is proud to endorse and support the nomination of William Detweiler.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT SPANOGLE: Texas.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN BRUCKNER: The great state of Texas casts 48 votes for Bill Detweiler.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT SPANOGLE: Utah.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN KOTTER, UTAH: Delegation Chairman and Department Commander, I proudly support Bill Detweiler for the office of National Commander. I cordially invite all Legionnaires present to visit us in Salt Lake City for the 1996 National Convention.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT SPANOGLE: Vermont.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN RON ALDRICH, VERMONT: Ron Aldrich, Chairman of the delegation for the great state of Vermont proudly endorses Bill Detweiler for National Commander.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT SPANOGLE: Virginia.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN GEORGE BLUME, VIRGINIA: George Blume, Chairman of the delegation of the Commonwealth of Virginia proudly endorses Bill Detweiler for the next National Commander of The American Legion.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT SPANOGLE: Washington.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN DERALD ROBERTSON, WASHINGTON: Derald Robertson, delegation Chairman for Washington proudly endorses Bill Detweiler for National Commander.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT SPANOGLE: West Virginia.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN DALE HOOVER, WEST VIRGINIA: Delegation Chairman Dale Hoover, Delegates from the great state of West Virginia, proudly endorses William M. Detweiler for National Commander.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT SPANOGLE: Wisconsin.

FLOOR LEADER HAL BURTON, WISCONSIN: Hal Burton, Floor Leader from Wisconsin. Wisconsin, the Home of the Hearty, proudly and most certainly endorses William Detweiler for National Commander.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT SPANOGLE: Wyoming.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER SMITH, WYOMING: Bob Smith, Department Commander from the state of Wyoming, endorses William Detweiler for National Commander.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT SPANOGLE: CANADA:

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN LEUTERIO, CANADA: Mr. Commander, Canada proudly seconds the nomination of Bill Detweiler.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT SPANOGLE: Mr. Commander, that completes the Roll Call.

DELEGATE, DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS: Mr. Chairman, I'm Martin Denader, Delegates from the Department of Illinois. Mr. Commander, in view of the fact that there has been but one candidate for National Commander, I move that we suspend the rules of this convention, close nominations, and that the National Adjutant be authorized to cast one vote for the entire Delegate strength of this Convention and Bill Detweiler be elected Commander by acclamation.

I now make the first motion.

Mr. Commander, I move that we suspend the rules of this Convention pertaining to the election of the National Commander, and that the nomination and election of the National Commander, and that the nomination and election of the National Vice Commanders, which rules shall be reinstated at the conclusion of the election for National Vice Commanders.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: There is a motion. The motion before us is to suspend the rules of this convention pertaining to the election of the National Commander, and the nomination and election of the National Vice Commanders, which rules shall be automatically reinstated at the conclusion of the election for National Vice Commanders. The motion is not debatable and requires a two-thirds vote.

You have heard the motion and the second. All those in favor signify by saying "Aye". Opposed?

It is carried. The rules will be suspended.

DELEGATE MORELLL, NEW YORK: Mr. Commander, Robert Morell for New York. Mr. Commander, I move that the nominations for the office of National Commander be closed.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: Motion is that nominations for the office of National Commander be closed. Is there a second?

. . . The motion was duly seconded.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: All in favor signify by saying "Aye". Those opposed? Motion carried to close the nominations for National Commander.

DELEGATE TOM BOOK, COLORADO: Tom Brook, Alternate NEC and Delegate to this Convention from the Department of Colorado. I move that the National Adjutant be authorized to cast one vote representing the entire Delegate strength of this delegation, and that William Detweiler be elected National Commander by acclamation.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: Is there a second?

. . . The motion was duly seconded.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: Hearing a second, there is a motion before us that the National Adjutant be authorized to cast one vote representing the entire Delegate strength of this Convention, and that William "Bill" Detweiler be elected National Commander by acclamation. All those in favor of the motion signify by saying "Aye". Those opposed?

The Ayes have it, the motion carries.

At this time, the National Adjutant will cast the vote.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT SPANOGLE: As National Adjutant, I cast one vote representing the entire vote of this Convention for the election of William "Bill" Detweiler as National Commander of The American Legion.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: I declare William Detweiler elected National Commander of The American Legion.

Will the Sergeant-at-Arms assist the newly elected Commander of The American Legion to this podium?

. . . National Commander Elect Detweiler was escorted to the podium by his sons Keith and Scott Detweiler, amidst the applause of the delegation and had their pictures taken.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: I would introduce to you the newly elected National Commander of The American Legion, my friend William Detweiler. Bill, congratulations, and let me introduce his wife Maureen as the First Lady of this Organization.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ELECT DETWEILER: Thank you very much.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: The Chair recognizes E. Roy Stone, Jr., Past National Commander for the purpose of administering the Oath of Office to the New National Commander of The American Legion.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER STONE: Mr. Commander and Delegates of this Convention, it is a real privilege and pleasure to administer the Oath to the New Commander.

This Convention has been speaking out not only to you Delegates but also to the new Commander. This Convention is telling you which path we want you to follow. They have given you, Mr. Commander, not only these mandates but also something else that is most unusual. You have been given the "Minneapolis Affirmation," a declaration affirming that our beliefs are basically the same today as they were in 1919.

Mr. Commander, what a great opportunity for you to build upon what has been built, for you to follow where others led.

Now Mr. Commander, I'm going to ask that you follow me, raise your right hand and state your name.

. . . The Oath of Office was administered by Past National Commander E. Roy Stone to National Commander Elect William M. Detweiler as follows:

> I, William M. Detweiler, do solemnly pledge myself, to perform faithfully and impartially, the duties of the office of National Commander of The American Legion.
>
> I further pledge that I will support and defend the Constitution of The United States of America, and the National Constitution and By-laws of The American Legion.
>
> And I do not subscribe to the principles of any group opposed to our form of government. So help me God.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER STONE: I congratulate you and I now call you my Commander.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: Ladies and gentlemen, the 1994-95 National Commander of The American Legion, William M. Detweiler, Bill.

ACCEPTANCE SPEECH
William M. Detweiler
National Commander

My fellow Legionnaires, ladies of the Auxiliary, Sons of The American Legion, I humbly accept the nomination and election as National Commander of The American Legion, and express my sincere thanks to you, the Delegates of this Convention for your vote of confidence.

I would like at this time to introduce my family, and some friends who are on the stage and platform with me.

First of all, my wife and best friend for 38 years, Maureen. She has been my friend for 38 years, my wife for not quite 38 years. Also here is my youngest daughter Jenny; Keith the keeper of the store when I am somewhat away this year; my oldest daughter Bonnie; and my son and daughter-in-law, Scott and Christine and my number one man, Scott, Jr.

Here is my mother, Tracy Watkins, my mother-in-law, Marie Reed, and the gentleman that interested me in the Legion when I returned from the service, my father-in-law, Floyd Reed.

And with me also, are two very close friends, the ladies that handled my first campaign in public office, successfully I might add, then moved on to much bigger and greater things. From the City Council at large in the City of New Orleans, the Honorable Peggy Wilson and the Vice Chancellor of Development for Tulane University, Ms. Pat Mason.

I would like, at this time, to take a special moment to thank the Legionnaires, the Auxiliary and the Sons of the Department of Louisiana. Their work and service to veterans over the years, I believe is recognized by your election of me in their place, and on their behalf, and in representation of the work they do. I'm most pleased that they saw fit to keep me involved and to give me the opportunity to be considered as a National Commander candidate.

I would like to recognize my campaign chairman, Jay Berthelot, our National Executive Committeeman, my campaign finance officer, B. B. Crusot, and my campaign advisory committee and chairman Abby Arrera, and long-time and close friend, Jim Tripp, Department Adjutant.

You have given me a unique opportunity over the years, and the people of Louisiana gave me a unique opportunity, to fight and work for every Past National Commander since I came in the organization, beginning with John Davis of North Dakota. I thank you gentlemen for your advice, your inspiration and your encouragement. The Past National Commanders have overwhelmingly supported my campaign and have been a great inspiration.

A special thanks to Past National Commander Geiger for his advice, and also being in my corner, and I can say sincerely, in the corner of The American Legion.

And another special thanks to Past National Commander E. Roy Stone of South Carolina. He has always been of counsel and a close personal friend, and I'm very appreciative of him coming forward and swearing me in. I greatly appreciate his support and that of the Southern Caucus. My friends, I've had the benefit of knowing and listening to the greats and near greats of this organization. The sad part of my campaign, and this moment, is that they are not here be thanked, personally. Most especially, Past National Commander Robert Charles Smith, who took me under his wing early in my career, was like a father to me, a true southern gentleman.

Albert LaBiche of Indiana, Dr. Schuman of Indiana, Jimmy O'Neill, Past National Commander, S., "Perry" Brown of Texas, and last, but not least, the late Hamilton Fish, all of them supported me, and all of them inspired me, all of them were with me when I needed

them.

And to you, Bob Spanogle, our Adjutant, you lead the most professional staff that I think this organization has ever had. I am most grateful for the work of the staff. They deserve a hand for the work that they have done at this Convention, and in past years, and I thank you.

Seventy-five years ago, The American Legion was born out of the desire of our Founders to avoid war, to keep America militarily strong, to deter future aggression, and out of the need to care for returning veterans, especially the sick or wounded, and to assist those who answered their country's call, and in their readjustment to society to help them obtain further education and training and gainful employment.

That was 1919. But here we are today, September 8th, 1994, seventy-five years later, back in Minneapolis. We are still just as dedicated as those Founders and we still strive to fulfill those same needs. All of our basic programs continue to be important year-in and year-out. But this year, I intend to spend a great deal of time in Washington, lobbying for a couple of issues that I consider top priority! The first is veterans health care.

The personal price of war is high. It can last a lifetime. Who that better than those who have fought those wars than we veterans? The American Legion was founded to insure that the health and rehabilitation needs of veterans would be considered a solemn obligation by our government. The VA health care system must be a partner in any plan for health care reform. Congress must hear this message loud and clear! And I intend to make sure that it does!

And Congress must correct the years of inadequate funding to allow the VA to carry out its mission. And I intend to carry that message to Congress!

Many of our Persian Gulf veterans suffer from illnesses they believe are related to their service in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Iraq. The American Legion certainly does not want a repetition of our long drawn-out battle to convince the government to recognize and compensate the Vietnam veterans whose health was affected by their exposure to Agent Orange. And I will carry this message to Washington on your behalf.

The second top priority issue for us is our campaign to restore the respect and protection to the Flag of the United States of America. The American Legion has been conducting a "quiet revolution" for the past five years to convince Congress to heed the will of the American people and enact an amendment to the U.S. Constitution to protect the American Flag from physical desecration. We know the American people understand this issue and are willing to ratify that amendment. We are not asking Congress to decide the issue. And we are not asking the administration or any political party to decide the matter. This is not a veterans issue and this is not a Democrat or Republican issue. The flag does not belong to any group. This is an American issue! We are asking Congress, for the basic democratic right of a free people pass the amendment and allow "We the People" to choose.

I now call upon each of you to join me in this effort. Stand with me in supporting the Citizens Flag Alliance and the campaign to protect the flag!

When our Founders went off to fight "the war to end all wars," they lacked proper training and the proper arms and equipment to do the job. In the war's aftermath, they faced a downsizing of the military establishment and a gutting of our national defense structure as peace spread across the land. Has anything changed? Fifty years after the invasion of Normandy, as we approach the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II, nothing has really changed!

Despite the warnings of The American Legion, Congress, at the urging of the

Administration, continues on its course of downsizing the armed forces and closing military bases right and left. We cannot "stick our heads in the sand" as we did after World War I. Nor can we allow the theory that "the cold war is over" to lull us into complacency and deter us from demanding a strong national defense establishment; and fighting hard to preserve it.

Since our founding 75 years ago, The American Legion has been an organization of wartime, war-experienced veterans who understand the need for a commitment to military strength as the best means to achieve and preserve lasting peace in the world. And I will carry that message to Washington!

We are a unique organization. We are wartime veterans who have paid our dues in service to God and country. We are an organization steeped in patriotism, conservative in our approach to government, and dedicated to volunteer service to community, state and nation.

This is an election year. Let us take advantage of it. Let us stand up for moral principles. Let us stand up for what is good for America. Theoretically, those we send to represent us in Congress are supposed to respond to the will of the people. Then let us make our will be known. If we don't advise our Senators and Congressmen and others in government of our wishes, we cannot expect our elected leaders to know our concerns. If we don't let them know of our programs and concerns, of our likes and dislikes, of our desires for a strong defense, better health care and educational benefits for veterans, and for a restoration of respect for our flag, then we have no further to look than in the mirror to find the ones responsible for our failures.

A vivid example of how The American Legion has continued to make its will known to those in government is the current controversy over a future exhibit at the Smithsonian Institution. The exhibit involves the "Enola Gay," the B-29 that dropped the first atomic weapon on Hiroshima. The American Legion objects to the way the American role in that event will be portrayed. This Convention has adopted Resolution No. 391, which states those objections, and empowers me as National Commander to make sure the exhibit does not distort history or dishonor veterans. I will carry out the mandates of that Resolution!

This year, our membership theme has been built around the concept of the historic Oregon Trail, as we head toward next September's National Convention in Portland, Oregon. Membership is a necessity, it is not a program. Without membership, there would be no programs. We are winners! Let us approach this year with a positive attitude, as winners!

I urge you to take the time to assess your efforts in your various Posts and Departments to encourage and motivate your members. Praise them when they deserve it and show your appreciation. Too often, we forget that a simple but sincere "thank you" goes a long way.

As National Commander, one of my goals is to see that every member of The American Legion tells at least one other person about the great things that we do and then encourages that person to join us in our efforts. Every Legionnaire should be informed enough about the organization to be able to answer the question, "Why should I join?" Then, ask them to join! So, I ask that you join me as we move along down the Oregon Trail, day-by-day, member-by-member, standing proud and spreading the good news of the positive programs and activities of this, the greatest veterans organization in the world!

I am honored to hold the reins of leadership which you have placed in my hands for the next year and I thank you for your confidence and trust. Have a safe trip home, God bless you all, God bless The American Legion, and God bless America!

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: Thank you, Commander Detweiler.

NOMINATION FOR THE OFFICES OF NATIONAL VICE COMMANDERS

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: I now will call upon the National Adjutant who will call the Roll for the purpose of nominating National Vice Commanders.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN FROM THE STATE OF VERMONT: Since the rules of this convention have been suspended, I move the nominations for the Office of National Vice Commander be made from the floor of this Convention.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: You have heard the motion. Do I hear a second?

. . . The motion was duly seconded and carried.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: Motion was carried that the nominations for the offices of National Vice Commander will be made from the floor.

DELEGATE JESS EUBANKS, ALASKA: Mr. Commander, and Delegates, I request that the right to be given to Bill Bishop, from Alaska.

NECMAN BILL BISHOP, ALASKA: Commander Detweiler, and Commander Thiesen, National Officers, Delegates, Alternates and guests of the 76th National Convention of The American Legion assembled in Minneapolis, as National Executive Committeeman for the Department of Alaska, it is my privilege to stand before you today for the purpose of nominating Joseph T. Craig, for the position of National Vice Commander.

Joe, a 20 year veteran of the U.S. Navy and Coast Guard, served from 1949 to 1971 and retired from the Coast Guard in 1971. Joe served another 20 years as a Civil servant for the Coast Guard prior to going into full retirement in 1991.

He has been a member of Post No. 3, Alaska, for the past 28 years. He is Past Department Commander and has been an alternate NECman for over a decade. He has served the Department as Children and Youth chairman for over 15 years. At his Post, he has been Commander two terms, and presently serves as Finance and Service Officer, a position he has held for over 15 years. He is also Finance Officer for the Southeast District. On the National level he has served on the National Committees of Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, Legislative, Children and Youth and Economic Committees.

As a member of the National Commander's Flag Brigade, he has been very instrumental in getting the Flag Memorial Resolution before the legislative process on the last day, an effort that took almost three years. He never let up on his efforts toward a successful outcome. We Alaskans are proud to possess this outstanding Legionnaire, a diligent and tireless worker.

On behalf of the veterans and The American Legion, it is with great pride that I place a nomination in the name of Joseph T. Craig for National Vice Commander of The American Legion for the year 1994-1995, and I so move.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: Thank you Bill. Do I hear a second?

. . . The motion was duly seconded by delegation Chairman Harold Jones.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: The Chair recognizes the delegation Chairman from Kentucky for the purpose of a nomination.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN BILLY HAUK, KENTUCKY: Mr. Commander,

Legionnaires, ladies and gentlemen, the Department of Kentucky has a 32 year Legionnaire whose eligibility to The American Legion was gained through his service in the Marine Corps during the Korean conflict. He is a graduate of the College of Engineers of the University of Kentucky. He served as a state employee for the state of Kentucky for 28 years and he retired from there as a Land Agent.

His Legion experience has been very full. He has served his Post in many capacities, practically every elected and appointed office that may be in that Post, and I'm not going to go into all of those. He has served this area and this Department and the District also. I will not dwell too much on the fact that he has been elected to the high office of Department Commander, the office of Alternate NEC, the office of NECman, and he has been very active in the Boys' State Program for 17 years. And for the last of nine years, he has been Executive Director of that program.

We of Kentucky Post 2 in Frankfort, Kentucky judge him to be a well-qualified Legionnaire to serve for the year 1994-1995 in The American Legion as a National Vice Commander, and we request and urge the support for Silas Noel for his election. I thank you, Mr. Commander.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: Silas Noel has been placed in nomination for National Vice Commander.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN BILL PROCTOR, MARYLAND: Bill Proctor, Delegate from Maryland, I request you recognize Past National Commander Clarence Bacon for the purpose of a nomination.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: Clarence Bacon is recognized.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: Thank you very much, Commander Thiesen, National Officers, and fellow Delegates. I come before you today with the high honor of placing in nomination an outstanding Legionnaire from the Department of Maryland by the name of Calvin E. Patton. He is a Navy veteran with more than 33 years continuous service in The American Legion. A family man, he and his wife Betty, who he is sitting with today, are the proud parents of two sons and a daughter, and they have seven grandchildren. Cal's Legion service has been varied and extensive. He is Past Post and District Commander. He worked his way up through the chairs and served as Department Commander in 1978. He then served two years as Alternate National Executive Committeeman and was the National Executive Committeeman in 1982-1984. All of this time, he continued to be active in his Department, as well as on national level in the fields of National Security and Foreign Relations.

Currently, he holds three appointments from the Governor of Maryland. He is the Chairman of the Veterans Affairs Commission, he is a Commissioner of the Maryland Veterans' Home Commission, he is a Commissioner on the Maryland Military Monuments Commission. Calvin Patton is a dedicated, hardworking Legionnaire involved in his community in the furtherance of veteran programs and a devoted husband, father and grandfather.

I am, therefore, very pleased to place the nomination for National Vice Commander for 1994-1995 for Calvin E. Patton from the great Department of Maryland.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: Calvin Patton's name has been recorded as nominated for National Vice Commander.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN BAKER, NEW YORK: Mr. Commander, I'm Walter Baker, Chairman of the delegation of the Department of New York. Please recognize our Department Commander, Dave Varney for the purpose of a nomination.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVE VARNEY, NEW YORK: Reverend Kozlowski, National Commander, distinguished guests, National Officers, Delegates and Alternates to this 76th Annual Convention, ladies and gentlemen, today, as a duly elected Delegate, the Department of New York has afforded me the distinct honor to nominate a dedicated Legionnaire to the high office of National Vice Commander of The American Legion.

The Legionnaire whom I'm about to nominate has served his Post in many capacities, including Post Commander. He has served as County Commander, District Commander, Department Vice Commander and was elected Department Commander of New York in 1970.

On the national level of our organization, he has served as the Alternate National Executive Committeeman for the Legion from 1975-1977. From 1975 to the present, he has served as a member of the National Convention Committee. Ladies and gentlemen, I'm privileged to hereby place in nomination the name of a dedicated and outstanding Legionnaire, who has proved his ability to promote the programs of The American Legion. He will be a great asset to the National Organization and, therefore, I place the name of H. Gordon Burleigh of Ticonderoga, New York for the high office of National Vice Commander of The American Legion for the year 1994-1995 and urge his election to this office

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: You have heard the nomination of H. Gordon Burleigh for the office of National Vice Commander.

WISCONSIN DELEGATION CHAIRMAN: Delegation Chairman from the Department of Wisconsin, home of the 1994 Rose Bowl Champions, requests the chair to recognize Wisconsin's Past National Commander, Keith Kreul for the purpose of a nomination.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: The chair recognizes Keith Kruel.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER KREUL: Commander Thiesen, National Officers, distinguished guests, allow me to share with you some of the experiences and attributes of a great Legionnaire from the Department of Wisconsin, Vernon K. Grosenick. Vernon served his country in the New York Navy from 1944 to 1946. He was aboard the U.S.S. Pennsylvania in the South Pacific.

After he returned home on leave, his local druggist asked him to give him $2.00 and told him he was now a member of The American Legion! And Vern has become active in our organization now for 50 years. Following his return from the service, he took some courses in engineering, and followed that profession for a number of years. His wife, Mavis, is always at his side, and to that union was born three sons and a generation later, four grandchildren.

Vernon Grosenick was a great Commander in the Department of Wisconsin. He has great friends in the Department of Wisconsin, and he is great friends of anyone who has made his acquaintance. They have always worked as a team. During that time, Vernon was active in his community doing civic duties, serving The American Legion. He rose in the Post, through the County, and through the District, and in 1971-1972 was elected Department Commander of Wisconsin for the year. The following year, he was elected NECman and served one term as NECman. In 1978, Vern was appointed to the Trophies and Awards Committee, and served that Committee until the present, and since 1984 served as its Vice Chairman.

Vern is an outstanding leader and can provide great assistance to National Commander

Bill Detweiler, as he pursues his goals in this 1994-1995 year.

It is with the utmost pride and respect and dedication to a great Legionnaire that I at this time place in nomination for the high office of National Vice Commander of The American Legion, the name of Vernon K. Grosenick of the Department of Wisconsin.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: Vern K. Grosenick has been placed in nomination for National Vice Commander.

DELEGATION CHAIRMAN JIM GRAVENSTEIN, KANSAS: I move that nominations for the offices of National Vice Commanders be closed.

. . . The motion was duly seconded.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: You have heard the motion and the second, it is not debatable. All in favor say "Aye." Those opposed? It is carried and so ordered that the nominations for the office of National Vice Commander be closed.

DELEGATE FROM NORTH CAROLINA: Mr. Commander, from the great state of North Carolina, I move that the National Adjutant be authorized to cast one vote for the entire Delegate strength of this Convention and that Silas Noel, Kentucky; Vernon Grosenick, Wisconsin; Gordon Burleigh of New York; Calvin E. Patton of Maryland; and Joseph T. Craig of Alabama, be elected by acclamation.

. . . The motion was duly seconded.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: I call on the National Adjutant.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT SPANOGLE: As National Adjutant of The American Legion, I cast one vote representing the entire Delegate strength of this Convention for Silas Noel, Kentucky; Vernon Grosenick, Wisconsin; Gordon Burleigh of New York; and Calvin E. Patton of Maryland; and Joseph T. Craig of Alabama, for the offices of National Vice Commander, American Legion.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: I now declare that the following Legionnaires have been elected National Vice Commanders of The American Legion, Silas Noel, Kentucky; Vernon Grosenick, Wisconsin; Gordon Burleigh of New York; Calvin E. Patton of Maryland; and Joseph T. Craig of Alabama.

Will the new National Vice Commanders come to the platform for introduction.

. . . The newly elected National Vice Commanders came to the podium.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: At this time, as they approach the National Adjutant, I would like to introduce:

Joseph T. Craig, Alaska
Silas Noel, Kentucky
Calvin Patton, Maryland
Gordon Burleigh, New York
Vernon Grosenick, Wisconsin

Those are your National Vice Commanders of The American Legion.

PRESENTATION OF COLORS

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: At this time, I'm going to call on John Geiger, Past National Commander of The American Legion to present the Colors to our incoming National Commander.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER GEIGER, ILLINOIS: Thank you Commander

Thiesen. Legionnaires and distinguished guests, please rise for the presentation of our National Colors to National Commander Elect Bill Detweiler.

. . . Hand salute, as he was presented with his Colors.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER GEIGER, ILLINOIS: Commander, as you have jointed me at the podium, you have before you the Delegates of this great Convention who now look to you to lead our American Legion.

You have worked for our beloved organization for years and now you are on the threshold of perhaps the most demanding year of your life. You will represent veterans from across the nation as you carry the concerns of our members to the highest level of government. It is my hope and prayer that the Colors we present to you now will be a source of inspiration and pride, for I know that you view these Colors in a special way, and rightfully so. You must continue to lead the way for our nation and the struggle to see that it is protected. And the Flag of our American Legion must always stand in your mind, as it does in many others, for the undying spirit of American veterans and their continuing love of God and Country.

Bill, these are your Colors, responsibility comes with them. For now, millions of Americans look to you for leadership. For three quarters of a century The American Legion has been a powerful force for this nation. Commander Detweiler, God bless you and our American Legion as you lead us this coming year.

Your Colors, Sir.

Color Guard, please retire the Flag of our new National Commander to their Post.

NATIONAL COMMANDER-ELECT DETWEILER: Thank you very much for these beautiful Colors and the presentation. I will look upon them with pride and I will represent you with pride.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: At this time, fellow Delegates, it's an honor for me to present to you a fine lady who has been elected to lead an organization that we have come to rely upon for critical support. She is going to enjoy her role as the Diamond Anniversary Leader because the American Legion Auxiliary is beginning to celebrate their 75th year of "service, not self." Please welcome the newly elected President, National President of the American Legion Auxiliary, a member of Greenbelt Unit 136 in the Department of Maryland, National President of the American Legion Auxiliary, Linda Newsome.

MS. LINDA NEWSOME
National President
American Legion Auxiliary

National Commander, Delegates, Alternates, it is certainly my pleasure to be with you this afternoon. The American Legion Auxiliary does begin its Diamond Jubilee. The National President's theme "75 Years of Service, Not Self" will lead the way to our continued commitment to our veterans, their families and our communities.

The American Legion Auxiliary pledges its full support to the cause of protecting our beautiful American Flag. Our members have been challenged to tell our story of the need for a Constitutional Amendment to every family member, every friend, every neighbor and they will do so. Mr. Commander Bill, we will stand by you.

To Commander Bill, to your Officers, my best wishes. Under your leadership The

American Legion will continue to serve well your fellow veterans. I pledge the Auxiliary's full support to you and The American Legion.

I would like to present the National Vice President Syble Deshotel and her husband, I. J., from Louisiana. Our National Secretary, Peggy Sappenfield. And my special friend, my husband, Gene.

I look forward to a very exciting year of service and to meeting many of you. Thank you, Commander.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: Madame President, please remain with us for a moment as I bring our newly elected National Commander of The American Legion together so that the two of you can greet the Delegates of this Convention.

Bill Detweiler, National Commander of The American Legion; Linda Newsome, National President of the American Legion Auxiliary.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: Is there any further business to come before this Convention?

The Adjutant has a few announcements.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NATIONAL ADJUTANT SPANOGLE: The National Constitution By-Laws of The American Legion requires that the National Executive Committee of The American Legion meet within 24 hours following the adjournment of this Convention. That meeting of the National Executive Committee will be held on the 2nd level of this Convention Center, Room 205A and B immediately following the adjournment of the 76th Annual National Convention.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: At this time, I would ask the outgoing National Chaplain of The American Legion, Msgr. Raymond Kozlowski of New York, to offer the Benediction.

BENEDICTION
Msgr. Raymond J. Kozlowski, National Chaplain

In 1783 things started to settle down for the 13 states. George Washington wanted to launch this great nation into the future that we enjoy today, and so I thought it apropos to use his prayer which he gave and sent to all of these states, to launch this great American Legion for its 76th year.

Oh mighty God, we make our earnest prayer that You keep the United States in Your holy protection. Incline the citizens to cultivate a spirit of subordination and obedience to government, and entertain their brotherly affection and love for one another and for their fellow citizens of these United States.

Dispose us to do justice, to love mercy and to define ourselves with that charity and specific temper of mind which are characteristics of the divine author of our blessed faith. With a humble invitation of those examples, without these things we can never hope to be a happy nation, we ask this in Your name. Amen.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: At this time I would ask the Color Guard

of Speedway Post 500 to retire the Colors. Hand Salute.
. . . The Delegates stood and saluted the Colors.

NATIONAL COMMANDER THIESEN: I now declare this, the Diamond Jubilee Anniversary of The American Legion and the 76th Annual National Convention of The American Legion adjourned. Sine die.

. . . At 1:50 P.M. the 76th Annual National Convention of The American Legion adjourned.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF ANNUAL AWARDS

The Henry D. Lindsley Trophy: Awarded annually to the Department attaining the highest percentage of membership over its preceding year's membership by March 31.
WINNER: Idaho (97.29%)

The North Carolina Trophy: Awarded annually to the Department not included among the several state Departments or the Department of the District of Columbia attaining the highest percentage of membership as of March 31, over its preceding year's membership.
WINNER: Italy (106.22%)

General Henri Gourand Trophy: Awarded annually to that Department in each of six categories established by the National Membership and Post Activities Committee, each of said Department having been the first in its respective category to attain or exceed its nationally assigned membership quota (effective 1986).
WINNERS: Category I - Indiana
Category II - None
Category III - None
Category IV - None
Category V - Idaho
Category VI - Delaware

The O. L. Bodenhamer Trophy: Awarded annually to that Department designated to lead the parade at the time of the ensuing National Convention.
WINNER: Idaho (103.23%)

General John J. Pershing Honor Award: Awarded annually to that Department having the greatest percentage of its posts receiving the Honor Ribbon for having 100 percent or more, of the post's previous year's membership enrolled for the coming year by December 31, and having reported such achievement to National Headquarters by not later than January 31.
WINNER: Idaho (46.53%)

The Arthur D. Houghton Sons of The American Legion Trophy: Awarded annually to that Detachment of Sons of The American Legion in each of three membership size categories (I - 1-999 members; II - 1,000-2,000 members; III - 3,000 members or more), each of said Detachments attaining the greatest percentage of increase over previous year's membership when compared with all Detachments in its category.
WINNER: Category I - New Mexico (131.9%)
Category II - Colorado (129.7%)
Category III - Pennsylvania (114.6%)

William F. Lenker National Service Trophy: Awarded annually to that State Department of The American Legion excelling in welfare work for war veterans, providing the membership of that Department shall be no less than 80% of the membership of the preceding year.
WINNER: Vermont

The Frank N. Belgrano, Jr. Trophy: Awarded annually to that Department which has rendered the most outstanding service during the year to the program of the Boy Scouts of America.
WINNER: Maryland

The Ralph T. O'Neil Education Trophy: Awarded annually to that Department within the continental limits in the United States showing greatest Americanism activity in use of The

American Legion School Medal Awards.
WINNER: Florida

Hearst Trophy: Awarded annually to that Department attaining the greatest number of percentage points compiled from information contained in the Consolidated Post Reports, and supporting Department narrative.
WINNER: Vermont

Spafford National Trophy: Awarded annually to that Department of The American Legion having within its jurisdiction the winner of the National High School Oratorical Contest.
WINNER: Texas (Lisa Tsai, Houston, Texas)

The Howard P. Savage Trophy: Awarded annually to that Department having the baseball team which becomes the Champion as a result of playing in The American Legion "World Series."
WINNER: Florida (Felix Sosa-Camejo Post 346, Miami, Florida)

Commissioner of Baseball Trophy: Awarded annually at the Major League World Series to that baseball team which becomes the National Champion as a result of playing in The American Legion World Series.
WINNER: Felix Sosa-Camejo Post 346, Miami, FL

Dr. Irvin L. "Click" Cowger Memorial R.B.I. Award: Awarded annually to The American Legion Baseball player who is credited with the most runs batted in by the official scorers of the respective regional tournaments and World Series of American Legion Baseball.
WINNER: Frank Hinojosa, Post 299, Chino, Calif.

Rawlings "Big Stick" Award: Awarded annually to that American Legion Baseball player having the highest total number of bases as determined by the official scorers of the respective regional tournaments and World Series of American Legion Baseball.
WINNER: Esteban Barrios, Post 346, Miami, Florida

Bob Feller Award: Awarded annually to that American Legion Baseball player recording the greatest number of strikeouts during the regional tournaments and World Series of American Legion Baseball.
WINNER: Lance Franks, Post 20, Russellville, AR

Jack Williams Memorial Leadership Award: Awarded annually to the manager and coach of the national championship team, as representative of the adult leadership Williams stressed during his lifetime.
WINNERS: Manager Carlos Hernandez, Sr., Post 346, Miami, Florida and Coach Carlos Hernandez, Jr., Post 346, Miami, Florida

Louisville Slugger Trophy: Plaque is presented to recipient, or his representative, by appropriate official upon the conclusion of The American Legion Baseball World Series.
WINNER: Bob Barth, Jr., Post 72, Brooklawn, NJ

George W. Rulon Baseball Player of the Year: Plaque is presented to recipient by appropriate official upon conclusion of The American Legion Baseball World Series. Citation is presented to recipient at a special Hall of Fame ceremony at Cooperstown, NY,

the following summer.
WINNER: Fernando Rodriguez, Post 346, Miami, FL

James F. Daniel, Jr. Memorial Sportsmanship Award: Awarded to The American Legion Baseball player participating in the World Series that represents the principle of good sportsmanship emphasized by the program.
WINNER: Erick Gomez, Post 299, Chino, Calif.

American Legion Baseball Graduate of The Year Award: Presented to the major league baseball player who played American Legion Baseball as a teenager and who best exemplifies the principles and purposes of the program in sportsmanship, citizenship, general good conduct, integrity and playing ability.
WINNER: Greg Maddox, Alanta Braves

Ford C. Frick Trophy: Awarded annually to that Department having within its jurisdiction the runner-up team in the National Finals of The American Legion Baseball program.
WINNER: California (Chino Post 299, Chino, CA)

The American Legion Military Academy Award: Awarded annually to cadet of the graduating class at the United States Military Academy with the highest standing in Chemistry.
WINNER: Cadet Scott R. Steele, Minocqua, WI

The American Legion Naval Academy Award: Awarded annually to that graduating midshipman of the United States Naval Academy who stands highest in those English, History and Government courses taken to complete a Foreign Affairs major.
WINNER: Paul G. Prokopovich, Pittsburgh, PA

The American Legion Coast Guard Academy Award: Awarded annually to that cadet of the graduating class of the United States Coast Guard Academy who is considered to have excelled personally in athletics.
WINNER: Cadet Aaron E. Waters, Stringtown, PA

The American Legion Air Force Academy Award: Awarded annually to that cadet of the graduating class at the Air Force Academy who demonstrates the highest proficiency in all academic subjects.
WINNER: Scottie L. Zamzow, Victoria, Texas

Paul H. Griffith ROTC Trophy: Awarded annually to that Department giving the highest degree of support to the ROTC program within its jurisdiction, based on criteria drawn up by the National Security Commission.
WINNERS: Alaska, District of Columbia, Delaware, Florida, Illinois, Missouri, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Tennessee, and Vermont.

National Department History Contest Awards: Awarded annually at the Fall Meeting of the National Executive Committee to those contestants entered in the National Department History Contest having submitted the One-Year History Narrative or Yearbook of the Department which best meets the standards established for that particular competition.
WINNERS: Georgia (One-Year Narrative History)
Wisconsin (One-Year Yearbook History)

National Post History Contest Awards: Awarded annually to those contestants entered in the National Post History Contest deemed by a duly authorized panel of judges to have submitted the One-Year History of the Post which best meets the standards established for the competitions.
WINNERS: Peter Smith Post 327, Shawnee, Kansas
(One-Year Narrative History)
Alonzo F. Dexter Post 101, Clay Center, KS
(One-Year Yearbook History)

The Lemuel Bolles Trophy: Awarded annually to that band winning first prize in competition with all other bands during the annual National Convention.
WINNER: Joliet Legion Band, Post 1284, Joliet, IL

The Arch M. Cantrall Trophy: Awarded annually to that American Legion Band winning first prize in competition with all other American Legion bands during the annual National Convention of The American Legion.
WINNER: Joliet Legion Band, Post 1284, Joliet, IL

The Glen R. Hillis Trophy: Awarded annually to that Color Guard winning first prize in competition
with all other Color Guards during the annual National Convention of The American Legion.
WINNER: Speedway Post 500 Honor Guard, Speedway, Indiana

National American Legion Distinguished Service Medal Award: Awarded annually for outstanding service to the nation and to the programs of The American Legion.
WINNER: Walter H. Annenberg

International Amity Award: Awarded by the National Commander with the advice and consent of the National Executive Committee at such times and places as may be consistent and appropriate.
WINNERS: Kenneth Steele (Australia)
Renato S. DeVilla (Philippines)
Paul Asussaresses (France)
Teh-Shuan Hung (Taiwan)
Un-Tae Kim (Republic of Korea)

Canadian Friendship Award: Awarded by the National Commander with the advice and consent of the National Executive Committee at such times and places as may be consistent and appropriate.
WINNERS: Gordon Kelly, Douglas John Ritchie, Allan G. Gunn, Wilfred Barter, Reynell Akerley,
Raymond S. Dart, Benjamin H. Hachey, Earl Russell Neary, Arthur J. Amero, Albert Sercerchi

Fourth Estate Award: Awarded to press, radio, TV, or other communications media; to associations of same, to owners, executive heads or staff members: such award to be in recognition of outstanding service to community, state, or nation, which service shall have been in accordance with or the furtherance of established American Legion policies and programs.
WINNER: Ted Lewis, KSNW-TV, Wichita, Kansas

National Commander's Public Relations Award: Awarded to an outstanding individual and/or organization for distinguished public service in the field of communications.
WINNER: Bill Mauldin

Department Award for 100% Post Children & Youth Reporting: Awarded annually to those Departments which achieve 100% of Posts indicating Children & Youth activity on Consolidated Post reports.
WINNERS: Delaware, Florida, Maine, North Dakota, Vermont, Virginia

Employer of the Year Award for Hiring Veterans: Awarded to an employer in recognition of outstanding achievement in the employment and retraining of veterans.
WINNERS: Category I - Schneider National Carriers
Category II- Morton International, Inc.
Category III- American Classic Charter & Tours, Inc.

Employment Service Awards: Awarded in three categories: Local Veterans Employment Representative (LVER) of the Year; Disabled Veterans Out-reach Program Specialist (DVOP) of the Year; Employment Service (ES) Office of the Year.
WINNERS: LVER of the Year: Gary Bjorkquist, Escanaba, Michigan
DVOP of the Year: Heywood Bell, El Centro, California
ES Office of the Year: DuBois Jobs Center, Dubois, Pennsylvania

THE AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
Balance Sheet

December 31	1993	1992
Assets		
Current Fund		
Cash	$ [illegible]	
Restricted cash	[illegible]	$ 377,091
Agent Orange program	[illegible]	131,355
Accounts receivable		
Emblem Division	123,575	68,197
Publications Division	1,799,459	1,288,135
Other	1,776,739	1,288,259
Accrued interest on investments	139,455	197,655
Inventories		
Emblem Division	1,283,121	1,194,457
Publications Division	272,395	167,842
Prepaid expenses and supplies	449,211	300,505
Prepaid pension expense	5,891,199	4,677,761
Deferred membership expense	139,612	210,164
Deferred direct membership solicitation expense	3,949,695	2,823,679
Postal deposits	[illegible]	[illegible]
	[illegible]	12,774,807
Investments		
Segregated for Designated Funds	11,479,689	11,089,056
Segregated for Washington, D. C. building	[illegible]	412,000
Other	14,916,689	15,149,757
Investment in subsidiary	21,689	499
	[illegible]	[illegible]
Property and equipment		
Land—Indianapolis parking lot	[illegible]	[illegible]
Washington, D. C. real estate		
Land	[illegible]	[illegible]
Building	4,116,949	4,116,949
Furniture, fixtures, and equipment in		
National Headquarters building, Indianapolis, Indiana	7,919,695	7,594,780
Washington, D. C. building	1,359,695	1,359,695
	[illegible]	[illegible]
Accumulated depreciation and amortization	[illegible]	[illegible]
	[illegible]	[illegible]
	[illegible]	[illegible]
Nonexpendable Funds		
Overseas Graves Decoration Fund		
Cash	41,575	57,291
Accrued interest on investments	14,359	18,957
Investments	[illegible]	[illegible]
	[illegible]	[illegible]
Paid-Up-For-Life Membership Fund		
Cash	[illegible]	[illegible]
Accrued interest on investments	[illegible]	[illegible]
Investments	17,891,772	[illegible]
	[illegible]	[illegible]
	[illegible]	[illegible]

See notes to financial statements.

December 31	1993	1992
Liabilities and Fund Balances		
Current Fund		
Liabilities		
Accounts payable	$ 2,616,693	$ 2,709,259
Cash overdraft		129,309
Agent orange program	49,555	131,355
Restricted grant		349,042
Deposits on Emblem merchandise sales	135,284	197,268
Deferred advertising income	113,315	49,346
Deferred dues income	14,699,297	13,966,391
Deferred income—direct membership solicitation	877,649	880,913
Accrued vacation benefits	949,555	939,555
Provision for health insurance liability	44,555	45,000
Other liabilities	691,654	729,559
Due to The Restricted Fund	1,975,559	1,975,000
Due to other restricted funds	135,559	
Total liabilities	22,555,570	22,510,207
Fund balances		
Restricted funds		
Oratorical Contest Fund	234,555	250,525
Other restricted funds	5,997,259	1,552,975
Designated funds		
The Restricted Fund	9,459,725	8,804,915
The Reserve Fund	2,215,575	2,234,140
	17,552,755	13,332,555
Appropriated funds	1,997,159	1,555,554
Unappropriated	11,555,570	13,247,224
Total fund balances	30,705,514	28,135,555
	51,555,554	48,557,090
Nonexpendable Funds		
Overseas Graves Decoration Fund		
Fund balance	949,559	555,555
Paid-Up-For-Life Membership Fund		
Fund balance	19,515,555	16,549,202
	$72,175,575	$69,201,550

The American Legion National Headquarters
Statement of Revenue, Expenses and Changes in Fund Balances
Current Fund

Year Ended December 31	1998 Unappropriated	1998 Appropriated Funds	1998 Designated and Restricted Funds	1998 Total Current Fund	1997 Total Current Fund
Revenue					
National dues	$16,044,756			$16,044,756	$15,999,049
Sales of Emblem items	6,348,759			6,348,759	6,284,085
Advertising revenue	7,491,341			7,491,341	7,178,446
Investment income	997,268		$ 969,601	1,966,857	1,970,399
Direct membership solicitation	1,917,898			1,917,898	2,239,869
Revenue enhancement	709,759			709,759	1,482,936
American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation income	544,071			544,071	547,457
Amounts withdrawn from The American Legion Life Insurance Plan	974,095		138,000	1,112,095	1,164,464
Other restricted income	338,000	$ 804	741,168	979,112	948,694
Other income	6,488,888		1,897,666	8,884,550	8,280,366
	41,776,189	804	3,486,194	46,181,387	46,899,364
Expenses					
Salaries	8,897,102			8,897,102	7,799,698
Employee benefits	889,105			889,105	885,698
Cost of sales	4,889,467			4,889,467	4,949,981
Direct publication expenses	12,889,699			12,889,699	11,971,899
Executive and staff travel	977,145			977,145	784,221
Commission and committee	1,114,885			1,114,885	1,107,881
Operational	5,949,885			5,949,885	6,285,373
Office and postage expense	3,884,010			3,884,010	4,042,489
Occupancy	2,949,897			2,949,897	1,979,499
Special projects and programs	3,885,288		3,481,347	6,916,640	4,247,717
	46,916,888	0	3,481,347	48,898,235	46,726,991
Excess (Deficiency) of Operating Revenue Over Expenses	(1,894,488)	804	(16,169)	(1,889,118)	769,888
Equity in Income (Loss) of Wholly Owned Subsidiary	20,886			20,886	(107,918)
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenue Over Expenses	(1,913,884)	804	(16,169)	(1,889,852)	662,418
Fund Balances, Beginning of Year	13,247,284	1,886,884	13,882,885	29,046,888	27,444,488
Transfer of funds from The American Legion Life Insurance Plan			4,886,884	4,886,884	
Fund Balances, End of Year	$11,888,870	$1,887,188	$17,882,788	$88,788,914	$88,046,888

See notes to financial statements.

THE AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
Statement of Revenue, Expenses and Changes in Fund Balances
Designated and Restricted Funds

	1999				
	Designated Funds		Restricted Funds		Total
Year Ended December 31	The Restricted Fund	The Reserve Fund (restricted)	Statistical Contest Fund	Other Restricted Funds	Designated And Restricted Funds
Revenue					
Investment income	$ 847,810			$ 280,791	$ 888,601
Amounts withdrawn from The American Legion Life Insurance Plan			$138,000		138,000
Restricted contributions				741,188	741,188
Other income				1,887,885	1,887,885
	847,810	0	138,000	2,910,864	3,896,784
Expenses					
Sundry expense		$ 6,085			6,085
Special projects and programs			154,388	3,260,859	3,415,362
	0	6,085	154,388	3,260,859	3,421,347
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenue Over Expenses	847,810	(6,085)	(16,388)	(941,888)	(16,188)
Fund Balances, Beginning of Year	8,804,815	2,234,140	280,885	1,482,575	13,382,885
Transfer of funds from The American Legion Life Insurance Plan				4,288,884	4,288,884
Fund Balances, End of Year	$9,482,725	$2,218,075	$264,888	$5,887,890	$17,832,788

See notes to financial statements.

THE AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
Statement of Cash Flows
Increase (Decrease) in Cash

Year Ended December 31	1999 Current Fund	1999 Eminent Domain Reconstruction Trust	1999 Life Membership Fees	1999 Total	1998 Total
Operating Activities					
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	$(1,488,523)	$ 59,691	$1,467,831	$(108,671)	$8,388,784
Depreciation charged to operations not requiring cash	1,288,168			1,288,168	1,287,705
Equity in (income) loss of subsidiary	(30,894)			(30,894)	107,515
Loss from sale of fixed assets	24,695			24,695	21,877
Certain working capital transactions					
Restricted cash	359,049			359,049	388,880
Accounts receivable	(1,059,187)			(1,059,187)	(113,712)
Accrued interest on investments	58,289	4,889	(8,577)	54,602	388,691
Inventories	(203,247)			(203,247)	104,912
Prepaid expenses and supplies	(1,082,209)			(1,082,209)	(1,270,884)
Deferred expenses	(880,894)			(880,894)	886,167
Postal deposits					(6,000)
Accounts payable	108,285			108,285	488,772
Restricted grant	(348,048)			(348,048)	(140,888)
Deposits on emblem merchandise sales	(88,168)			(88,168)	31,878
Deferred advertising	84,888			84,888	48,948
Funds in transit to American Legion Life Insurance Plan	(2,888)			(2,888)	(847,487)
Deferred income	878,048			878,048	(278,888)
Accrued vacation	888			888	(13,888)
Other liabilities	70,282			70,282	148,885
Total provided by operations	(2,888,288)	87,888	1,488,884	(888,888)	4,788,281
Investing Activities					
Additions to property and equipment	(884,188)			(884,188)	(847,881)
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets	1,888			1,888	1,487
Transfer of funds from the American Legion Life Insurance Plan	4,288,884			4,288,884	
Net increase in investments	(888,128)	(72,888)	(1,488,884)	(2,887,888)	(2,488,287)
	3,478,888	(72,888)	(1,488,888)	1,888,128	(2,180,811)
Financing Activities					
Principal payments under capital lease obligation					(2,888)
Proceeds (payments) under revolving fund note	(888,888)			(888,888)	(1,778,888)
Cash overdrafts	(128,888)			(128,888)	128,888
	(1,888,888)	0	0	(1,888,888)	(1,888,888)
Increase (Decrease) in Cash	888,884	(15,888)	0	884,878	8,878
Cash, Beginning of Year		57,291	5,888	62,291	57,211
Cash, End of Year	$ 888,884	$ 41,875	$ 5,888	$ 446,888	$ 62,291

See notes to financial statements.

THE AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

Notes to Financial Statements

▸ Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

General
The American Legion National Headquarters (the Legion) is a national veterans organization which was declared to be a corporate body by an Act of the United States Congress on September 16, 1919.

According to the Original Act and Subsequent Amendments, the purpose of the Organization is: "To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to promote peace and goodwill among the peoples of the United States and all the nations of the earth; to preserve the memories and incidents of the two World Wars and the other great hostilities fought to uphold democracy; to cement the ties and comradeship born of service; and to consecrate the efforts of its members to mutual helpfulness and service to their country."

Basis of Presentation
The Legion generally reports for financial statement purposes on the accrual method of accounting, recognizing income when earned and expenses when incurred.

The Legion maintains its accounts on a fund accounting basis wherein the accountability for certain segments of its operations are presented in specific designated and restricted fund balances. Further, the Legion has designated certain amounts for future projects or purposes, which amounts are presented as appropriated funds in the accompanying financial statements.

The revenue and expenses of nonexpendable funds are not included in the Statement of Revenue, Expenses and Changes in Fund Balances—Current Fund. Instead, they are recorded directly to the nonexpendable funds involved as set forth in the footnotes to the financial statements.

The amounts shown for 1992 in the accompanying Statement of Revenue, Expenses and Changes in Fund Balances—Current Fund and Statement of Cash Flows are included only to provide a basis for comparison with 1993 amounts.

Accounts Receivable
The direct charge-off method is used to account for losses in collection of accounts receivable. An allowance for uncollectible accounts receivable is considered unnecessary by the Legion because all significant accounts expected to be uncollectible have been written off.

Inventories
Inventories, which consist of Emblem items held for sale and magazine paper and publication rights, are valued at the lower of cost or market. Supplies which are not intended for sale are expensed when purchased.

THE AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
Notes to Financial Statements

Investments
Investments are recorded at cost. Premiums or discounts on investments are generally recognized at the time of disposal or maturity.

Investment in Subsidiary
The Legion accounts for the investment in common stock of its wholly owned subsidiary, Haynes and Pittenger Direct, Inc. on the equity method.

Property and Equipment
Furniture, fixtures and equipment are carried at cost and are depreciated beginning in the month of acquisition on the straight-line method based on the estimated useful lives of the assets involved. Leasehold improvements and repairs are expensed when incurred.

Depreciation on the Washington, D. C. building is computed on the straight-line method using a thirty-year life.

Depreciation expense amounted to $1,299,163 in 1993 and $1,237,705 in 1992.

Income
Dues are recognized as income in the applicable membership period which is on a calendar-year basis.

In addition to other methods of obtaining new members, the Legion uses direct mail and other direct marketing approaches. The income generated from the direct membership solicitation is recognized in the applicable membership period (calendar year) and the expenses incurred to obtain these memberships are deferred and written off in the period in which the income is recognized.

The Legion is involved in various revenue enhancement programs. The revenue and expenses related to the programs are recognized in the periods to which they apply.

Income from The American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation and the American Legion Life Insurance Plan is recorded when received. These receipts are for projects and programs conducted in the year of receipt.

Pension Plan
The Legion has a defined-benefit pension plan covering substantially all of its employees, as well as those of certain affiliated and subordinated groups. The plan was established in 1944 by vote of the Legion's National Convention. Contributions to the plan are made by the Legion and other participating groups on the basis of annual actuarial valuations.

Federal Income Tax
The Legion is exempt from federal income tax (except on unrelated business income) under Section 501 of the Internal Revenue Code.

THE AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
Notes to Financial Statements

▶ **Investment in Subsidiary**

On September 28, 1990 the Legion purchased all of the outstanding shares of Haynes and Pittenger Direct, Inc., a corporation engaged in the creation and management of direct response advertising and marketing strategies. The Legion has chosen to account for this investment on the equity method since consolidation would not necessarily result in meaningful information and since the reporting differences are immaterial. Details of the Legion's investment in subsidiary are as follows:

	1993	1992
Investment in subsidiary		
Original investment	$101,000	$101,000
Loss (9/28/90-12/31/90)	(8,271)	(8,271)
Income (1/1/91-12/31/91)	15,242	15,242
Loss (1/1/92-12/31/92)	(107,515)	(107,515)
Income (1/1/93-12/31/93)	20,994	
	$ 21,450	$ 496

Key significant balance sheet and income statement information of Haynes and Pittenger Direct, Inc. is as follows:

Year Ended December 31	1993	1992
Balance sheet information		
Accounts receivable—The American Legion	$382,001	$276,323
Furniture and fixtures—net	169,510	239,651
Other assets	349,391	296,407
Total assets	$879,902	$712,411
Notes payable—The American Legion	$397,294	$392,892
Other liabilities	885,029	632,395
Stockholder's (deficit)	(302,321)	(302,916)
Total liabilities and stockholder's deficit	$879,902	$712,411
Income statement information		
Sales (including sales to The American Legion of $4,147,784 and $3,469,989)	$4,741,128	$3,895,180
Income from operations	$ 135,148	$ 11,506
Net income (loss)	$ 20,994	$ (107,515)

Accounts receivable—other on the Legion's balance sheet includes $397,294 due on a note receivable, from Haynes and Pittenger Direct, Inc., bearing interest at 9%. Beginning August, 1991, Haynes and Pittenger Direct, Inc. began to repay the note, with an original balance of $400,000, in 120 equal monthly installments of $5,000.

THE AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
Notes to Financial Statements

The Legion has a sublease agreement with Haynes and Pittenger Direct, Inc. for office space. The lease is a ten-year operating lease which expires in November, 2000.

The following is a schedule of future minimum rental payments required under this lease.

Years Ending December 31	
1994	$130,000
1995	130,000
1996	130,000
1997	130,000
1998	130,000
Thereafter	260,000

The Legion is an unconditional guarantor of a $500,000 promissory note that Haynes and Pittenger Direct, Inc. carries with a bank.

► **Investments (Current Fund)**

The cost and market value of Current Fund investments are as follows:

	1993		1992	
December 31	Cost	Market Value	Cost	Market Value
Segregated for Designated Fund				
U. S. Government obligations	$ 9,767,803	$10,238,388	$ 8,538,428	$ 8,898,672
Accrued interest—restricted	127,889	127,889	109,543	109,543
Money market accounts	769,889	769,889	405,176	405,176
Uninvested cash	297	297	909	909
Due from General Fund	1,975,889	1,975,889	1,975,000	1,975,000
	11,870,388	12,388,888	11,088,096	11,378,300
Segregated for Wash., D.C. building				
U. S. Government obligations	557,896	588,892	412,000	428,347
Other				
U. S. Government obligations	7,857,708	7,898,143	8,378,725	8,298,084
Repurchase agreements	1,989,889	1,991,889	1,400,000	1,400,000
Money market accounts	5,883,888	5,883,888	4,388,092	4,388,092
Corporate notes			1,014,000	1,002,500
Due from General Fund	138,888	138,888		
	14,978,888	14,788,919	15,148,787	15,088,876
Investment in subsidiary	21,889	21,889	488	488
Total investments	$27,148,986	$27,884,884	$26,890,289	$26,894,719

THE AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
Notes to Financial Statements

▶ **Operating Leases**

The Legion rents computer equipment, copiers, and cash registers under operating leases. Total rental expense on these operating leases was $489,201 in 1993 and $261,957 in 1992.

In addition, the Legion has a lease with the State of Indiana for rental of the National Headquarters building in Indianapolis through November, 1997. According to the terms of the lease, in lieu of rental payments the Legion is required to maintain the interior of the building, as well as provide adequate insurance on the building. The cost of maintenance approximated $949,000 in 1993 and $933,000 in 1992. Insurance coverage is included in the Legion's general insurance policy.

▶ **Restricted and Designated Funds**

Receipts which are restricted by the donor are credited to the appropriate restricted fund, against which all expenditures for the related project or program are charged. Periodically, the Legion may add to restricted funds through allocations from unappropriated funds for specific future purposes and projects.

The Restricted Fund, a designated fund, is restricted as to use by action of the National Finance Commission and National Executive Committee. Earnings of the Fund, as well as principal, can be expended only on the recommendation of the National Finance Committee and a two-thirds affirmative vote of the National Executive Committee at two successive meetings. It is the policy of The American Legion to transfer 10% of the prior year's defined net income to the Restricted Fund. There were no transfers in 1993 or 1992 to the Restricted Fund due to net losses.

During 1991, the Restricted Fund loaned $4,100,000 to the General Fund for the financing of the new membership computer system. The loan bears interest at 9.5% and is payable in monthly installments of principal and interest. Total interest paid to the Restricted Fund amounted to $146,437 and $310,136 in 1993 and 1992. Total principal payments made were $900,000 and $1,775,000 in 1993 and 1992. The following is a schedule of principal payments required under this loan.

Years Ending December 31	
1994	$ 925,000
1995	150,000
	$1,075,000

The Reserve Fund, a designated fund, also is restricted as to use by action of the National Finance Commission and National Executive Committee. Earnings of the Fund may be used for the general operations of the Legion, but the principal can be expended only:

(a) By action of the Legion at its national convention, or

(b) By two-thirds affirmative vote of the National Executive Committee in two successive meetings not less than sixty days apart.

► **Appropriated Funds and Interfund Transfers**

There were no interfund transfers during 1993 between unappropriated and appropriated funds. The balances of appropriated funds were as follows:

December 31	1993	1992
Computer Reserve	$ 500,000	$ 500,000
Real Estate Reserve	841,977	841,977
Convention Reserve	100,000	100,000
Employee Insurance Premium Stabilization Reserve	100,000	100,000
Convention Stabilization Fund	25,211	24,887
Totals	$1,567,188	$1,566,864

► **Nonexpendable Funds**

The earnings of the Overseas Graves Decoration Fund are being used to honor, preserve and decorate the graves of those who served in the United States armed forces who are buried overseas. The Fund is to continue at the will of the National Convention of the Legion or the National Executive Committee. The Fund's trust agreement may be amended, changed or succeeded at the will of the National Executive Committee, provided that the purpose for which the Fund was created is retained.

In October, 1974, the National Executive Committee approved the establishment of a life membership plan available to any member of a participating department. In accordance with the plan, the assets of the Paid-Up-For-Life Membership Fund are segregated in a trust account from which funds equal to the annual dues of life members are withdrawn for current operations each year. The trust agreement provides that the Legion has the right to withdraw part or all of the assets of the trust account and to modify or terminate the trust agreement at its discretion.

THE AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
Notes to Financial Statements

Changes in Nonexpendable Funds are as follows:

	1993	
Year Ended December 31	Overseas Graves Decoration Fund	Paid-Up-For-Life Membership Fund
Revenue		
Paid-Up-For-Life membership dues collected		$ 2,921,678
Investment income	$ 69,778	480,105
	69,778	3,401,783
Expenses		
Membership dues withdrawn		1,590,052
Decoration of graves	16,727	
Administrative expense		287,693
Trust fees		56,437
	16,727	1,934,182
Excess of revenue over expenses	53,051	1,467,601
Fund balances, January 1, 1993	896,638	16,548,202
Fund balances, December 31, 1993	$949,689	$18,015,803

The cost and market value of investments in the Nonexpendable Funds are as follows:

	1993		1992	
December 31	Cost	Market Value	Cost	Market Value
Overseas Graves Decoration Fund				
U. S. Government obligations	$ 893,316	$ 926,696	$ 820,430	$ 841,258
Paid-Up-For-Life Membership Fund				
U. S. Government obligations	5,443,576	5,696,871	6,452,941	6,839,575
Money market accounts	3,099,499	3,099,499	1,299,407	1,299,407
Common and preferred stocks	6,992,694	8,239,589	6,990,117	8,307,786
Nongovernment obligations	2,445,694	2,516,676	1,680,284	1,682,565
	17,981,773	19,494,636	16,422,749	17,929,433
Total investments	$18,775,089	$20,331,372	$17,243,179	$18,770,691

THE AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
Notes to Financial Statements

► **American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation**

The American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation (the Endowment Fund) was incorporated in 1925 as a not-for-profit corporation with perpetual existence to act as trustee for the American Legion Endowment Fund, which was created to provide permanent funding for rehabilitation of American veterans and assistance to orphans of veterans. In August, 1946, the Legion transferred securities having a market value of $2,001,000 to the Endowment Fund. The assets transferred have been held segregated by the Endowment Fund and the principal related to the 1946 transfer, which had a market value of $2,168,129 at December 31, 1993, may be withdrawn by the Legion, if needed, for rehabilitation of veterans or assistance to orphans of veterans.

Income earned on the investments of the Endowment Fund, net of administrative expenses, is payable to the Legion to support its programs for the above-mentioned purposes. Income from the Endowment Fund amounted to $544,071 in 1993 and $547,467 in 1992.

► **Life Insurance Plan**

In connection with The American Legion's Life Insurance Plan, the Legion had created a Trust to which the First National Bank of Kansas City, Missouri, as Trustee, held legal title. During October, 1992, the National Executive Committee approved a resolution to terminate the Life Insurance Trust. This dissolution occurred during April, 1993. On the date of dissolution, funds remaining in the Plan totalling $4,285,984 were transferred to a non-trust sub-account (The American Legion Life Insurance Plan) under control of the Legion for the use of youth programs. The American Legion Life Insurance Plan is included with the restricted funds in the accompanying financial statements. The trust funds, prior to the dissolution, were available for the following purposes:

(a) To increase the Trust fund.

(b) To reduce or pay in full the life insurance premiums thereafter due from participants.

(c) To provide additional life insurance benefits for the participants.

(d) To make refunds to the participants.

(e) To make distributions to the Legion in support of its activities and programs serving the interest of the Legion and its members, provided that such distributions are not disapproved in writing by a majority of the participants.

Subsequent to the dissolution of the Trust, the funds of The American Legion Life Insurance Plan are used primarily for youth programs. The Legion's National Executive Committee has approved partial funding of the oratorical contest, Boys' Nation, American Legion Baseball, and other programs of the Legion. At December 31, 1993, $1,116,268 in funds had been approved for use in designated programs during 1994.

THE AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
Notes to Financial Statements

▶ **Pension Plan**

The funded status of the pension plan at the end of the year was:

December 31	1993	1992
Actuarial present value of plan benefits		
Vested	$(14,378,971)	$(14,595,909)
Nonvested	(491,826)	(528,663)
Accumulated benefit obligation	$(14,870,797)	$(15,124,572)
Projected benefit obligation	$(16,249,877)	$(16,560,792)
Plans assets at fair value, primarily listed stocks, bonds, and U. S. securities	29,838,817	28,049,512
Excess of plan assets over projected benefit obligation	13,588,940	11,488,720
Unrecognized net gain	(6,436,676)	(5,025,092)
Prior service cost not yet recognized in net periodic pension cost	669,229	767,931
Unrecognized net asset at end of year	(2,261,936)	(2,553,798)
Prepaid pension expense	$ 5,561,158	$ 4,677,761

Net pension income included the following components:

	1993	1992
Service cost—benefits earned during the year	$ 661,751	$ 543,712
Interest cost on projected benefit obligation	1,041,944	1,014,708
Actual return on assets	(2,908,836)	(1,779,886)
Net amortization and deferral	212,822	(556,667)
Net pension expense (credit)	$(992,321)	$(777,932)

The discount rate and rate of increase in future compensation levels used in determining the actuarial present value of the projected benefit obligation were 7 and 3%, respectively, for 1993 and 8.5 and 3%, respectively, for 1992. The assumed rate of return on plan assets was 8% for 1993 and 1992.

THE AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
Notes to Financial Statements

► **Litigation**

The Legion is currently involved in and/or has been mentioned as a defendant or co-defendant in several legal actions. It is the opinion of the National Judge Advocate that these claims are without merit and any ultimate liability of the Legion with respect to these actions will not materially affect the financial position of the Legion.

THE AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

Reconciliation of Audited Financial Statements to Internal Financial Statements

Year Ended December 31	1993 Total Current Fund
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenue Over Expenses—Internal Financial Statements	$(1,613,884)
Excess of revenue over expenses for certain designated and restricted funds not included in internal financials	(16,163)
Excess of revenue over expenses for certain appropriated funds not included in internal financials	524
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenue Over Expenses—Audited Financial Statements	$(1,629,523)

THE AMERICAN LEGION 76TH ANNUAL REPORT

FOREWORD

The American Legion continued to have a strong year under the leadership of National Commander Bruce Thiesen of Kingsburg, California. Membership was strong with more than 3 million veterans in more than 15,000 posts throughout the Nation and overseas. We recorded another year of rewarding service to America, her veterans, and their families.

The American Legion national headquarters is located in Indianapolis, Indiana. In addition to the Indianapolis facilities, offices are maintained in Washington, DC, to house those organizational functions requiring a close working relationship with the Congress and the appropriate agencies of the federal government. The editorial and advertising staffs of The American Legion Magazine are located at The American Legion's Indianapolis headquarters.

The National Commander's report is published herein as a part of the National Convention proceedings. Reports of the other national officers, the national commissions, financial statement with accompanying data, and a report of the National President of the American Legion Auxiliary are included.

Throughout the year, the two organizations continued to provide vital leadership to the nation and, through our activities and programs, contributed significantly to the preservation of the American way of life. We are proud of our accomplishments and look forward to the challenges ahead in the coming year.

ROBERT W. SPANOGLE,
National Adjutant.

EXCERPTS FROM CONSTITUTION OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

ARTICLE II

Nature

Section 1. The American Legion is a civilian organization; membership therein does not affect nor increase liability for military or police service. Rank does not exist in the Legion; no member shall be addressed by his military or naval title in any convention or meeting of the Legion.

Section 2. The American Legion shall be absolutely non-political and shall not be used for the dissemination of partisan principles nor for the promotion of the candidacy of any person seeking public office or preferment.

ARTICLE III

Organization

Section 1. The American Legion shall be organized in Departments and these in turn in Posts. There shall be one Department in each state, in the District of Columbia, and there may be one Department in each territory in insular possessions of the United States. The National Executive Committee may establish Posts in the territorial and insular possessions of the United States and foreign countries, and shall designate the Department under whose jurisdiction they shall function, but this shall in no way affect the status of Departments already established.

ARTICLE IV

Eligibility

Section 1. Any person shall be eligible for membership in The American Legion who was a member of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard or Air Force of the United States and assigned to active duty at some time during any of the following periods: April 6, 1917, to November 11, 1918; December 7, 1941, to December 31, 1946; June 25, 1950, to January 31, 1955; December 22, 1961, to May 7, 1975; August 24, 1982, to July 31, 1984; December 20, 1989, to January 31, 1990; August 2, 1990 to the date of cessation of hostilities as determined by the Government of the United States period; all dates inclusive, or who, being a citizen of the United States at the time of his entry therein, served on active duty in the armed forces of any of the governments associated with the United States during any said periods; provided however, that such service shall have been terminated by honorable discharge or honorable separation, or continued honorably after any of said periods; provided, further, that no person shall be entitled to membership who, being in such service during any of said periods, refused on conscientious, political or other grounds to subject himself to military discipline or unqualified service.

Section 2. There shall be no form of class of membership except an active membership, and dues shall be paid annually or for life.

Section 3. No person may be a member at any time of more than one Post.

Section 4. No person, who has been expelled by a Post shall be admitted to membership in another Post, without the consent of the expelling Post except that where such consent has been asked for and denied by such Post, he may then appeal to the Executive Committee of the Department of the expelling Post for permission to be admitted to membership in another Post, and shall be ineligible for membership until such permission is granted.

ARTICLE V

National Convention

Section 1. The legislative body of The American Legion shall be the National Convention, except as otherwise provided in the Constitution and By-Laws.

Section 2. The time and place of the National Conventions shall be determined by the National Executive Committee, which shall have authority to change such time and place for sufficient reasons to it appearing.

Section 3. In the National Convention each Department shall be entitled to five delegates and one additional delegate for each one thousand members, or major fraction thereof, whose current dues have been received by the National Treasurer 30 days prior to the meeting of said Convention and whose registration fees, as fixed by the National Executive Committee, for its total authorized delegate strength, have been paid, and to one alternate for each delegate. The delegate shall be chosen not less than 2 weeks before the National Convention at Department Conventions or in any other manner specified by the Department Constitution.

Section 4. Each duly registered delegate shall be entitled to one vote. The vote of any registered delegate absent and not represented by an alternate shall be cast by the majority of the registered delegates present from his Department. Alternates for registered delegates shall have all the privileges of registered delegates except that of voting. A registered delegate is one who has received his credentials after his registration fee has been paid.

Section 5. A quorum shall exist at a National Convention when sixty percent of the Departments are represented as provided above.

ARTICLE VI

National Officers

Section 1. The National Convention shall elect a National Commander, and five National Vice-commanders, who shall serve without seniority. No two Vice-commanders, shall be chosen from the same Department. No person shall be eligible for re-election to the Office of National Commander or National Vice-commander.

Section 2. Such officers shall serve until the adjournment of the succeeding National Convention following their election and thereafter until their successors are chosen. Vacancies in these offices occurring between National Conventions shall be filled by election by the National Executive Committee, and any member of The American Legion, in good standing, shall be eligible for election to such vacancy. Provided, however, that no Past National Commander or Past National Vice-Commander shall be elected to fill any vacancy in these respective offices.

Section 3. The National Executive Committee at its first meeting following the National Convention shall appoint the National Adjutant, National Treasurer, National Judge Advocate, National Chaplain and National Historian, such officers to hold office at the pleasure of the appointing power. All persons having the custody of funds shall give adequate bonds, which shall be approved by the National Executive Committee.

Section 4. All Past National Commanders, while in good standing in their respective Posts, shall be members for life of the National Executive Committee, without vote, and shall also be life delegates to all National Conventions of The American Legion, with vote, to be exercised by them with their respective Departments.

ARTICLE VII

National Executive Committee

Section 1. Between National Conventions, the administrative power shall be vested in the National Executive Committee, which shall be composed of the National Commander, the National Vice-Commanders, and one National Executive Committeeman and one alternate from each Department to be elected as such Department shall determine, the alternate to vote only in the absence of the National Executive Committeeman.

Past National Commanders

E. Roy Stone, Jr., South Carolina
Erle Cocke, Jr., Georgia
J. Addington Wagner, Michigan
Preston J. Moore, Oklahoma
William R. Burke, California
Hon. Daniel F. Foley, Minnesota
Donald E. Johnson, Iowa
L. Eldon James, Virginia
William E. Galbraith, Nebraska
J. Milton Patrick, Oklahoma
John H. Geiger, Illinois
Joe L. Matthews, Texas
James M. Wagonseller, Ohio
Harry G. Wiles, Kansas
William J. Rogers, Maine
John M. Cary, Michigan
Frank I. Hamilton, Indiana
Michael J. Kogutek, New York
Jack W. Flynt, Texas
Al Keller, Jr., Illinois
Keith Kreul, Wisconsin
Clarence M. Bacon, Maryland
Dale L. Renaud, Iowa
James P. Dean, Mississippi
John P. (Jake) Comer, Massachusetts
Hon. H.F. (Sparky) Gierke, North Dakota
Miles S. Epling, West Virginia
Robert S. Turner, Georgia
Dominic D. DiFrancesco, Pennsylvania
Roger A. Munson, Ohio
Bruce Thiesen, California

National Executive Committeemen

Fred Schuler, Alabama
William M. Bishop, Alaska
Richard H. Patton, Arizona
Claude B. Carpenter, Arkansas
Russell R. Wood, California
David F. Martinez, Canada
Ovie H. Vernon, Colorado
Richard W. Anderson, Connecticut
John R. Hughes, Sr., Delaware
John D. Dowdell, District of Columbia
George L. Derrick, Florida
Douglas C. Haggan, France
Horace Borders, Georgia
Robert J. Conrad, Hawaii
Michael G. Schow, Idaho
Roy B. Koeneman, Illinois
Gilbert E. Sheeks, Indiana
Bernard E. Blink, Iowa
Frank C. Bottigliero, Italy
U.S. (Udie) Grant, Kansas
Robert E. Steward, Kentucky
J.O. Berthelot, Louisiana
William L. Ciciotte, Maine
Michael J. Reagan, Maryland
Nicholas G. D'Alessandro, Massachusetts
Royce J. Wheeler, Mexico
Elwin O. Kline, Michigan
Donald R. Schroedl, Minnesota
Hershel O. Ladner, Mississippi
Harrell H. Boedeker, Missouri
Hugh C. (Tony) Cumming, Montana
Jack O. Gilmont, Nebraska
Archie Pozzi, Jr., Nevada
George V. West, New Hampshire
Albert M. Robotti, New Jersey
Bennie Casaus, New Mexico
Vincent J. Colasacco, New York (died in office)
Robert J. Patton, North Carolina
Aaron (Moody) Dalke, North Dakota
Gerald L. Moore, Ohio
Lawrence F. Roy, Oklahoma
T. Les Galloway, Oregon
L. Dwight Haskins, Panama Canal
Ronald F. Conley, Pennsylvania
Eli S. Tionamba, Philippines
Carlos Orria-Medina, Puerto Rico
James J. Converse, Rhode Island
E. Roy Stone, Jr., South Carolina
Donald T. Clarke, South Dakota
Ralph M. Stovall, Tennessee
Lee Guy, Texas
William E. Christoffersen, Utah
David N. Garland, Vermont
Roger N. Messier, Virginia
Richard C. Calahan, Washington
Jack T. Gribben, West Virgiania
Lloyd A. Wagener, Wisconsin
Robert P. (Pat) McCreery, Wyoming

Alternate National Executive Committeemen

James F. Fraughnaugh, Alabama
Joseph T. Craig, Alaska
William C. Bingham, Arizona
Hoy M. Haught, Arkansas
James E. Shank, California
Raymond J. LeBrun, Canada
Thomas L. Bock, Colorado
Eliott Hank Morris, Connecticut
Ronald E. Pospichal, Delaware
Dr. Louis J. Glekas, District of Columbia
Robert J. Proctor, Florida
Merwyn M. Beavers, France
Jimmy C. Hartwick, Georgia
LeRoy P. Pulawa, Hawaii
Alan G. Lance, Idaho
Eugene Corum, Illinois
Richard R. Quattrin, Indiana
Wilford J. Huebner, Iowa
Lionel A. Morais, Italy
Jerry L. Kitchen, Kansas
Joe E. Woods, Kentucky
Roy L. Kirkham, Louisiana
Gard W. Enman, Maine
Richard J. Santos, Maryland
Anthony J. Bicchieri, Jr., Massachusetts
John E. Hayes, Mexico
James L. Lane, Michigan
Robert C. Reeve, Minnesota
Tommy Mills, Mississippi
Charles W. Salter, Missouri
Ralph D. Gardner, Montana
Hubert A. Short, Nebraska
Dale R. Salmen, Nevada
Albert J. Hunnewell, New Hampshire
Joseph F. Ward, New Jersey
Robert L. Crotzer, New Mexico
William L. Brown, New York
Vacant, North Carolina
James O. Coats, North Dakota
Richard J. Cherry, Ohio
Charles LeRoy Brown, Oklahoma
Robert D. Scott, Oregon
Patrick J. O'Connell, Panama Canal
Alfred Pirolli, Pennsylvania
Horosi S. Aguiling, Philippines
Andres Rosario Bordonada, Puerto Rico
Raymond W. Lynch, Sr., Rhode Island
R.M. Singletary, Jr., South Carolina
Donavon R. Mason, South Dakota
John L. Jones, Tennessee
John W.J. Richter, Texas
Milton M. Hall, Utah
Joseph F. Murphy, Vermont
William R. Bryant, Virginia
Robert W. Westphal, Washington
William W. Kile, West Virginia
Robert K. Zukowski, Wisconsin
Robert Nab, Wyoming

EXCERPTS FROM BY-LAWS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

ARTICLE I

National Executive Committee

Commission, Committee, and Employees

Section 6. The National Executive Committee, upon nomination by the National Commander, appoints the following standing commissions: National Americanism Commission, National Commission on Children and Youth, National Convention Commission, National Economic Commission, National Finance Commission, National Foreign Relations Commission, National Internal Affairs Commission, National Legislative Commission, The American Legion Magazine Commission, National Public Relations Commission, National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission, and National Security Commission.

The National Executive Committee shall provide for the appointment and employment of such subordinate officers and employees as may be needed for the administration of The American Legion, and prescribes their duties and emoluments.

REPORT OF NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER

JUAN H. CINTRON

The 9th day of September 1993 I was elected one of the five National Vice Commanders of the American Legion at the 75th National Convention held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Under the newly elected National Commander Bruce Thiesen of California, I was assigned the following departments:

Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, France, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Panama, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia.

During the 1993–1994 year I visited eight departments. In October 1993, I attended the rap session of Region 3 where I had the opportunity to talk to a great number of District Commanders of the vast Southern Region. Thru the year I attended mid-winter conferences and visited numerous Posts where I dialogued with officers and rank and file Legionnaires.

Although the Southern Region did not cover the 100% membership expected, I want to commend the Department Commanders for their dedication and courage in transmitting the priorities of National Commander Thiesen.

The Department Conventions of Florida, Tennessee and Arkansas, which I attended, gave me the opportunity to focus and transmit to all the delegates the priorities and points of view of National Commander Thiesen and the determination of the National Executive Committee in the vital issues brought to their attention. The project for the children in Oklahoma is an example of the excellent coordination of unselfish men and women with great sentiments to our children.

On May 30, (Memorial Day) I participated in the wreath-laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery, representing National Commander Thiesen, while he was in Europe representing the Legion during the 50th Anniversary of WW II in connection with Memorial Day and D-Day observances.

During my official trips to the Departments of my area, I emphasized on the concern of the Legion, since its foundation: Veterans and their health needs and of course, the Legion's position under the Administration's new National Health Care Reform proposal. Besides these important matters I also clarified our position in the "Flag Amendment" issue and other subjects published in our American Legion Magazine.

The well known southern hospitality was shown in every occasion and the desire of complying with the Legion goals is clearly manifested through the region.

I conclude giving my heartfelt and sincere thanks to the National Staff for their cooperation.

It has been a distinct honor to serve under the leadership of National Commander Thiesen.

REPORT OF NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER

DOUGLAS A. MASON

I was elected the National Vice Commander of the American Legion at the 75th Annual National Convention in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to serve under National Commander Bruce Thiesen. My primary responsibility was the 13 Western States, consisting of the Departments of Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming. I also was assigned the two foreign Departments of Mexico and The Philippines for a total of 15 Departments.

The Western States membership has not reached our expectations this year. In the West the Department of Idaho has led the Nation in membership this year and the Departments of New Mexico and Utah have achieved all-time high status.

It has been a privilege for me to serve as a National Vice Commander in this our Diamond Jubilee 75th Anniversary year. To have served with the caliber of elected and appointed officers and staff that we have in our National Organization has been rewarding.

The Department Commanders elected and serving during this year are all highly dedicated Legionnaires. Their efforts in our Legion Programs this year are to be commended along with other elected and appointed officials. In volunteering to serve they have had the best for the American Legion in their uppermost thoughts and all are to be congratulated for their efforts.

During my tenure as Vice Commander, it was my honor to visit all of my Departments at least once except The Philippines which was not authorized.

The following is a list of all authorized visitations and all other meetings I attended this past year:

September 3–9, 1993, 75th Annual National Convention, Pittsburgh.
September 9, 1993, National Executive Committee Meeting.
September 11–15, 1993, Post Convention Briefings, Indianapolis.
September 18–22, 1993, Legislative Conference, Washington, DC.
October 2, 1993, District 8 Meeting Post 132 Kearns Department of Utah.
October 8–10, 1993, Region 8 Leadership Workshop, Spokane, Washington.
October 14–16, 1993, Fresno, California, National Commander's Homecoming.
October 17–19, 1993, Commanders and Adjutants Conference, Indianapolis.
October 20–21, 1993, National Executive Committee Meeting, Indianapolis.
October 29–31, 1993, Region 7 Leadership Workshop, Las Vegas, Nevada.
November 5–7, 1993, Twin Falls, Idaho. Visited Posts in area, District 4 and 5 Meetings, Department Commander's Homecoming.
November 11, 1993, Functions in Department of Utah, Parade, various Posts, Utah Veteran's Memorial Cemetery and Veterans Hospital.
November 14–21, 1993, Department of New Mexico. Traveled over 1800 miles visiting Posts and attending functions.
November 28, 1993, Visited Veteran's Hospital in Salt Lake City and helped decorate Christmas Tree.
December 3–8, 1993, Honolulu, Hawaii, Department meetings, visited Posts in the area, placed wreath on USS Arizona on Pearl Harbor Day.
January 14–16, 1994, Gillette, Wyoming, for Department Mid-Winter Conference.
January 26–28, 1994, Northridge, California, met with Legion Media Team to do article on earthquake for the Dispatch and Emergency Relief Fund.
January 28–31, 1994, Carlsbad, New Mexico, Mid-Winter Conference and Membership Drive.
February 4–6, 1994, Wenatchee, Washington, Mid-Winter Conference and Membership Drive.
February 12–16, 1994, Washington Conference, Washington, D.C.
February 18–20, 1994, Billings, Montana, participated in Veteran's Awareness Programs on Northern Cheyenne and Crow Indian Reservations.
March 4, 1994, Department of Utah Oratorical Contest Finals, Salt Lake City.
March 11–13, 1994, Palmer, Alaska, Western District Convention.

March 17–20, 1994, Department of Idaho, visited Posts from Bonners Ferry to Lewiston for Legion Birthday Celebrations. Visited new Veteran's Home in Lewiston.
March 25–27, 1994, Monterey, California, Department of California Executive Committee Meetings. Presented an award from National to dedicated Legionnaire, Edward Sharkey, 97 years young.
April 2, 1994, District I Spring Convention in Brigham City, Utah, Post 10.
April 8–10, 1994, Phoenix, Arizona, attended American Legion College and visited Posts in the area on membership.
April 11, 1994, National Regional Oratorical Contest in Salt Lake City.
April 12–14, 1994, Portland, Oregon, official visit to Department of Oregon and attended National Sectional Oratorical Contest.
April 14–16, 1994, Colorado Springs, Colorado, official visit and attended National Oratorical Contest finals.
April 20, 1994, District 4 Spring Convention, Provo, Utah.
April 22–24, 1994, 4-Corners Membership Meetings, Phoenix, Arizona, with Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico and Utah Department Commanders in attendance.
April 30-May 5, 1994, Spring meetings in Indianapolis.
May 10–15, 1994, Department of Washington Membership Drive in Southwest portion of the state. Attended Department Commander's Homecoming.
May 27–29, 1994, Palm Springs, California, Post 519 Flag Retirement Ceremony.
May 29–30, 1994, Graduation Ceremonies at the Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colorado. Presented American Legion Awards.
June 13–14, 1994, American Legion Utah Boys' State Program, Ogden, Utah.
June 15–17, 1994, Department of Mexico Convention, Chapala, Mexico.
June 18–28, 1994, Department of Alaska Convention, Seward, Alaska. Visited Posts in Anchorage area.
July 7–10, 1994, Department of Montana Convention, Missoula, Montana.
July 15–17, 1994, Department of Nevada Convention, Las Vegas, Nevada.
September 1–8, 1994, The 76th Annual National Convention, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Throughout this year I also attended my Post, District and Sons of the Legion meetings in the Department of Utah.

REPORT OF NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER

JOHN MULKERN

On September 9, 1993, I was honored by being elected National Vice Commander in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania at closing session of the 75th Annual Convention of The American Legion to serve under the leadership of Bruce Thiesen, our National Commander.

The Departments assigned to me were Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, Canada, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont and Maine.

Spoke with all Department Commanders, Adjutants, Department Vice Commanders, District and County Commanders and membership chairmen via phone regarding membership.

Conducted a survey among all District Commanders within each assigned department. The survey consisted of three topics: Membership, Flag Amendment and Legion issues.

The following is a list of visitations made on behalf of The American Legion:
September 13, 14, 15, 1993, Information meeting National Headquarters, Indpls., IN.

September 17, 18, 19, 1993, National Leadership Workshop Region 1, Portland, ME.
October 1, 2, 3, 1993, National Leadership Workshop Region 2, Hampton, VA.
October 16–21, 1993, Fall Meeting National Executive Committee, Indpls., IN.
October 13, 14, 1993, National Commander's Homecoming, Fresno, CA.
October 27, 1993, Dept. of Massachusetts Auxiliary Meeting.
October 28, 1993, American Legion College, Fairhaven, MA.
November 4, 1993, Membership Drive and Banquet, Rhode Island.
December 5, 1993, Pearl Harbor Day, Boston Navy Yard, MA.
January 7, 8, 9, 1994, Midwinter Conference, Trumbell, CT.
January 14, 15, 16, 1994, Midwinter Conference, Rumford, ME.
January 18, 19, 1994, Vermont State House, Flag amendment, Visit Legion Posts.
January 21, 22, 23, 1994, Midwinter Conference, Albany, NY.

February 4, 5, 6, 1994, Midwinter Conference, Linedon, NH.
February 12–16, 1994, Washington Conference, Washington, D.C.
February 18, 19, 20, 1994, Membership Round-up, visiting Posts throughout New Jersey.
March 5, 1994, Post 1 Diamond Jubilee, Loconia, NH.
March 6, 7, 1994, Department Commander Banquet, Post visitations, Rhode Island.
March 13, 1994, Joint Testimonial Plymouth County, Sandwich, MA.
March 14, 15, 1994, Membership Promotions, Post visitations, Dept. of Maine.
March 19, 1994, Department Vice Commander Banquet, Massachusetts.
March 27, 1994, Represented American Legion 200th anniversary of founding of the American Navy. Placed the name of American Legion on copper sheeting to be installed on water side of USS Constitution, Boston, MA
April 7–10, 1994, National Commander's visitation, visit Posts, attended funeral services for deceased Legionnaire, Norman Callettee, Banquet.
April 10, 1994, POW Dedication, Cohosset, MA.
April 16, 1994, District 3 Commander's Banquet, Chicapee, MA.
April 22, 23, 24, 1994, Executive Committee Meeting and Department Commander Banquet, Pittsburgh, PA.
April 30–May 5, 1994, Spring Meeting, National Executive Committee, Indpls., IN.
May 7, 8, 1994, Department Commander Banquet, White River Junction, VT.
May 14, 1994, Sons of American Legion Post 106, Sharon, MA.
May 15, 1994, Department Commander Banquet, Exeter, NH.
May 17, 18, 1994, Award to outstanding student, Coast Guard Academy, New London, CT.
May 20, 21, 1994, Department of Canada Convention, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.
May 26, 1994, Speaker, Seventieth Annual Transfer of Flag ceremony at the Kennedy Middle School, Natick, MA.
May 29, 1994, Speaker, Memorial Day, Mt. Hope Cemetery, Boston, MA.
May 30, 1994, Speaker, Memorial Day, Fairview Cemetery, Boston, MA.
June 3, 1994, Department Convention, Dept. of Rhode Island, Warrick.
June 4, 5, 1994, Membership Round-up Dept. of Pennsylvania.
June 8, 9, 1994, Department Convention, Dept. of MA, Plymouth.
June 9, 10, 11, 1994, Department Convention, Dept. of NJ, Wildwood.
June 17, 18, 19, 1994, Department Convention, Dept. of NH, Lincoln.
June 19, 1994, Speaker, Memorial Dedication, deceased Marine, Worchester, MA.
July 9, 10, 1994, Department Convention, Dept. of DE, Wilmington.
July 20–23, 1994, Department Convention, Dept. of NY, Niagara Falls.
August 3, 1994, Department of Massachusetts Baseball Banquet, Dorchester, MA.
August 5, 1994, Department of Massachusetts Baseball Play-off, Quincy, MA.
August 13, 1994, District Seven Installation, South Boston, MA.
August 19, 1994, Baseball Regional Tournament, Warrick, RI.
September 2–8, 1994, 76th Annual National Convention, Minneapolis, MN.

REPORT OF NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER

K.W. OHL DEPARTMENT OF INDIANA

As a National Vice Commander, elected during the 75th Annual National Convention of The American Legion in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, I have had the distinct privilege to serve under the leadership of National Commander Bruce Thiesen. My responsibilities included the Departments of Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, Maryland, Michigan, Washington, D.C., West Virginia, Wisconsin and Italy.

These Departments continued their strong support of The American Legion's programs, as well as building upon their strong membership foundation. During my year as a National Vice Commander, I was honored to visit all of these Departments, with the exception of Italy and West Virginia. My visits were always productive and filled with the fine hospitality known throughout The American Legion.

The following is a condensed list of my activities for the twelve month period in which I represented the National American Legion Organization.

September 9, 1993, Elected National Vice Commander at Pittsburgh National Convention—attended NEC meeting followed by briefing by National Staff Directors and National Adjutant Spanogle.
September 12, Visited Children's Home, Knightstown, IN.
September 14–15, National Headquarters for briefing, Indpls., IN.
September 20, Washington, D.C. Headquarters for briefing by Washington Staff Directors.

September 21–22, Present for National Commander Thiesen's presentation to the Joint House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees and visited "The Hill" speaking with Congressmen and Senators (Ref.: American Legion Legislative Priorities).
October 8–10, Region 4 Leadership Conference, Little Rock, Arkansas.
October 14–16, Fresno and Kingsburg, CA; National Commander Thiesen's Homecoming.
October 18–20, National Fall Meetings, Indpls., IN.
October 21, NEC Meeting, National Headquarters, Indpls., IN.
October 22–24, Dept. Fall Conference, Indpls., IN.
October 29–31, Region 5 Leadership Conference, Indpls., IN.
November 11, Veterans Day, Community Celebration, Lafayette, IN.
November 18–21, Little Egypt Conference, Visited Marion VA, Marion, Illinois; Toured flooded areas and distributed food along Mississippi River.
December 3–4, Membership Rally, St. Helen, Michigan.
December 12, Christmas Gift distribution and visitation, IVH, West Lafayette, IN.
January 6, 1994, Visited IN. Legislature, Indpls., IN.
January 8, Membership & Post Activities Meeting, Indpls., IN.
January 14–16, Dept. Wisconsin Mid-Winter Conference, Lacrosse, Wisconsin.
February 12–16, Washington, D.C. Legislative visits and Rehab Conference.
February 19, Fly-In Dept. of IN, Toured 11 Districts (by air) collecting membership cards and visiting Legionnaires.
March 12–13, Toured Posts in 3rd District (IN.) and lower Michigan collecting membership cards and visiting Legionnaires. Birthday Dinner, Post #50 South Bend, IN.
March 20, 2nd District Meeting & Birthday Banquet Post #11, Lafayette, IN.
April 3–9, Dept. Ohio tour of all 14 Districts collecting membership cards and visiting Leigonnaires.
April 15–17, Dept. Spring Conference, Indpls., IN.
April 19, 1995 Membership Strategy Meeting National Headquarters, Indpls., IN.
May 1–5, National Spring Meeting & DEC Meeting, Indpls., IN.
May 26–27, Awards Presentation, West Point Military Academy, West Point, NY.
June 12, American Legion Day, IVH, West Lafayette, IN.
June 14–15, Buckeye Boys State, Bowling Green, Ohio.
June 17, Indiana Boys State, Terre Haute, Indiana.
June 18–19, Post #128, Salem, Ill., 50th Year Anniversary GI Bill of Rights.
June 26, Capital Rotunda, Indpls., IN., Fallen Heroes Ceremony.
July 6–10; Dept. IN. State Convention, Indpls. IN.
July 13–15, Dept. Maryland State Convention, Ocean City, MD.
July 21–24, Dept. Michigan State Convention, Lansing, MI.
July 29–31, National Membership & Post Activities Meeting, Indpls., IN.
August 20–21, Dept. of Ohio State Softball Tournament, West Harrison, Ohio.
September 2–8, 76th National Convention, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

My work with National Commander Bruce Thiesen, as well as all the other National, Department, Post Officers and members of The American Legion, has been rewarding beyond my expectations. During my year as National Vice Commander, my outlook for the future of our great Organization leads me to believe that The American Legion will continue to be the leader in veterans affairs that we have been for more than 75 years. I want to thank The American Legion for providing me this opportunity to serve our more than three million members.

REPORT OF NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER

CURTIS O. TWETE

Having been elected to serve as a National Vice Commander at the close of the 75th National Convention in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on September 9, 1993, it has been my privilege to serve in a Championship Season.

Serving this Diamond Jubilee year under National Commander Bruce Thiesen has been a most rewarding year. The Departments of North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Minnesota, Iowa and Missouri have worked hard to carry out the programs of the American Legion. With the Midwest floods, the dues increase, the aging veteran population, each department has been working diligently to secure membership.

During this past year two of the three states in my area which have yet to pass a Memorializing Resolution on flag desecration, joined the ranks when Nebraska and Minnesota shepherded resolutions through their Legislatures. This brings to 44 the number of Departments having passed resolutions. Throughout the past year my schedule has been as follows:

September 14–15, 1993, Briefings at National Headquarters in Indianapolis, Indiana.
September 17–19, 1993, Region 6 National Leadership Workshop, Fargo, North Dakota.
September 20–22, 1993, Commander Thiesen's testimony before the Joint Senate and House Veterans Affairs Committee.
October 16–17, 1993, National Commander Thiesen's Homecoming, Fresno, California.
October 18–21, 1993, Fall meetings and National Executive Committee meeting at National Headquarters, Indianapolis, Indiana.
October 30–31, 1993, Department Commander Don Herrley's Homecoming, Mandan, North Dakota.
November 4–6, 1993, Fall Conference, St. Paul, Minnesota.
November 11, 1993, Joint Veteran's Day Observance Pekin, Tolna and McVille Legion Posts, Pekin, North Dakota.
November 28–December 2, 1993, Membership tour of 45 Posts in five days, Department of Iowa.
December 3–12, 1993, Membership tour of 78 Posts in ten days, Department of Kansas.
January 7, 1994, Minnesota Department Adjutant Chuck Ferguson's Retirement, St. Cloud, Minnesota.
January 15–16, 1994, Winter Conference, Omaha, Nebraska.
January 25, 1994, Commissioner of Veteran's Affairs Milt Kane's Retirement, West Fargo, North Dakota.
February 3–4, 1994, Winter Conference, Pierre, South Dakota.
February 5–6, 1994, Winter Conference, Dickinson, North Dakota.
February 13–16, 1994, Washington Conference, D.C.
March 4–6, 1994, Spring Conference, Jefferson City, Missouri.
April 29–30, 1994, Aerial Round-up, Crystal, Minnesota.
May 2–5, 1994, Spring Meeting and National Executive Committee Meeting, Indianapolis, Indiana
May 7–8, 1994, Truman Day Observance, Independence, Missouri.
May 14–15, 1994, Leadership Workshop for Incoming Officers, Watertown, South Dakota.
May 24–25, 1994, Awards Presentation, US Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland.
June 11–14, 1994, Department Convention, Huron, South Dakota.
June 18–20, 1994, Department Convention, Bismarck, North Dakota.
June 24, 1994, Memorial Speaker at AMVETS Convention, Valley City, North Dakota.
June 25–26, 1994, Department Convention, North Platte, Nebraska.
July 15–17, 1994, Department Convention, Dubuque, Iowa.
July 22–24, 1994, Department Convention, Oshkosh, Wisconsin.
September 2–8, 1994, National Convention, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

REPORT OF THE NATIONAL CHAPLAIN

MONSIGNOR RAYMOND KOZLOWSKI, NEW YORK

The many faces of the American Legion have shown brightly this Legion year, from the assistance to flood victims in the Midwest, to earthquake victims in California, again when high waters hit the Southeast. The Children and Youth Programs of Drug Prevention, Fire Safety, Junior Shooting, Baseball to Boys State have all helped shape the future for the leaders of tomorrow. Veterans caring for Veterans in the volunteer hours donated to VA hospitals and Veterans' homes; the Legion's opposition to troops going into Harm's Way under foreign command and control; the funding and masterminding of the Citizens Flag Alliance; the ground work for a future Constitutional Amendment prohibiting flag desecration—the list goes on and on. I, as just one of over three million members, am humbled for having had the opportunity to serve this great nation and organization under the leadership of National Commander Thiesen and the Chairman, Directors and Staff of the American Legion. For God and Country.

In a pluralistic society, Chaplains are available for all in need. These needs can be religious, psychosocial, or economic in nature. Their expertise lies not only in counseling but also includes knowledgeability for referral and follow-up. The American Legion's vast membership offers this opportunity for the incumbent Chaplain to be of service.

I was appointed National Chaplain by the newly elected National Commander Bruce Thiesen at the Post Convention NEC meeting in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

During this interim, I contrived to serve as Post and County Chaplain. These responsibilities along with my employment as Chief, Chaplain Service, VA Medical Center, Buffalo, NY, offered a wide range of activity for service and visible presence for the American Legion.

There are many events that have highlighted service to the Legion. Among them are the National Commanders Homecoming in Kingsburg, California, followed by the Fall NEC Conference in Indianapolis. Of special significance was being present at the unveiling of the Viet Nam Women's Monument in Washington, D.C. It was there that I had the opportunity to meet many Viet Nam veterans and shared experiences with them. To my surprise, I met several veterans that have gone through the Buffalo VAMC's PTSD Program. It was conforting to know that many of these programs, such as housing homeless vets, job training, educational benefits, and placement, are available and are working.

The Annual Spring Conference in Washington, D.C., gave me the opportunity to listen to the wife of the President, Hillary Rodham Clinton, as she presented the National Health Care Reform Bill and how it affected our current veteran population. The Reform Bill will be significant in Veteran Health Care Management.

The Spring NEC Conference was historic. The American Legion's battle plan for a Flag Amendment was unveiled. The Legion committed itself to a grassroots campaign to insure congressional and state protection of the United States Flag. A fitting program for the Legion's 75th Anniversary!

There are several duties of this office which cannot be detailed in this report. They include Boys' Nation in Washington, D.C., the National Chaplains Conference in Indianapolis, and the 76th National Convention in Minneapolis-St. Paul.

Another significant contribution to the Legion was the letters of condolences to the families of the deceased National Executive Committees and to the sick of the membership. What a gift it is to know deeply that we are all brothers and sisters in one human family and that, different as our cultures, languages, religions, lifestyles, or work may be, we are all mortal beings called to surrender our lives into the hands of a loving God. I feel gifted to feel connected with the many who have died and to discover the joy and peace that flow from that connectedness. As I experience that gift, I know in a new way what it means to care for the dying. It means to connect them with the many who are dying or have died, and to let them discover the intimate bonds that reach far beyond the boundaries of our short lives. The Legion has given me that gift. We belong together, whether we live now or lived long ago, whether we live close or far away, whether we have biological ties or not. We are brothers and sisters in communion with each other.

I would take this opportunity to thank the members of the staff of National Headquarters. They were a guiding light for me. Thanks to the American Diocesan Patriotic Service at the National Convention, to our National Commander, Bruce Thiesen and to all the National Officers that have served with distinction. Deepest regards and thanks to the National Executive Committee and NY Department Adjutant, Richard Pedro, for allowing me this wonderful year of service to the American Legion.

REPORT OF THE NATIONAL HISTORIAN

MARJORIE T. SIMPSON, Georgia

Commander Bruce Thiesen appointed me as the National Historian for the year 1994–1995 at the convention in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Being an Arkansas veteran and then transplanted to the state of Georgia, it was a proud moment for me to try and serve both these states as well as all the other Departments.

My first duty was to oversee the competition of the histories and yearbooks which had been judged best from many Departments. This was an interesting and time consuming endeavor. Twelve judges, along with tabulators were required to judge each of these books.

During this October session I presented my idea for a Seventy Fifth Mini Histories, which will be presented to the National Commander in September at the Convention in Minneapolis, This would give our National Commander and the Archives a thumb nail sketch of our Department Histories.

I attended the meeting in Indianapolis in October, the workshop in Florida, the National meeting in Washington, D.C., and then back to Indianapolis for the Spring NEC. I have also attended many Posts and special meetings in my state of Georgia.

I was invited to attend the Department of Arizona Convention at Yuma in June as their guest speaker. It was delightful to be received so well. The Arizona Department Convention was truly the high light of my year as National Historian.

At this time we are preparing for the National Historian Luncheon being held at the Minneapolis Convention. This luncheon will honor our Founders and our Past National Historians.

Being a part of the history of The American Legion and continuing to make history is a lifetime honor.

REPORT OF THE NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE

P.B. ONDERDONK, JR., Maryland

Contracts

The following 61 contracts have been reviewed or prepared:

(1) Articles of Agreement by and between The American Legion and The American Legion National Convention Corporation of Oregon, Inc. covering the convocation of the 1995 National Convention of The American Legion in the City of Portland.

(2) Statement of Understanding by and between The American Legion Education Program and the National College Services, Ltd., wherein the National College Services, Ltd. agrees to participate in the development of content to be included in American Legion publications and a college profile directory.

(3) Renewal lease in three revisions as required by the State of Indiana by and between The American Legion and the State of Indiana for the National Headquarters Building at 700 North Pennsylvania Street, Indianapolis, Indiana.

(4) Lease Agreement by and between The American Legion and Ameritech Credit Corporation (provided by Indiana Bell) whereby Ameritech will lease to The American Legion a Centrex Telephone System.

(5) Annual Service Agreement by and between The American Legion and Advanced Microelectronics, Inc. whereby Advanced Microelectronics, Inc. will service Apple Mac computers, hard drives, color monitors and Apple Laserwriters, located at National Headquarters.

(6) Software Maintenance Support Agreement by and between The American Legion and Broderick Data Systems whereby Broderick Data Systems provide maintenance and support for the AS/400 B70 and B45.

(7) Service Agreement by and between The American Legion and Data Comm whereby Data Comm will provide laser printing cartridges and cleaning.

(8) Agreement by and between The American Legion and Burson-Marsteller to provide professional consulting and marketing services regarding the The American Legion's flag campaign.

(9) Agreement by and between The American Legion and Tim-Cor Marketing and Administration Agreement to assist The American Legion in selecting, marketing and selling annuity contracts to Legion members and their families.

(10) Contract by and between The American Legion and Country Ladies Band Contract to provide musical entertainment during the 1994 National Membership Workshop.

(11) Eight (8) Baseball Regional Tournament Contracts and the Contract for The American Legion World Series.

(12) Agreement by and between The American Legion and The Laborers' Joint Training Fund of Indiana. and vicinity to develop a joint training and job placement program to recruit discharged military personnel and upon completion, accept them in the Laborers Union and seek to place them in construction and environmental remediation jobs.

(13) Agreement by and between The American Legion and Haynes & Pittenger Direct, Inc. to represent The American Legion in its advertising and direct marketing flag campaign.

(14) License Agreement by and between The American Legion and Major League Baseball Properties, Inc., as agent for the Office of the Commissioner of Baseball to use the service mark consisting of the words "All-Star" in advertising The American Legion All-Star Dream Team drawing to be held at the 1994 National Convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

(15) Maintenance Agreement by and between The American Legion of Quality Concepts wherein Quality Concepts will maintain and clean the raised floor in the computer room at Park 100.

(16) Service Agreement by and between The American Legion and Standard Register to service computer machines located at Park 100.

(17) License Agreement by and between The American Legion and Lawson Associates, Inc. to provide software, training, installation assistance, modification, conversion and maintenance for the finance tracking system.

(18) License Agreement by and between The American Legion and Commercial Ware, Inc. to provide software and consulting for the emblem sales tracking system.

(19) License Agreement by and between The American Legion and Sigma/Micro Corporation to provide Controller computer software and all related tapes, diskettes, manuals and documentation.

(20) Agreement by and between The American Legion and Stokely-Van Camp, Inc. to display Gatorade logos in selected American Legion Baseball newsletters and advertisements in each Region Tournament program and World Series Program and national cablecast television distribution in exchange for reasonable amounts of cups, coolers, squeeze bottles, product and banners bearing Gatorade logos.

(21) Thirteen (13) contracts by and between The American Legion and the following companies for services provided under The American Legion's Family Benefit Plan: American Red Ball World Wide Movers, Atlas Van Lines, Avis, Inc., Choice Hotels International, Days Inn, Eye Care Plan of America, LaQuinta Inns, Mariott, National Car Rental, North American Van Lines, Inc., Sea World of Florida and Ohio, and Thrifty Car Rental.

(22) Four (4) List Protection Agreements by and between The American Legion and the following companies have been executed companies have been executed to cover the protection of magnetic tapes used for mass-mailings to the general membership of The American Legion:

Brick Mills Studios, Inc.
Barton-Cotton-Famous Hospitality, Inc. (Famous Artists Studios, Inc.)
Association Group Insurance Administrators (AGIA)
Kirke Van Orsdel, Inc.

(23) Seven (7) Standard List Protection Agreements by and between The American Legion and the following companies have been executed to cover the protection of magnetic tapes used for mass-mailings to the general membership of The American Legion:

Haynes & Pittenger Direct, Inc.
Promotion Management, Inc.
Benefit Consultants, Inc.
Fox Associates, Inc.
S. A. Van Dyk, Inc.
John Pearl & Associates
Tim-Cor, Inc.

(24) Ten (10) Subcontractor Standard List Protection Agreements by and between The American Legion and the following companies have been executed to cover the protection of magnetic tapes used for mass mailings to the general membership of The American Legion:

Creative Response Associates
Trans National, Inc.
American Premium Fund Raising
Mailing and Printing Services, Inc.
Semarca Corporation
Brown and Bigelow
Faris Mailing
Harris Printing
Print & Mail Advertising, Inc.
The Berlin Journal

LITIGATION

Civil Action No. 90–1808 SSH

Litigation styled:

THE AMERICAN LEGION ET AL, PLAINTIFFS

vs.

EDWARD J. DERWINSKI, SECRETARY UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, ET AL; DEFENDANTS

This is the lawsuit by The American Legion to require the Federal Government to conduct a study of the long term adverse health effects in Vietnam veterans resulting from exposure to phenoxy herbicides, including the herbicide known as Agent Orange, which was mandated by Congress. The case was filed August 29th. The United States filed a motion to dismiss on behalf of all of the named parties. The plaintiffs have filed responses to these motions. The Government filed its rebut-

tal raising additional issues which the plaintiffs responded at the end of the 1991 summer. The Government asked for an extension of time to November 12, 1991 to make its final rebuttal to The American Legion's response to the additional issues in this very complex case. Thirty-eight (38) Senators and Congressmen have filed to intervene in the case as amicus curiae. Their position supports that of The American Legion.

The next step involved motions for discovery before the Court. The Government has already been forced to change its position. A hearing was set for August 13, 1992. The Court then requested a status review of all motions which was filed. Finally, the Court ruled against The American Legion and all veterans in a very superficial opinion issued prior to the release of NAS Study. A motion for reconsideration to include the NAS Study in the record was filed. The Judge denied it and the case has been appealed.

Civil Action 4:91–CV–0141 HLM

Litigation styled:

BOYCE L. DEMPSEY

vs.

WTLK TV 14 ROME/ATLANTA AND CABLE NEWS NETWORK THE AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS, INDIANAPOLIS ET AL

Civil Action 4:93 CV–0155–HLM

BOYCE L. DEMPSEY, PLAINTIFF

vs.

TURNER BROADCASTING SYSTEMS ET AL

A complaint was filed alleging that the plaintiff was put on television without permission and that he was denied access to televise his message. Plaintiff further alleges that (even though he was not a candidate) he was twice elected Post Commander, but denied his office. A number of other allegations was so garbled that they cannot be understood. Plaintiff is appearing pro se. A motion to dismiss was filed and the Court granted the motion to dismiss. The plaintiff thereafter filed a Notice of appeal of the Court's order, but the notice was not filed within the prescribed time period and the Court dismissed plaintiff's appeal. Plaintiff appealed to the Supreme Court and lost. However, plaintiff refiled the case under the second number above. A motion to dismiss was granted because the case was frivolous. Plaintiff did not appeal within the allowed time.

Superior Court Judicial District of Hartford/New Britain at New Britain

Litigation styled:

ANDREW DAWSON AND THE SIMSBURY (TOMALONIS-HALL POST #84) AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL TEAM, PLAINTIFFS

vs.

DAVID FARR, THE AMERICAN LEGION AND THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF CONNECTICUT, INC., DEFENDANTS

A complaint and a temporary injunction was filed by Andrew Dawson and the Simsbury (Tomalonis-Hall Post #84 American Legion Baseball Team seeking to enjoin the defendants from preventing Andrew Dawson from playing baseball with the Post #84 team. Plaintiffs also sought to enjoin the defendants from declaring Andrew Dawson ineligible to play for Post #84 team.

Under the rules, Andrew Dawson should play for the team nearest his parents' residence. The Court ruled that there is no constitutional right to play American Legion baseball, that the Legion is not a place of public accommodation and even if it is, any prohibition against Andrew Dawson playing in Connecticut is not prohibited discrimination and made clear it did not find that the rules were a contract.

Despite the winning of every issue by The American Legion, the Court entered a nationwide preliminary injunction allowing Andrew Dawson to play and prohibiting The American Legion from ruling against Andrew Dawson on challenges from non-party teams. The Connecticut Supreme Court refused to hear an appeal from the preliminary injunction which in Connecticut is considered interlocutory or not a final ruling despite the fact that such orders usually end a case.

A counterclaim has been filed for a declaratory judgment on the validity of the rules. The trial court ruled the entire matter moot despite the requirements of connected law that a matter is not moot if the time period is so short that the matter can never be heard if the mootness doctrine is applied and if the matter can recur like it has. We filed for reconsideration to force the Judge to write an opinion setting forth his reasons and will appeal. Once this was done, we filed an appeal to the Connecticut Court of Appeals. The Connecticut Supreme Court then assumed jurisdiction. The Connecticut Supreme Court remanded the case for trial since the case was not moot. The trial is expected to be scheduled in the Fall of 1994.

In the Common Pleas Court of Jefferson County, Ohio

Litigation styled:

TODD M. BLACKBURN, PLAINTIFF

vs.

BASEBALL COMMISSION, ET AL THE AMERICAN LEGION OF OHIO, ET AL

This case arose in Steubenville, Ohio when the host team for the regional tournament (which gets to play in the regional tournament) wanted to use an illegal player. The player had been waived by the host team. He now wanted to come back to the host team. However, the rules only allow one waiver for an individual's entire eligibility.

The case arose with a lawsuit against the Department of Ohio to prevent it from enforcing the rules. The Judge granted a preliminary injunction. The National Organization was not part of the proceeding, although the Judge purported to make his ruling apply to National tournaments.

When the National Organization found out about the case, it intervened and moved for a dismissal of the case and quashing of the order. The Court refused.

Since the order did not specifically name the National Organization, when a protest was filed, the National Organization ruled the player ineligible from Indianapolis. The game in which he played in the regional tournament was declared forfeited. The player was not used again by the host team.

After the season was over, the Judge attempted to dismiss the entire case and our counterclaim without notice. This was protested and our counterclaim reinstated. We are awaiting the Court's decision in an order that will constitute a precedent.

Commonwealth of Kentucky Floyd Circuit Court Civil Action No. 92–CI–00622

Litigation styled:

TINA V. CASE, ADMINISTRATRIX OF THE ESTATE OF CLIVE CASE, JR., LARRY SPEARS AND CONNIE SPEARS, PLAINTIFFS

vs.

THE AMERICAN LEGION; THE WAR VETERANS CLUB; ROBERT CONLEY ACTING ON BEHALF OF THE WAR VETERANS CLUB; JOHN B. REYNOLDS POST #283, AMERICAN LEGION DENSIL HALBERT, DELBERT ISON, WARREN WOLFORD, DEMRA TAYLOR AND ROGER TURNER ALL ACTING ON BEHALF OF JOHN B. REYNOLDS POST #283, AMERICAN LEGION AND THE WAR VETERANS CLUB; FRANK DEROSSETT; LOUISE "LULA" SPRADLIN AND BILL SPRADLIN

This is a wrongful death and negligence suit. Tina Case's husband allegedly was killed by defendant, Frank DeRossett. It is alleged that Frank DeRossett entered American Legion Post 283 in Martin, Kentucky and started shooting a gun in the direction of the band in which Clive Case was a member. Case was shot several times and subsequently died. Larry Spears was also shot and claims permanent in-

jury and disablement. At this point, the matter has been referred to our insurance company, an appearance has been filed and a motion to dismiss has been filed. The Floyd County Circuit Judge overruled our Motion for Summary Judgment and will entertain a Motion to Reserve Entry of his Judgment for Six Months until the plaintiff proves a legal theory against The American Legion. The Court indicated that it will rule on a Motion for a Directive Verdict if the case goes to trial. A hearing has not been set.

United States Patent and Trademark Office Before the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board

Litigation styled:

THE AMERICAN LEGION OPPOSER

vs.

RICHARD G. MATTHEW APPLICANT

This is an action for service mark infringement of The American Legion's common law mark and for unfair competition. The American Legion learned that the Defendant was planning to conduct business and to sell products, namely caps, under the name "THE LEGIONAIRE" or Legionaire. A written demand was made to the defendant to discontinue his plans to use the service mark in connection with the sale of merchandise. A case and a motion for preliminary injunction may need to be filed to force discontinance of marketing or distributing of promotional materials or goods bearing the words The Legionaire or Legionaire and to deliver all materials bearing such words to The American Legion may become necessary. Motions have been filed for productions of testimony and exhibits. A hearing was set by the Patent Office in this matter. The result was a decision of lack of jurisdiction because of an amendment to the petition at the behest of the Patent Office. The entire case will begin again.

In the United States District Court, Southern District of Ohio, Western Division

Case No. C–1–93–247 Magistrate Judge Steinberg

Litigation styled:

WILLIAM PAUL BARRON, JR. PLAINTIFF

vs

THE AMERICAN LEGION DEFENDANT

In the Third Judicial District Court of Salt Lake County State of Utah

Civil No. 940901735

WILLIAM PAUL BARRON, JR. PLAINTIFF

vs

DUANE S. WILLIS, CARROLL WILLIAMS, AND THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEFENDANTS

Plaintiff sued The American Legion for slander claiming a letter purportedly bearing his signature was not from him. The letter contained threats against VA staffers. Based on the letter the Department of Utah Service Officer withdrew from representation as did the National Organization.

Since there is no legal duty to represent the plaintiff and since The American Legion did not publish the threat, the case cannot be about slander. A motion to dismiss was filed and granted. Mr. Barron then refiled in Utah (the second case alone). A motion for summary judgment will be filed.

In the Circuit Court of the Twentieth Judicial Circuit in and for Lee County Florida

Litigation styled:

CHRISTOPHER NASH AND AMETHYST NASH PLAINTIFFS

vs

ROBERT H. L. DABNEY AMERICAN LEGION POST 192 AND THE AMERICAN LEGION

Case No. 93–3166CARWP

This is a personal injury case. Christopher Nash claims negligence against Post No. 192 after an incident in the parking lot next to the Post No. 192 building. Christopher Nash was walking to his car in subject parking lot and was approached by three gunmen who attempted to rob him and then shot him four times, twice in each leg. Mr. Nash refused to identify his assailants. Allegations of a drug deal gone bad have surfaced. An appearance has been entered, and a motion to dismiss has been filed.

A hearing was held on August 23, 1993 to hear the Motion to Dismiss, which was ultimately granted.

In the United States District Court for the District of Wyoming

Litigation styled:

Civil Action No. 94 CV 106B

BENJAMIN W. PHILLIPS, PLAINTIFF

vs

THE AMERICAN LEGION A NON-PROFIT FEDERAL CORPORATION AND

AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL INC., A WYOMING NON-PROFIT CORPORATION, DEFENDANTS

This was a baseball case in which the player was and is three days too old to play this year. At his father's instigation, he filed an anti-trust case claiming The American Legion monopolized American Legion Baseball.

A motion to dismiss was filed on a number of grounds including baseball's immunity from the anti-trust laws. The motion was granted and the case is concluded.

Superior Court of New Jersey Law Division: Camden County Docket NO. L–5161–94

Civil Action

Litigation styled:

WILLLIAM SHERLOCK, AS NEXT FRIEND FOR BRIAN SHERLOCK A MINOR PLAINTIFF

vs.

THE AMERICAN LEGION, A CORPORATION ORGANIZED UNDER THE LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, AND THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF NEW JERSEY, A CORPORATION ORGANIZED UNDER THE LAWS OF NEW JERSEY, DEFENDANT

This was another baseball case involving the By Pass Rule and recruiting. Plaintiff was ineligible to play for the Brooklawn team because inclusion of the enrollment of his school and the school districts by-passed, would have put the Brooklawn team far over the enrollment limit of 3,600 students.

During the investigation of the case, additional rule violations were discovered. The Department baseball chairman had attempted to help the team several years ago by agreeing that what was an incidental by-pass was not a rule violation. The chairman had to admit the error. In addition, the boy's father tried to claim the

school enrollments as stated by The American Legion were not correct. This necessitated a second hearing.

After a full and complete review, the Court ruled in favor of the rules.

Other Legal Matters

There are several collection matters currently pending in New York, and a matter in New Jersey to recover monies due to The American Legion Magazine.

There are a number of other legal proceedings in which The American Legion has been contacted for discovery purposes which are not part of or named in the particular cause and a number of cases are in the beginning stages but not yet filed.

Opinions Rendered

The National Judge Advocate has rendered 1681 written opinions on questions which have been submitted by the several Departments and/or Posts of The American Legion, National Officers, staff members and individual members of our organization. These opinions involved matters legal, such as contracts, probate matters, federal tax questions, torts, insurance matters, Articles of Incorporation, civil rights statutes, retirement benefits under the law and other matters of a legal nature; problems concerning the interpretation and construction of the National Constitution and By-Laws of The American Legion, policy matters, many of which matters required a great deal of legal research.

In each instance, when appropriate, a copy of the opinion rendered was furnished to each of the following so that they would be acquainted with the decision affecting their Department; National Executive Committeeman, Department Commander, Department Adjutant, and the Department Judge Advocate of the Department involved.

Many oral opinions were also rendered to the National Officers, National Commission Chairmen, to Department Officers, and to staff Directors of the national organization upon subjects involving matters legal, financial, administrative and policy.

There were 22 written opinions rendered during the year to the National Secretary of the American Legion Auxiliary, in response to queries submitted to her for determination by me.

The National Judge Advocate has also rendered oral advice on matters legal and administrative to the National Officers of the American Legion Auxiliary on many occasions during the past year.

The American Legion Magazine

The National Judge Advocate in accordance with established policy, has reviewed all manuscripts of articles destined for future publication in The American Legion Magazine and The Dispatch, for the purpose of expunging statements or material questionable in character, contained therein which might subject The American Legion to a suit in libel. To date 321 manuscripts have been reviewed and appropriate comments in connection therewith were transmitted, when necessary, to the Publisher or Editor of The American Legion Magazine.

Firing Line

At the 1955 National Convention of The American Legion it was concluded that all statements made in each issue of the Firing Line should be documented and that the National Judge Advocate should approve each issue prior to publication in order to protect The American Legion from actions in libel. In accordance therewith all issues have been reviewed and either approved by the National Judge Advocate prior to publication, or rejected in whole or in part, with appropriate comments.

Bequests

During the past year the national organization of The American Legion was the recipient of the following bequests in connection with which the paper work was handled by the office of the National Judge Advocate:

Last Will and Testament of Louese E. Spradley, dated May 24, 1990—bequest of $1,000 to The American Legion.

The American Legion Retirement Plan for Employees of the National Headquarters and Subordinate Groups Thereof

In accordance with the requirements of law, the National Judge Advocate has filed all necessary returns, reports and allied documents for the calendar year 1993

with the Internal Revenue Service in connection with The American Legion Retirement Plan. The office of the National Judge Advocate also prepared the Summary Annual Report for The American Legion Retirement Plan and arranged for the distribution thereof as required by law. A new Summary Plan Description has been distributed.

Employees' Salary Savings (401(K)) Plan

In accordance with the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) the office of the National Judge Advocate has filed all of the necessary Annual Return Reports and allied documents for the calendar year 1992 with the Internal Revenue Service in connection with The American Legion Employees' Salary Savings 40l(k) Plan. The office of the National Judge Advocate also prepared the Summary Annual Report for the Employees' Salary Savings Plan and arranged for the distribution thereof as required by law. Amendments to comply with the Tax Reform Act of l986 have been completed, filed and accepted. A Summary Plan Description has been distributed.

Parliamentary Duties

The National Judge Advocate attended the past National Convention of The American Legion and all meetings of the National Executive Committee and has served both bodies in the capacity of National Parliamentarian.

Other Duties

The National Judge Advocate functions as Secretary for newly acquired corporations, Haynes & Pittenger Direct, Inc. and Promotion Management, Inc. and attended all board meetings and caused the minutes of each meeting to be prepared and distributed. The National Judge Advocate also functions as counsel for both organizations on matters involving to date, contracts, labor issues, real estate law, postal regulations, corporate organizations and insurance.

Meetings of the National Retirement Committee and Salary Savings Committee

The National Judge Advocate, as a member of The National Retirement Committee of National Headquarters, The American Legion, and Chairman of the Employee's Salary Savings Committee, has attended and participated in meetings held by these committees during the past year.

I have also, in response to requests, drafted legal and other documents for the use of National Officers of The American Legion and Officers of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Last, during the past year I have met with and attended numerous conferences with officials of outside corporations, for the purpose of representation of for the rendering of advice and guidance for and on behalf of The American Legion on matters legal and administrative.

In conclusion, the National Judge Advocate wishes to thank all National Officers, Department Officials, and members of the National Executive Committee for the valuable assistance and cooperation extended to him during the past year.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

WILLIAM D. JACKSON (IN), *Executive Director*

The Executive Director, whose office is locate in the National Headquarters, Indianapolis, has four major responsibilities:

1. He performs such duties as may be assigned to him by the National Adjutant to assist in meeting the responsibilities of that office, and during temporary absences of the National Adjutant from The American Legion National Headquarters, acts for him.
2. He heads the Administrative Services Division and through it supervises and coordinates the many administrative functions of the Indianapolis Headquarters.
3. He serves on the Personnel Committee of the Headquarters and is Chairman of the Management Review Board.
4. He coordinates computer operations, which has a MIS (Management Information Services) Director reporting to the Executive Director.

Included in the Administrative Services Division of the Indianapolis Headquarters are the following administrative functions: Purchasing, Shipping & Receiving, Gen-

eral Supply & Outgoing Mail; Library, Archives, and E. A. Blackmore Museum; Administrative Communications; Maintenance; Cafeteria; Human Resources; Finance; Publications; and Insurance.

The Administrative Services Division also provides all secretarial assistance to the executive officers of The American Legion.

Management Information Services (MIS)

MIS is currently responsible for support of the following programs:

Revenue Enhancement selections for mailings, maintenance of database and reporting system.

Updating of The American Legion Magazine, Membership, SAL, Firing Line, Commanders and Adjutants file, Dispatch mailing lists, and printing of labels and renewal notices.

Direct membership solicitation.

The printing of membership cards and registers, Department accounting reports, statistical information, Consolidated Post Reports, delinquent member lists.

The printing of Department paper mailing labels.

PUFL members updating and financial checks.

Emblem Sales invoices and reports (mini-computer in Emblem Sales).

Audit control and circulation analysis reports for The American Legion Magazine.

Inventory control and purchase order control of National Headquarters.

General ledger financial reports.

Accounts receivable.

Accounts payable.

Retirement investment program.

Furniture and Fixtures inventory and depreciation reports.

National Commission and Committee list.

Post Office carrier route discount processing on all Department labels and direct billing.

Selecting and creating disks for Department member roster for input to the computers. Selecting and providing Department membership on microfiche.

Printing of direct bill membership renewal notices.

Outside sales of Laser and other services.

Address standardization on all Department labels and direct billing.

The printing of Stay Active reports and forms.

The printing of annual Commander and Adjutant notification cards and reports.

The printing by Department of 3 x 5 cards and labels for new DMS members.

Request for documents, labels, diskettes, etc., for Divisions, Departments and Posts.

Statistical Tables

The following statistical tables are indicative of the volume of work routinely performed by this Division:

Administrative Communications June 1, 1993 through May 31, 1994

Envelopes & Labels Addressed	94,018
AS/400	1,413
A/M Varityper/Processor	70,682
Binding	1,200
Xerox 5090	8,356,910
Xerox 1048	141,144
Print Shop	1,795,640

Mail June 1, 1993 through May 31, 1994

Incoming Letters (Distributed to various Divisions for processing)	10,121,001
Incoming Parcels	5,911
Outgoing Letters	427,612
Outgoing Parcels (Exclusive of National Emblem Sales)	7,491

Freight and Express June 1, 1993 through June 31, 1994

Out (cartons)	8,076
Out (pounds)	131,982
UPS (in)	5,527
UPS (out)	17,912

LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

Library

JOSEPH J. HOVISH, *Librarian*

The mission of The American Legion Library is to provide an information storage and retrieval system for The American Legion.

The microfilming project is nearing its half-way point. Correspondence is the main category of material being filmed. In addition to this are reports, newspapers, post charters, among other items. As in the past, material being filmed is also indexed on our database.

Indexing of resolutions also occurs. The figures show that over 2,000 resolutions were indexed. This allows very speedy finding of resolutions when only little information is known about the subject. To date we have over 11,000 resolutions indexed.

Book stock has now been finally cataloged. The next project is to complete the pamphlet collection, re-cataloging, repairing if necessary, and filing. Many of these publications are American Legion produced and therefore an important and useful historical collection. These items need to be carefully organized.

We are always grateful to those kind and generous patrons who contribute to the resources of the Library via donations to the Verna B. Grimm Memorial Book Collection. These many significant books not only honor and keep alive the memory of individuals but also service scholars in their work at The American Legion Library. Special appreciation for their generosity is extended to: Mr. Robert H. Barnes, Mr. and Mrs. George H. Cornelius, Jr., and the National Association of Department Historians of The American Legion.

Among the new books added to the stock of the library are the following:

Two copies of Wisconsin American Legion, A History, 1919–1992, by George E. Sweet, donated by Barbara Stuvengen.

An Anti-Aircraft Battalion Unit History, donated by Ernie Lauber.

Poems entitled "The War Veterans Prayer" and "We'll Not Forget," donated by Francis P. Depasquale.

A book, A Collection of 20 Army Talks, donated by John J. Perrotta.

It Doesn't Take A Hero by General H. Norman Schwarzkopf, donated by William D. Jackson.

The following books are among many donated by Robert Barnes:

Daddy of Them All: Story of the 17th Bombardment Group in World War II, by Victor C. Tannehill;

49th Fighter Group, by Ernest R. McDowell;

KGB, The Inside Story of Its Foreign Operations from Lenin to Gorbachev, by Christopher Andrew and Oleg Gordievsky.

The following three books were donated by Mr. and Mrs. George Cornelius:

In the Eye of the Storm: The Life of General H. Norman Schwarzkopf, by Roger Cohen and Claudio Gatti;

The Way Things Ought to Be, by Rush Limbaugh;

Four Freedoms, Images That Inspire a Nation, by Norman Rockwell.

Statistical Summary of 12 Months Ending May 31, 1994

General Correspondence Received and Filed	5,520
Subject Correspondence Received and Filed	1,338
Bulletins, Reports, etc. Received and Filed	1,285
Periodicals Received	5,208
Folders and Guides Made	125
Books and Pamphlets Cataloged	247
Correspondence Written by National Historian	174

Correspondence Written by Librarian	1,872
Prominent Legionnaire Questionnaires Mailed	70
Prominent Legionnaire Questionnaires Returned	17
Prominent Legionnaire Death Memos Written	55
Prominent Legionnaire Entries to Membership File	1,673
Resolutions Indexed	2,020
Requests Answered via Telephone	2,210
Requests Answered via Visits to Library	258
Requests Answered via Inter-Office Mail	417
Follow-Ups of Correspondence	851
Items Microfilmed	174,000
Requests of Membership Listing	1,173
Microfiche Copied	175
Rolls of Microfilm Added to Stock	60

Emil A. Blackmore Museum

JOSEPH J. HOVISH, *Curator*

The Emil A. Blackmore Museum continues to be visited by individuals and groups. Our Visitor's Book also shows most states represented as well as the countries of Holland, Panama Canal, Costa Rica, Central African Republic, and France.

Exhibits have been changed periodically and some of the World War Posters have been hung in some of the Divisions at National Headquarters and have made an attractive addition to the areas.

The Founding Fathers Exhibit continues to attract positive comments and is very welcomed by the young students who visit the building. Unfortunately, the tape technology which runs the two dioramas is over 30 years old and eventually the whole unit will need to be replaced. Replacement parts are no longer available.

Donors are once again thanked for their contributions to the collection. Significant objects added in the past year include the following:

1993 National Convention Badge, donated by Leonard R. Parker, Sr.

World War I Victory Medal with three clasps, donated by Mr. Clifford G. Mackinnon.

Legion Color Guard and Firing Squad team items, World War II Civil Defense items, all from Commonwealth Edison Post in Chicago, donated by Dean J. Tillis.

Norman Flag, donated by Rene Farrer of France.

French World War II Medals, donated by R. Nadal of France.

Papua-New Guinea Fiftieth Anniversary Flag, donated by Col. H. "Hug" Huggins, Ret.

Color mounted slides/transparencies of 1941 National Convention Parade, total of 181 items, donated by Dr. Richard A. Riedel.

American Legion Band N.J. Post No. 16 Uniform Coat and Uniform Pants circa 1930s, donated by Arlen D. Brown.

A collection of various World War II memorabilia including Ration Book Pouch, Ration Book Numbers 1–4, Sugar Ration Stamps, OPA Blue Point Coin, and Mailing Envelop, donated by Mrs. Stella Hovish.

World War II U.S. M–1 Helmet, M198 Haversack, and Canteen Pouch, donated by the National Association of Department Historians of The American Legion.

AMERICANISM COMMISSION

RAY G. SMITH, North Carolina, *Chairman*

MARTY JUSTIS, Maryland, *Director*

The Americanism Commission of The American Legion was created by a recommendation adopted by the National Convention of The American Legion held in Minneapolis, Minnesota in 1919. It read: "We recommend the establishment of a National Americanism Commission of The American Legion whose duty it shall be the endeavor to realize in the United States the basic ideal of this Legion of 100 percent Americanism through the planning, establishment and conduct of a continuous, constructive educational system."

It is the objective of the Americanism Commission to translate Americanism precepts, principles and ideals in an understanding and practical manner to Legion Posts and other groups and individuals, including young America.

While the Americanism program consists of a broad, objective, general plan that features wide-range community service, better citizenship, youth development and

counter-subversive activities, the efforts of the Americanism Commission are educational in nature and embrace these specific objectives:

To promote understanding of the principles of democratic governmental problems, and bringing more citizens to think seriously of the duties of citizenship;

To give sound, practical service in our communities, working to make these communities better and safer places in which to live;

To emphasize religion, encouraging its continuation in the life of every citizen;

To encourage education in every possible manner, presenting school awards, sponsoring and conducting oratorical contests, cooperating with education and citizenship groups, promoting proper flag etiquette and display, and sponsoring objective youth development programs;

To do important work for the youth of America, sponsoring American Legion Baseball, the National High School Oratorical Contest, Boys State, Boys Nation, Junior Shooting Sports, Boy Scout activities and many other citizenship and objective training activities;

To work for the assimilation of aliens through schools of citizenship and other agencies and stand for the restriction of immigration so that this assimilation may approach perfection; and

To combat subversion and all un-American groups and activities which have for their aim the downfall of democracy in America.

In addition, the Americanism Commission has continued to be actively involved in legislative matters affecting our way of life. Among our legislative priorities are illegal entry of aliens into this country, voluntary prayer in public buildings, bilingual education alternatives and English as the official language of the United States. The most recent legislative initiative of The American Legion is an effort to obtain a Constitutional Amendment that would give Congress and the States the authority to enact and enforce flag desecration laws.

This Commission has the responsibility for supervision and coordination of two Standing Committees: The Counter-Subversive Activities Committee and the Committee on Education.

The Americanism Commission participates each year in The American Legion's series of National Leadership Workshops. These conferences are held at eight locations in different regions of the country during the months of September and October. The Commission uses these workshops as an opportunity to train and provide information to Americanism program volunteers.

Following is a summary of various programs which are the responsibility of the Americanism Commission and have been conducted during the 1994 American Legion year.

Boys State/Boys Nation

The American Legion believes that if the United States is to maintain its present form of government, it must have a citizenry which has a fundamental understanding and interest in its operation. This is what the Boys State program does for the young men of our Nation. It teaches the fundamentals of American government through the state level.

It was 59 years ago that Legionnaires in the State of Illinois recognized the need for a program that would help high school boys understand and appreciate the government they were learning about in the classroom. It was a time in the history of this Nation when un-American ideas seriously threatened the future of the Nation. The whole idea of Boys States then and now, is to show young people that beyond a doubt, our form of government is good; but its preservation depends on intelligent, informed and loyal citizens in combination with an honest and impartial administration of government activities.

Ten years after the inception of Boys State as a program of the Legion, the National Organization recognized the need for a program like Boys State at the National level and in 1946, began sponsorship of American Legion Boys Nation. This year The American Legion will conduct its 48th anniversary session. Both Boys State and Boys Nation are unique programs that emphasize participation and personal experience in a model "state" that is complete with its governing bodies and elected officials.

Each year, more than 28,000 young Americans take part in Boys State, and through 59 years, the program has graduated well over one and a half million young men.

Every year, each Boys State selects two outstanding graduates to represent them at American Legion Boys Nation. In 1994, the program was held in Washington,

DC, July 22–29, and it introduced delegates first-hand to the structure and function of the federal government.

The week of government training in the Nation's Capitol combines lectures and forums with visitations to federal agencies and institutions, shrines and historical points in and about Washington, DC. Actual participation in the political process is highlighted through the week to include the organization of party conventions and the nomination and election of a Boys Nation president and vice president. In addition to federal legislators and representatives of federal agencies, American Legion officials and other leaders of national distinction participate in Boys Nation. Thomas E. Whitehead (MS), was elected President of the 48th annual Boys Nation. He will join the youth champion delegation as a guest of the National Commander at the National Convention of The American Legion in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 2–8, 1994.

National High School Oratorical Contest

The American Legion has awarded over two million dollars in college scholarships since 1938 to high school students participating in its annual National High School Oratorical Contest. This program, in its 58th year, was recognized by the Federal Commission for the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution as a program of "exceptional merit."

Each contestant must give a prepared oration on some phase of the United States Constitution, giving emphasis to the attendant duties and obligations of a citizen to his government. The prepared oration must be the original effort of each contestant, taking not less than eight nor more than ten minutes for delivery. Each contestant must also give an extemporaneous discourse on a Constitutional topic (not known until the time of the contest) taking not less than three nor more than five minutes for delivery.

The following scholarship awards are made annually: First place receives $18,000; second place receives $16,000; third place is $14,000 and fourth place takes home a $12,000 scholarship. Competition begins locally and progresses through the Department (state) to the National level of contests. Each state winner who is certified into and participates in the Regional Contest receives a $1,000 scholarship. Each Regional winner who is eliminated in the Sectionals receives a $3,000 scholarship. Funds for these awards are provided by The American Legion Life Insurance Fund.

The 57th annual National Finals Contest in 1994 was held at Colorado Springs, Colorado. The four finalists were: First Place—Lisa Tsai, Houston, Texas; second place—Marshall Burkes, Madison, Wisconsin; third place—David M. Bigge, Delran, New Jersey; and fourth place—Jason Thielman, Columbia Falls, Montana.

Boys Scouts of America

The American Legion charters approximately 2,500 Scout Units in communities across the country involving more than 66,000 youth. Its commitment to the principles of Scouting dates back to the Legion's first National Convention in 1919.

The American Legion selected Matthew A. Heffelfinger of Lansford, Pennsylvania, as its 1994 Eagle Scout of the Year. His selection was based on his outstanding religious, school, community and scouting achievements. He will receive an $8,000 scholarship.

Three Eagle Scouts were named runners-up for the award and each will receive a $2,000 college scholarship. They are Corey K. Proctor of Wilton, Iowa; James W. Lamar of Pulaski, Tennessee; and Michael J. Freeman of Hagerstown, Maryland.

In addition, an estimated 300 certificates honoring new Eagle Scout awards are distributed annually.

Junior Shooting Sports Program

The American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Program is a national Americanism program administered through Post-sponsored Junior Shooting Clubs. The purpose of the program is to provide gun safety and marksmanship training for young people 14 through 20 years of age and to offer a wholesome recreational activity through organized competition.

Fourth annual National Three-Position Air Rifle Championships were conducted in August 1994, at the Olympic Shooting Complex at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colorado. The tournament climaxed two rounds of postal matches which began shortly after the first of the year and involved over 700 entrants.

The competition was divided into two categories: precision air rifle and sporter air rifle. Medals and plaques were awarded in each category, as well as in each of the three positions of prone, kneeling and standing.

The 1994 competition was held after this report was submitted; therefore, the 1994 winners are not listed. Past winners include: Michael Douglass and Randall Owle in 1993; Gavin Lewis and Hillary Snyder in 1992; and Everett Miskelly and Richard Wilson in 1991.

Eight and Forty National Lung and Respiratory Disease Nursing Scholarship Fund

The American Legion develops, publicizes and administers the Eight and Forty National Lung and Respiratory Disease Nursing Scholarship Fund. This Fund, established in 1957, was created to assist Registered Nurses in securing advanced preparation for those positions in either supervision, administration or teaching. These prospective positions must have a direct relationship in the areas of care and prevention as it relates to lung and respiratory diseases. The Eight and Forty, for the year 1994-95, awarded twenty-two $2,500 scholarships to recipients in sixteen states for one year's study to assist in furthering their education. This brings their accumulative total for the past 38 years to 609 scholarships, totaling $1,094,500 to help eliminate personnel shortages in this important area of nursing. This scholarship program will again be offered for the 1995-96 school year.

Flag Education

The American Legion is a nationally recognized authority on the proper display of the United States Flag. Each year, hundreds of letters and phone calls are routinely answered giving factual information on the display, use of and respect for the American Flag.

Additionally, over 63,000 copies of our publication "Let's Be Right on Flag Etiquette" and more than 100,000 copies of the pamphlet, "Flag of the United States—How to Display It, How to Respect It" are distributed annually to schools, organizations and individuals. This information is sent at little or no cost to all who request it.

In 1988, The American Legion published "Our Country's Flag" for use in elementary schools. Well over a million copies have been distributed since the booklet was introduced.

The American Legion is involved in a campaign to protect the U.S. Flag from physical desecration. A total of 44 state legislatures have passed memorializing resolutions as of July 1, 1994, in support of a Constitutional Amendment to give Congress and the States the authority to enact and enforce flag desecration laws.

Service to God and Country

A program of basic Americanism, "Service to God and Country," 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.

"Service to God" emphasizes regular public worship, daily family prayer and the religious education of children, while "Service to Country" attempts to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and Nation. These objectives are aimed at preparing young Americans to take up tomorrow's responsibilities by teaching them moral and spiritual values, renewed interest in our Country's history, self-discipline, self-reliance, ideals of loyalty, honesty and physical fitness.

Each year, a Conference for the Department Chaplains is held under the direction of the National Chaplain. Training and program information is provided for further dissemination to District and Post Chaplains who coordinate the program at the local level.

American Legion Baseball

American Legion Baseball marks its 69th season in 1994. Over 82,000 players on 4,500 teams participated in this American Legion Americanism youth activity during the past year.

More than 15 million dollars in sponsorship fees are spent on American Legion Baseball teams by the local posts. Almost one million dollars is appropriated by the Legion's National Organization to conduct eight Regional Tournaments and the World Series of American Legion Baseball.

Former American Legion Baseball player Steve Carlton was elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame. Thirty-four other former Legion players have gone on to distinguish themselves in Major League Baseball and have been honored with election to the Hall of Fame. They include Tom Seaver, Johnny Bench, PeeWee Reese, Bob Feller, Ted Williams, Willie Stargel, Stan Musial, Carl Yaztremski, Warren Spahn, Brooks Robinson and Frank Robinson.

Over 62 percent of the Major League ballplayers and almost 72 percent of college players competed in American Legion Baseball as teenagers. The lessons learned on the baseball diamond, such as leadership, teamwork, respect for the rules, are lessons that are learned for a lifetime.

COUNTER-SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

F. RODNEY LOPER, Pennsylvania, *Chairman*

The Counter-Subversive Activities Committee, since its establishment by the National Executive Committee of The American Legion on November 17, 1950, has scrutinized and continues to monitor what is transpiring in the realm of subversion and terrorism. This is a program of the Americanism Commission and detailed reports of its activities are given to the National Executive Committee at its Spring and Fall Meetings and at National Conventions.

The Committee is responsible for furnishing background information on assigned resolutions that are considered by the National Americanism Commission for recommended action to the National Executive Committee or the National Convention.

The National Americanism Commission has long been concerned about anti-American activities and, in 1952, developed a publication known as "Firing Line". This began regular dissemination of information on certain groups and organizations participating in activities of a subversive nature.

Every effort is made to maintain a publication which is current and up-to-date. During the past year, "Firing Line" has reported on matters concerning desecration of the U.S. Flag, illegal immigration, espionage and terrorism.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Education Program

DR. CHARLES L. VAWTER, JR., Arizona, *Chairman*

The Committee on Education, established in 1976, is the only joint committee comprised of members of both The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary.

The purposes of the Committee on Education are: (1) to inform itself and The American Legion of developments, problems and potentials in the field of education; (2) to recommend appropriate policies and programs for The American Legion; and (3) to maintain contact with the education community so that there may be an interchange of thinking between The American Legion, educators, students and other organizations concerned with the well-being of education throughout the Nation.

Education was one of the first major concerns of The American Legion. In 1921, the organization committed itself to a constructive support of education. During the years which followed, The American Legion developed a formal Policy on Education.

The American Legion has always supported the principle that education is a necessary prerequisite to the successful functioning of a democracy. While recognizing the right of private and religious groups to maintain schools, The American Legion vigorously subscribes to the necessity for a publicly supported education system to ensure that every American child has the opportunity for an adequate education. The American Legion believes that popular self-government as set forth in the Constitution of the United States, cannot continue to exist unless there is the bulwark of a continuing system of free public education. Not only does proper national defense require trained personnel, but every phase of life today demands that we have competent citizens who are qualified, willing and able to discharge their responsibilities.

The availability of educational opportunity for every individual to pursue his own development is a prerequisite to the achievement of all other social goals. Our education system must be designed to provide every person with the means to reach his potential which will provide our Country with the high level of responsible citizens and specialized workers which it requires. In turn, we will have greater assur-

ance of economic growth, of sound decision-making, and the knowledge necessary to promote our national security.

The American education system should produce citizens who understand and are dedicated to principles of free enterprise; to democratic principles and processes; and whose devotion to freedom and human dignity goes beyond mere lip service.

The Education Program consists of four basic elements: (1) recognition of local systems through observance of American Education Week; (2) dissemination of scholarship and financial aid information through the publication of Need A Lift?; (3) sponsorship of a private education loan program called Option 4 Education Loan Program; and (4) promotion of involvement by American Legion Posts and American Legion Auxiliary Units in a community-wide effort to enhance the programs and policies of the local schools through the guidelines provided in the handbook PACT (Post, Auxiliary, Community Together).

American Education Week is an annual event co-sponsored nationally by The American Legion. The observance was originally established by The American Legion with the help of the National Education Association in 1921. The major objective of this program is to focus public attention on the needs and achievements of the Nation's schools. This year's theme is "Building The Future; One Student At A Time." The observance will be November 13-19, 1994.

The publication Need A Lift? is revised annually and contains more than 128 pages of scholarships, grants and loan information, work-study cooperative programs and sources of career information for all students. There is a section directed toward opportunities for veterans and their dependents. Another section lists scholarships and financial aid available from Departments of The American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary totalling more than $600,000. Need A Lift? also contains an electronic scholarship search application which the student can request at a reduced cost. Each Fall, complementary copies of Need A Lift? are sent to over 24,000 high schools across the Nation. In all, last year over 125,000 copies of Need A Lift? were distributed.

A companion to Need A Lift? is the pamphlet "A Guide for Parents and Students" which contains planning and financial aid information for high school students and their parents. Each year, distribution of more than 100,000 copies of each of these publications is handled through American Legion Posts, schools, counselors and librarians, by mail, and through distribution at national education conventions. Copies of these publications can also be obtained by writing The American Legion National Emblem Sales Division, P.O. Box 1050, Indianapolis, Indiana 46206. Individual copies of Need A Lift? are $3.00 each prepaid. "A Guide for Parents and Students" is available at a cost of $12.50 per 500 or $18.75 per 1,000 copies prepaid.

In an effort to help those students who may not qualify for scholarships or federal student aid, The American Legion sponsors the Option 4 Education Loan program. Option 4 is provided by United Student Aid Funds, Inc. Since the start of this program, over $1.3 million in student loans have helped worthy students fund their college education.

The PACT Handbook is the guide for The American Legion Education Chairmen. It contains information on the goals and objectives of the program, ideas and suggestions for activities, coordinating concepts and a typical calendar for a successful program. Programs covered in the handbook include: Citizenship Education, Career Education activities such as career nights, community resource files.

Adopt-A-School, how to promote American Education Week, and financial aid nights.

Over 38,000 students are recipients of The American Legion School Award Medal each year. This award is designed to recognize the student for the qualities of Courage, Honor, Leadership, Patriotism, Scholarship and Service. The award is presented to a boy and girl upon graduation from elementary school, junior high/middle school or high school.

The American Legion believes that the citizens of this Country should be dedicated to the pursuit of excellence in the entire realm of intellectual endeavor; that our people should recognize those persons who have developed their intellectual abilities to the fullest extent; that teachers should enrich their knowledge, particularly in the field in which they teach and that scholarship assistance to deserving students should be expanded.

Such an educational program will fulfill the dreams of the past, the aspirations of the present and the needs of the future. The American Legion supports such a system of education and believes that the vitality of our democratic way of life is dependent upon such schools.

Americanism Commission

EXECUTIVE SECTION

Ray G. Smith, Benson, North Carolina—Chairman.
Daniel J. O'Connor, New Fairfield, Connecticut—Chairman Emeritus.
Joseph E. Caouette, Rollinsford, New Hampshire—Vice Chairman.
Harold Hall, Anaheim, California—Commander's Representative.
Earl B. Wright, Severna Park, Maryland—Consultant.
Edward R. Czaja, Jr., Glenview, Illinois—Consultant.

COMMISSION ON CHILDREN & YOUTH

EUGENE V. LINDQUIST, Minnesota, *Chairman*

MARTY JUSTIS, Maryland, *Director*

Since our beginning, The American Legion has actively voiced concerns related to the care, welfare, and education of our Nation's children and youth. As early as November 1919, we were asking local Posts to aid the widows and children of our deceased comrades.

Throughout the decades that followed, The American Legion became a strong advocate for children's rights and remained at the forefront of the Child Welfare Movement. Our early years were devoted to progressive child care and protection programs. Through the efforts of The American Legion and its affiliated organizations, many states and communities were urged to improve their own Child Welfare provisions.

This development of new and improved public programs designed to provide economic security for children, made it possible for our organization to turn its attention to other problem areas affecting young people. To date there exists no area of child welfare that has gone untouched by the collective hand of The American Legion. The very program of Children & Youth itself is unique from any agency, private or governmental, in its ability to expand into every arena of concern for child welfare and child health.

The American Legion "has and will do everything possible to perpetuate 'A Square Deal For Every Child'." This remains our ultimate goal and the definite challenge for the years ahead.

To attain this goal, The American Legion, in 1925, adopted the "Whole Child" plan which states: "every child should have a home, health, education, character and opportunity." Its foundation is based on three guiding principles:

1. To strengthen the family unit against the forces of today's complex society, recognizing that the most normal environment for children is a home with their own parents.
2. To extend support to sound organizations and facilities that provide services for children and youth. Always acting in a supplementary capacity, rather than duplicating the efforts of existing agencies.
3. To maintain a well-rounded program that meets the physical, intellectual, emotional and spiritual needs of today's young people. Stated certainly for future endeavors, this third principle has provided the flexibility to address all matters of child health and child welfare.

While these principles represent the heart of the "Whole Child" plan, the muscle depends on our four Guidelines For Action, working together:

1. Prevention—Finding solutions to obstacles before they become long-lasting problems.
2. Education—Providing information to our members and the general public on timely issues involving children and youth.
3. Legislation—Maintaining a knowledge of new and existing laws, needed amendments, and the administration of laws which affect young people at the national, state and local levels.
4. Material Aid—Providing direct assistance in the form of cash, clothing, food and time.

During the past seventy-five years, The American Legion's Children & Youth Program has contributed to significant advancements in the area of Child Welfare. While our list of achievements is extensive, it is by no means complete nor completed. The American Legion has, and will continue, its deep community-centered interest in children to find new, and perhaps presently unknown, approaches to child welfare problems. At present, there is no way of knowing what issues will face our youth tomorrow. But all of us know that our survival may well depend on the

quality of care, education, and training which we, as parents and citizens, provide for all children today.

The American Legion is proud of the Legionnaires, and the members of its affiliated organizations, and their achievements on behalf of our nation's youth. Their efforts in the area of child welfare is a living testament to the ability of an organization of free men and women to adapt itself to evolving needs, while maintaining high principles and taking on increased responsibilities under those principles.

1993–94 Program

Each year, during the month of May, The American Legion's Commission on Children & Youth meets to discuss what programs it wants to emphasize for the coming program year. The National staff is then directed to research these areas of concern and publish materials to support our volunteers.

For the program year 1993-94, our Commission voted to focus their efforts on the following problem areas which directly impact our young people on the National level:

1. Family Emphasis.
2. Juvenile Delinquency Prevention.
3. Immunization.

Family Emphasis: The family is the cornerstone of American society. But today, modern society places demands on the family that did not exist in years past—demands that can chip away at family strength and unity. Two-income families are becoming the norm rather than the exception. Divorced families, step-families, and single-parent families have reached all-time highs. More teenagers than ever hold down part-time jobs. Children are placed in day care centers at earlier ages. Instead of safety in their neighborhoods, adolescents face physical danger; instead of economic security, they face uncertainty; instead of intellectual stimulation, they face boredom; in place of respect, they are neglected; lacking clear and consistent adult expectations for them, they feel alienated from mainstream American society.

For many years, the Commission on Children & Youth has, by mandate, advocated the passage of federal legislation designating the week of Thanksgiving as National Family Week. Many organizations have joined us in this quest. It is now our position to continue to push for legislation, but in the meantime, to conduct our own observance of this important event.

Many activities have been outlined to help us bring the basic unit in America, the family, into proper perspective. As an example: SUNDAY—Religion Day—Whatever your faith, share its importance with our young. MONDAY—Home Day—Focus attention on the responsibility a parent and children have to each other. TUESDAY—Education Day—Self-discipline, the key to excellence, is essential at all levels of education. WEDNESDAY—Community Day—Your family's role in the community. THURSDAY—Thanksgiving Day—Celebrate this day with your family, friends, and/or the less fortunate. FRIDAY—Nature Day—Discipline selves to nature's laws and beauty. SATURDAY—Recreation Day or Religious Observance Day.

Juvenile Delinquency Prevention: Over the last three decades, violent crime has increased by more than 500 percent. America leads the industrialized world in rates of murder, rape and violent crime. Nearly three out of four convicted criminals are now incarcerated. Fewer than one in ten serious crimes results in imprisonment.

According to a recent Department of Justice report on nationwide crime, a murder occurs every 24 minutes, a forcible rape every six minutes, a robbery every 55 seconds, an aggravated assault every 33 seconds, and a burglary every 10 seconds.

The American Legion is seriously concerned about the recent high levels of violent crime committed by juveniles in this nation. While juveniles account for approximately 35 percent of our population, they account for better than 50 percent of serious crimes as reported by the FBI Uniform Crime Reports.

During one typical day in the lives of American children, the FBI reports indicate 2 children younger than age 5 are murdered, 248 children are arrested for drug abuse, and 427 children are arrested for alcohol abuse or drunk driving. In 1991, one out of every four Americans arrested was a teenager. In that year, approximately 2.7 million American youth, age 10 to 19, were arrested and a growing number are spending time in jail. The juvenile arrest rate for murder has doubled between 1978 and 1990. For that same period, we have seen juvenile arrests for aggravated assault increase by two-thirds, the juvenile arrest rate for weapons law violations increase by 60 percent, and the juvenile arrest rate for rape increase by almost 40 percent.

Through the urging of The American Legion's Commission on Children & Youth during the 1994 Spring meetings, Juvenile Delinquency Prevention was unanimously approved as one of our major areas of concern. We are currently developing

support materials to include brochures and project guides to be disseminated to communities through our volunteer network of Legion members. In addition, we are in the process of developing a plan for community action in combating the problem of Juvenile Delinquency.

Immunization: Immunization levels of preschool children have been steadily declining during the past few years. According to a national study released in 1992, the United States ranks behind 16 other nations in the proportion of infants immunized against polio. When the proportion of U.S. nonwhite infants adequately immunized is compared to other nations, the United States ranks 70th in the world.

Key reasons for the U.S. immunization decline have included skyrocketing vaccine costs, rising child and family poverty rates, inadequate access to health care, and under-funding of public health programs.

Any long-term plan to correct the current situation should address—Service Delivery (assure vaccines are available); Information and Education (increase awareness and demand); and Assessment (measurement of program performance).

In the Spring of 1992, the Commission on Children & Youth of The American Legion adopted Immunization as one of their current major areas of concern. With the assistance of the Centers for Disease Control and the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Commission developed the brochure, "Don't Hesitate . . . Vaccinate!" In addition, a project guide, completed in 1994, provides a suggested plan of action for all our members.

But The American Legion's immunization efforts began in 1944, when we urged our local Posts and Units to recruit the services of their members in the interest of early treatment of childhood diseases. In 1955, The American Legion joined with others in support of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis to the end that a tremendous breakthrough was accomplished with the development of the Salk vaccine. Our current position on Immunization was established in 1963, when a formal Resolution was adopted by our National Executive Committee during the National Convention. This position has been continually reaffirmed throughout the years.

The American Legion continues to play a major role in assisting public health departments in effectively getting the message out. In addition, through their leadership the Legion family is helping to build local support for the resources needed to enhance the immunization services in their respective communities. Nationally, The American Legion continues to coordinate their efforts with the Centers for Disease Control and to network with other youth-serving organizations. We have volunteered to open up our 16,000 local Posts to serve as vaccination centers to insure that every American child is properly vaccinated by age two. The American Legion recognizes that children are our greatest natural resource and as such, should therefore be afforded every opportunity to receive the necessary treatment and immunization to protect themselves against all vaccine-preventable diseases.

Continuing Programs

Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA): This is the landmark program of the Commission on Children & Youth. Begun in 1925 as a form of direct aid, the Temporary Financial Assistance program is still unique in the social work field today and remains a very active program. The past few years have seen a steady increase in the amounts of assistance required for needy veteran families. In 1993, the program aided 2,182 children with nearly $400,000 in grants. From its beginning to present, this fund has assisted veterans' families with millions of dollars in non-repayable grants.

The fund is used to assist families in meeting the costs of shelter, food, utilities and health expense items when the parents are unable to do so; thereby helping to keep the child, or children, in a more stable home environment.

Through TFA, a Post may call upon the Americanism and Children & Youth Division of The American Legion for cash assistance to help meet the basic needs of veterans' children. Funds can be granted over a temporary period to eligible children when it has been determined by investigation that the child is in need and that no other sources are available, or those that are available are inadequate. It is important to note, while the veteran must have served honorably on active duty during a designated war period, the veteran does not have to be a member of The American Legion to receive assistance.

As sure as The American Legion is the largest veterans' organization in the world, there are veterans' families who require help. Possibly the rent is overdue or the children are hungry because the father is sick or disabled, deceased, or has deserted the family. Whatever the reason, these children become the concern of The American Legion; and the Temporary Financial Assistance Program is the vital tool

which is used to help meet the maintenance and health needs of veterans' children, thereby allowing the child to develop in the home.

Family Support Network Financial Assistance Program: When American troops were called to Desert Shield, The American Legion responded immediately to their families' needs. Over 30,000 calls poured into the Family Support Network, and local Legionnaires made home and car repairs, helped with yard work, and hosted or formed support groups. The Legion also provided financial assistance, often within 48 hours of a request, to families in need or waiting for military pay. Since its beginning the Family Support Network has given more than $500,000 to aid Persian Gulf veterans.

The Family Support Network (FSN) of The American Legion is a national grassroots program, the centerpiece of which is a toll-free telephone number that provides an emergency action line for military families, if assistance is needed.

Using state-of-the-art technology, the confidential requests are categorized, prioritized and referred to local Posts and Units for appropriate action by volunteers.

The Financial Assistance Program is an outgrowth of the Family Support Network, focusing on the needs of Persian Gulf veterans. It is administered by the Americanism and Children & Youth Division. Its purpose is to "assist with meeting the social, health and welfare, and economic needs of returned service personnel from the Persian Gulf War and their families." In 1993 alone, the FSN provided almost $100,000 in direct financial assistance to Persian Gulf veterans and their families.

Through this program, a Post of The American Legion can call upon the Family Support Network to lend a hand in providing cash assistance to help meet the basic needs of Persian Gulf veterans when it has been established there are no other resources available to adequately provide the required assistance.

Direct grants are made available to families to sustain housing, utilities, clothing and nourishment requirements until the family has regained the ability to provide for themselves. In addition, the fund provides medical assistance to family members, where medical procedures are necessary for the health and welfare of the individual and the expense is not fully covered by current medical insurance.

Through this program, thousands of Legion and Auxiliary volunteers have become "good neighbors" offering a wide range of assistance to Desert Storm military families of regular active duty personnel and those who had been activated in the National Guard and Reserves.

Halloween: The "Make Halloween a Safe and Fun Night" program is now entering its 22nd year of National emphasis. In 1972, the Commission on Children & Youth realized Halloween was no longer the carefree, happy occasion it had once been for our nation's young people. Nationwide attention was focused on our children being maimed and drugged by "treats" they had gathered from neighbors on Halloween. In response, the Commission established a community-oriented program on Halloween Safety.

There are many activities that can be planned at the community level to reduce the risks of children being harmed during this time of the year. A haunted house maze, carnival activities, costume parades with prizes awarded for the most imaginative and safest costume, or a party for older youngsters with a Halloween theme.

The Commission on Children & Youth of The American Legion publishes a brochure that provides safety tips to aid children and parents in keeping this a fun and festive occasion. These brochures are available through our state organizations and all are encouraged to use them to help protect the well-being of our children.

In 1992, the Commission added a project guide. This guide, produced again in 1993, provides suggestions to local Posts on how to prepare for a safe Halloween. In addition, there are sample press releases, mayoral proclamations, and radio and TV spot announcements. All are designed to be used in conjunction with the brochure to help ensure that all children "Make Halloween a Safe and Fun Night."

Regional Children & Youth Award Program (V.I.S.I.O.N.): This is a recognition program for our Legion Posts and Auxiliary Units. Each year, we encourage our Posts and Units to submit a project they have conducted during the past year that has benefited the youth of their community. As an incentive, beautiful plaques and lapel pins dated for the program year are presented to the winners and awarded in the presence of their peers at their National Leadership Workshop held each fall.

Whether it is a Certificate of Participation, a Certificate of Excellence, or a plaque and lapel pin, all Posts are winners. But the true winners with such a program such as this are the children and youth of the various communities throughout the country. They are the ones that ultimately benefit from these efforts.

Child Safety: The American Legion has demonstrated a strong concern for the safety of this nation's young people since the early 1920's. Until recently, child safe-

ty had been one of our major areas of concern, continuing on a yearly basis. In 1992, the Commission on Children & Youth, in a unanimous decision, voted to designate the Child Safety program as one of our Annual, or Continuing Programs. In the Spring of 1994, the Commission placed Teenage Suicide Prevention and Substance Abuse Prevention under Child Safety as a Continuing Program.

Child Safety is defined as any external event which may present a significant danger to a child or young person. It includes, but is not limited to:

1. Child Abuse and Neglect.
2. Sexual Abuse.
3. Indoor/Outdoor Safety.
4. School Safety.
5. Playground Safety.
6. Missing and Abducted Children.
7. Accidents (automobile, drownings, firearms).
8. Fire Safety.
9. Substance Abuse Prevention.
10. Teenage Suicide Prevention.

According to national estimates, the number of children who disappear each year ranges from one million to as many as two million. Many of these children are considered runaways, but of the approximately 150,000 children who are abducted each year, 50,000 are taken by strangers and 100,000 are taken by non-custodial parents of divorces or separations. This is a problem that not only threatens the family way of life, but the very existence of children that most often are too young to help themselves.

To combat this growing problem, The American Legion, in a nationwide program, is emphasizing a program of public information and precautionary steps for parents to take to avoid the tragedy of missing children. By utilizing resources and volunteers at the local, state and national levels, we have been getting the word out.

Accidents are the leading cause of death and disability among our nation's youth. Annually, nearly 25,000 children under the age of 19 will die in automobile crashes, drownings, fires, and through the improper use of firearms. Even in somewhat environmentally controlled homes, playgrounds and parks, the potential for serious injury is always present.

Our Legion volunteers regularly disseminate information to parents, children and community leaders regarding the issue of safety. Making children safety conscious, in the home and outside, is necessary to assure our children have an opportunity to play and grow into useful adults and citizens.

Alcohol, Marijuana and Cocaine are considered "gateway drugs" for thousands of young people throughout the United States. The great tragedy of substance abuse, which continues to infest all levels of our society, is its prevalence in elementary school age children. Most come in contact with drugs by age seven.

Prevention education is part of the answer, but it must begin early. Children, of all ages, need to be taught drug awareness, and the physical and mental dangers involved with the use of all substances, to include the legal drugs of alcohol and tobacco. The American Legion considers a child's future to be very important. Our brochure "Gateway Drugs" is designed to let young people stop and think about what they may be doing to themselves, and how what they do can affect others. The key to their future is responsible decision making. Many of our Nation's youth are assisting with this problem by forming drug awareness clubs in schools. This generates positive peer pressure and shows our young people they can have just as much fun by staying sober. As concerned citizens, we must never give up in our battle against drugs. We must strive to increase awareness, and show our children that we care about both them and their future.

According to statistics, the suicide rate for persons under the age of 21 has tripled since 1960. Every hour, at least one American teenager or young adult has committed suicide and as many as 40 others have made the attempt.

Research findings from around the country indicate that eight out of ten people who kill themselves give some warning of their intentions. Because of this, it is imperative for any adult who has daily contact with young people to acquaint themselves with the warning signs of suicide if we are to decrease the numbers in this tragic area. The American Legion volunteers continue their work to educate parents, schools and communities on this epidemic killer of our nation's young people. We, as parents and concerned citizens, cannot afford to let one of our greatest national resources go to waste.

Through the combined effort of our volunteers, and the education of our fellow citizens, we are helping to provide for the security, health and welfare vital for all our children to grow up safely.

National Leadership Workshops

Our Commission on Children & Youth has been very encouraged by the attendance of our volunteers. At the 1993 set of conferences, we again saw an increase of attendees for both Legion and Auxiliary members. At these workshops, we share our programs and methods of implementation with the Posts and Units. In 1993, our workshops were:

Region 1—Portland, Maine—September 17–19.
Region 2—Hampton, Virginia—October 1–3.
Region 3—Mobile, Alabama—October 1–3.
Region 4—Little Rock, Arkansas—October 8–10.
Region 5—Indianapolis, Indiana—October 29–31.
Region 6—Fargo, North Dakota—September 17–19.
Region 7—Las Vegas, Nevada—October 29–31.
Region 8—Spokane, Washington—October 8–10.

We move our Leadership Workshops each year, from city to city within each Region. This gives Posts in each area the opportunity to send representatives at a very minimal cost. Our major goal is to help children, and our presence at these outreach workshops is really having a positive impact on our annual program.

Legislative Efforts

The initiation and support of worthwhile Children & Youth legislation is one of the means by which the Commission on Children & Youth has attempted to accomplish its goal during the 1993–1994 program year. At our National Convention in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, September 5–9, 1993, the following mandate was introduced for our attention during this Congress:

Amend PL 97–359 to Provide Benefits for Amerasian Children in the Philippines: Res. 99. The American Legion is aware of the problems that beset children in the Philippines of Amerasian descent, the great majority of whom are in need of parental care and support. Similarly situated children, born in other Asian countries—Korea, Thailand, Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia—have been given certain rights and assistance under federal legislation, U.S. Public Law No. 97–359, enacted in 1982.

The American Legion urges the U.S. Congress to enact, and asks the President to support, amendatory legislation that will correct a grave injustice to Amerasian children born in the Philippines by eliminating the discriminatory provision against them in Public Law No. 97–359, and recognizing their existence and entitlement to the same rights, privileges, and benefits as the Amerasian children in other Asian countries, including the right to make a clear choice as to domicile.

These are the highlights of our 1993 Children & Youth legislative program. The American Legion's Commission on Children & Youth has constantly urged its Departments to support Children & Youth legislation as it relates to our National objectives. Local Posts are also encouraged to support city ordinances as they deal with the community's efforts to improve conditions for children and youth. Our Children & Youth legislation program is a never-ending process, which we eagerly accept for the sake of all children—everywhere.

Children & Youth Expenditures

Annually, as it has for the past 69 years, the National Commission on Children & Youth records activities from nearly 16,000 Posts of The American Legion; 12,000 Units of the American Legion Auxiliary; and hundreds of Salons of the Eight and Forty. In addition, the expenditures of Departments and of the National Organization are obtained for the 12 month period of June 1 through May 31, and combined with these reports.

This year, Posts and Departments of the Legion reported expenditures of $22,863,602.00. To this amount, we proudly add $5,138,220.00 by the Auxiliary. An additional $392,326.00 was given to families in need through our Temporary Financial Assistance program. To this we add other contributions to the Child Welfare Foundation in the amount of $150,849.00. This amounts to a grand total of expenditures and contributions to the total Children & Youth program in 1993–94 of $28,544,997.00.

Children & Youth Literature

During the 1993–94 program year, tens of thousands of pieces of Children & Youth literature were distributed by the Americanism and Children & Youth Division as it attempted to further the objectives of our total program.

As shown in Table #5, our most popular brochures are related to our major points of emphasis—Substance Abuse Prevention, Teenage Suicide Prevention, Missing Children, Child Safety, and Immunization. It is of further interest to note that some 6,489 citations were distributed to Departments in order to recognize Posts for their contributions to the overall Children & Youth Program.

Appreciation Acknowledged

The Commission on Children & Youth and its Chairman must take this opportunity to thank the volunteers of the Legion and the Auxiliary. Many hours, tremendous amounts of energy and personal sacrifice cannot be repaid. We are indeed thankful that the spirit of volunteerism is alive and well in The American Legion. Special mention must also go to our National Commander Bruce Thiesen; not because of his rank, but because of his sincere dedication and verbal support for our program during this past year. Likewise special thanks to National Adjutant Robert Spanogle for his support and cooperation. The American Legion does an excellent job with this program, but the record must be clear. Without the assistance of the American Legion Auxiliary, the Eight and Forty, and the Sons of The American Legion, our National Children & Youth Program would have little chance for success.

COMMISSION ON CHILDREN & YOUTH

Executive Section

Eugene V. Lindquist, Clarissa, Minnesota—Chairman
Elmer Fuhrhop, Hamler, Ohio—Vice-Chairman
Margaret M. Malone, Trenton, New Jersey—National Commander's Representative
W. Darrell Hansel, Vevay, Indiana—Consultant
Walter F. Baker, Seneca Falls, New York—Consultant
James P. Holley, Center, Texas
Cletus A. Lehne, East Moline, Illinois
Talmage C. Carawan, Rockville, Maryland
Herbert J. Petit, Kenner, Louisiana

TABLE NO. 1

State and Department	Reporting Legion	Reporting Auxiliary	Temporary or Financial Assistance by National	Contributions To Child Welfare Foundation By Posts & Units	Direct Aid From Posts, Units And Departments	Contributions To Other Child Serving Agencies By Legion And Auxiliary	Other Expenditures For Children By Legion And Auxiliary	Department Administrative Expenses By Legion And Auxiliary	Total Aid For Children From 5/40	Total Number of Children Served Nationally	Total Aid Legion And Auxiliary Lines 4 thru 10
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
REG. 1											
CT	645	1000	$252	$8,500	$51,200	$64,200	$43,726	$400	$1,681	35,225	$170,129
ME	1000	0%	1,171	372	10,681	81,349	32,616	-	311	2,749	125,750
MA	77%	73%	500	2,174	87,017	151,400	135,152	-	9,349	28,527	385,731
NH	77%	100%	5,805	1,000	99,110	125,548	157,548	-	639	35,431	390,580
RI	57%	57%	4,112	5	37,632	119,006	6,366	13,187	92	6,997	182,400
VT	100%	85%	200	765	115,483	139,574	99,631	95,339	438	10,575	451,804
TOTAL	79%	75%	14,239	13,315	400,623	681,699	487,881	108,126	12,432	125,176	1,706,494
REG. 2											
DE	100%	100%	200	640	25,101	70,951	34,488	500	(2)	5,761	122,072
DC	15%	100%	935	45	1,722	1,416	1,500	300	265	438	5,893
MD	65%	88%	2,117	2,117	204,709	679,101	224,111	305	1,978	34,477	1,204,604
NJ	85%	100%	10,301	3,251	123,858	122,484	89,983	450	3,468	12,692	353,688
NY	78%	98%	6,738	6,884	651,306	1,538,697	148,186	623,471	17,117	109,485	2,993,771
PA	78%	79%	2,488	744	761,767	510,463	108,913	435,389	6,876	55,688	1,826,472
VA	100%	100%	4,884	2,438	264,755	329,817	14,975	271,132	2,536	36,478	886,519
WV	77%	1%	2,502	250	88,153	109,527	-	168,993	-	7,880	382,167
TOTAL	79%	79%	30,888	15,729	2,264,845	3,364,159	632,168	1,607,648	32,252	264,729	7,878,852
REG. 3											
AL	42%	32%	34,892	3,500	68,485	108,454	73,643	150	550	10,665	301,832
FL	100%	88%	4,348	24,423	244,309	295,224	336,713	850	7,598	113,832	1,140,745
GA	84%	42%	573	4,300	279,500	325,500	172,502	300	(2)	27,132	784,702
KY	69%	65%	4,585	2,300	197,866	240,504	98,621	-	108	23,476	644,555
MS	26%	26%	1,651	500	54,952	115,488	19,488	48,594	(2)	13,488	242,776
NC	23%	9%	0	340	98,184	84,244	1,455	102,892	(2)	2,988	289,299
TN	32%	39%	6,166	870	142,977	111,733	1,368	21,368	-	10,859	294,438
TOTAL	39%	34%	52,824	36,288	1,389,772	1,284,148	704,892	173,494	8,588	202,732	3,697,327
REG. 4											
AR	28%	28%	1,218	881	24,759	38,598	38,877	150	597	68,784	116,752
LA	37%	97%	300	3,298	63,488	37,894	35,288	22,506	4,488	7,774	192,621
MS	39%	17%	6,529	1,710	32,856	140,555	34,594	3,657	327	82,164	173,788
OK	39%	100%	24,703	724	67,524	175,324	8,779	20,332	1,139	31,792	348,917
TX	39%	84%	1,400	5,741	288,388	691,136	1,487	138,598	5,305	33,753	1,124,875
TOTAL	39%	93%	34,450	12,854	548,192	1,086,409	118,827	185,883	12,388	244,267	1,956,888
REG. 5											
IL	45%	71%	39,300	18,288	268,788	422,580	259,464	38,389	25,194	186,115	1,448,838
IN	61%	73%	16,574	7,959	220,888	225,198	177,819	25	3,843	79,882	764,824
MI	64%	89%	1,561	4,250	248,958	284,525	178,836	570	5,257	54,277	643,280
MO	49%	35%	4,195	3,000	242,484	441,431	108,642	-	4,344	34,562	719,819
OH	78%	57%	3,888	1,899	245,302	832,195	98,579	357,015	13,888	142,837	1,633,442
WI	88%	57%	3,662	2,251	188,630	163,168	39,688	132,364	(2)	88,348	452,327
TOTAL	59%	73%	69,838	36,151	1,215,888	2,477,722	874,529	528,833	52,848	617,381	5,778,483
REG. 6											
IA	39%	9%	1,413	888	119,865	415,147	132,474	2,888	(2)	58,575	672,587
KS	88%	37%	2,038	7,307	77,173	116,574	113,882	10,288	9,437	18,973	336,984
MN	88%	88%	61,888	3,479	648,325	1,113,382	792,139	9,139	25	266,193	2,627,788
NE	88%	88%	488	2,851	45,857	145,856	98,863	4,888	3,588	32,886	388,115
ND	37%	28%	388	888	144,434	254,588	28,884	142,799	(2)	19,198	661,694
SD	33%	28%	9,922	388	28,886	59,886	28,888	18,319	1,978	22,733	142,841
TOTAL	62%	38%	76,888	15,888	1,084,588	2,284,773	1,488,888	387,388	14,888	417,381	4,788,788
REG. 7											
AZ	88%	88%	38,514	888	138,438	188,186	144,882	4,376	18,882	48,794	431,438
CO	87%	88%	2,388	8,888	388,752	311,843	261,488	2,588	14,388	98,388	1,888,892
ID	88%	88%	4,883	388	71,138	188,887	97,288	16,138	883	34,588	388,148
MT	88%	88%	-	78	3,888	15,436	38,888	488	1,887	377	58,813
NV	88%	88%	-	288	8,388	14,538	3,178	488	148	3,438	31,792
OR	81%	33%	27,888	388	48,388	34,288	24,644	34,973	1,838	3,872	172,388
UT	81%	88%	1,311	1,287	48,387	23,515	-	28,887	1,334	13,827	168,781
TOTAL	88%	88%	68,714	12,388	878,788	788,888	574,888	88,888	38,888	288,888	2,387,888
REG. 8											
AK	88%	88%	-	448	57,888	74,885	43,876	9,845	4,387	2,672	188,873
HI	37%	88%	2,388	488	17,882	8,478	11,888	-	91	1,832	48,863
OR	88%	88%	14,738	488	22,887	31,218	48,888	28,731	1,384	16,821	144,865
WA	88%	88%	5,728	388	122,878	187,888	18,888	28,435	11,888	15,888	387,864
WY	88%	88%	15,438	2,881	38,388	78,538	17,888	37,948	7,888	17,884	218,888
TOTAL	88%	88%	38,888	4,888	258,888	388,771	148,788	148,382	28,888	64,888	988,888
REG. TOTALS	88%	74%	$288,888	$188,387	$7,878,788	$12,878,121	$4,778,788	$2,848,888	$188,881	$1,888,748	$28,388,327
FOREIGN											
Canada	28%	8%	-	78	-	1,878	-	-	-	-	1,145
France	38%	8%	-	-	13,735	16,378	-	18,548	-	4,388	48,982
Mexico	8%	8%	-	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	14
Philippines	8%	8%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Italy	8%	8%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Costa Rica	8%	8%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Panama	8%	8%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerto Rico	77%	8%	8,838	-	2,588	3,838	1,388	2,388	-	388	28,888
Total-Foreign	38%	8%	8,888	88	17,238	28,388	1,388	22,888	-	4,878	88,721
SUBTOTAL	88%	74%	$288,388	$188,478	$7,887,848	$12,888,888	$4,788,888	$2,878,888	$188,881	$1,888,288	$28,388,848

(2) Not organized in the Department

Contributed to Child Welfare Foundation by National Auxiliary	11,354
Children & Youth Division by National Auxiliary	28,888
Child Welfare Foundation by National Eight and Forty	1,388
Children & Youth Division by National Eight and Forty	1,888
Other children programs by National Eight and Forty	1,388
Child Welfare Foundation by Individuals	28,221
Bequests to Child Welfare Foundation	23,888
C.W.F. by Dept. of The American Legion	38,363
Child Welfare Foundation by National Legion	1,881
GRAND TOTAL	$28,544,997

TABLE #1 REPORTING PERIOD: JUNE 1, 1993 -- MAY 31, 1994

TABLE NO. 2
EXPENDITURES FROM NATIONAL TEMPORARY FINANCIAL AID FUNDS TO DEPARTMENTS ACCORDING TO YEARS

	1926-35	1936-45	1946-55	1956-65	1966-75	1976-90	1990-93	Last 7 mos. 1993	First 5 mos. 1994	Grand Total
Alabama	$ 15,281.65	$ 13,899.68	$ 27,466.26	$ 23,700.80	$ 19,672.79	$ 76,536.49	$26,885.40	$22,790.60	$11,961.86	$ 238,135.53
Alaska	—	—	627.56	1,000.00	950.00	1,200.00	—	—	—	3,777.56
Arizona	17,587.40	8,474.30	5,094.00	3,658.80	250.00	70,600.25	38,776.36	22,478.33	8,035.40	174,962.84
Arkansas	9,845.20	24,028.80	20,999.22	4,963.00	100.00	11,731.26	27,359.79	532.14	685.76	100,264.37
California	25,358.18	4,547.97	13,231.40	2,295.85	800.00	1,480.00	2,759.00	880.00	1,400.00	53,341.40
Colorado	26,956.23	14,664.88	17,360.78	5,257.33	770.80	3,875.25	475.10	863.00	3,160.48	73,383.85
Connecticut	160.00	1,694.00	350.00	90.00	—	450.00	380.00	252.00	—	3,296.00
Delaware	1,025.00	1,010.00	825.00	175.00	150.00	6,723.00	13,002.87	900.00	—	23,410.87
D. of C.	1,790.00	700.00	983.50	220.00	—	600.00	—	935.00	—	5,308.50
Florida	16,607.28	16,734.00	24,207.50	1,313.00	—	4,266.00	6,521.44	4,348.21	—	73,997.43
Georgia	14,839.50	59,054.57	51,448.42	34,596.00	4,015.00	3,900.00	2,311.90	472.61	400.00	167,038.00
Hawaii	450.00	420.00	—	—	—	900.00	—	—	—	1,770.00
Idaho	3,641.00	3,952.50	2,721.00	3,050.85	4,071.97	8,716.71	6,207.74	883.77	1,485.41	34,650.95
Illinois	11,943.25	18,277.54	5,311.53	1,332.00	1,078.11	14,872.75	7,859.81	30,043.45	9,336.44	99,754.88
Indiana	24,986.68	6,944.00	4,213.40	4,853.00	100.00	29,894.52	39,594.00	12,739.90	5,634.00	128,170.90
Iowa	15,833.58	1,409.50	407.00	390.00	773.45	3,805.00	3,194.82	913.00	300.00	27,106.35
Kansas	9,553.50	11,214.30	31,566.87	10,498.48	4,273.00	8,354.64	1,350.00	1,837.50	600.00	79,245.69
Kentucky	13,922.00	9,921.50	15,488.90	30,039.00	28,540.66	68,104.30	4,304.06	4,084.60	500.00	174,905.02
Louisiana	12,554.00	10,846.50	24,376.30	14,078.00	1,208.00	3,837.00	2,933.20	—	500.00	70,333.00
Maine	2,564.94	1,054.00	989.90	1,008.36	—	4,336.55	2,300.00	1,351.00	1,820.00	17,336.75
Maryland	3,062.00	2,025.00	2,430.57	960.00	358.00	4,445.00	1,280.00	—	—	15,480.57
Massachusetts	2,064.50	690.00	455.00	—	—	1,300.00	500.00	500.00	—	5,509.50
Michigan	12,709.40	11,185.85	20,653.85	12,627.39	9,719.46	7,016.60	6,345.81	1,341.00	300.00	81,899.44
Minnesota	6,516.00	2,094.77	14,908.19	8,414.60	2,327.23	14,435.00	21,041.47	36,527.27	24,563.11	130,827.61
Mississippi	16,309.00	23,784.63	30,843.14	32,411.00	37,582.00	99,937.96	13,184.46	5,196.63	1,422.26	260,783.28
Missouri	10,047.00	35,026.00	33,824.64	13,975.00	7,231.76	6,750.00	4,566.70	4,194.11	—	125,615.99
Montana	5,099.25	315.00	744.50	924.35	365.00	4,046.80	12,271.00	7,925.00	6,810.00	38,500.90
Nebraska	14,091.20	4,378.90	7,479.25	10,316.63	14,111.06	6,196.00	2,796.40	400.00	—	59,769.24
Nevada	390.00	195.00	566.00	200.00	1,978.00	5,894.00	—	—	—	9,223.00
New Hampshire	2,562.00	1,688.30	4,791.30	150.00	—	7,472.05	25,248.32	3,495.00	2,200.00	47,607.37
New Jersey	7,163.68	1,831.85	1,701.80	245.00	600.00	7,822.73	19,832.45	5,593.80	4,600.00	49,390.31
New Mexico	11,473.72	8,680.58	25,665.74	27,433.00	19,145.08	56,834.99	30,996.64	21,703.25	5,965.80	207,815.81
New York	4,547.97	3,339.57	3,411.00	1,392.00	300.00	2,450.00	6,810.62	3,524.70	3,225.00	29,000.86
North Carolina	12,230.50	34,367.00	52,708.00	28,311.60	3,705.00	11,601.00	2,806.00	1,102.00	2,350.11	149,261.21
North Dakota	13,304.37	12,813.00	8,130.21	3,600.00	2,083.01	7,307.71	1,500.00	—	300.00	49,276.30
Ohio	16,220.00	7,710.63	3,340.30	1,755.75	1,490.00	13,625.54	2,650.00	1,364.00	1,142.00	49,498.22
Oklahoma	24,955.01	15,583.00	26,110.77	39,287.70	46,335.00	81,298.91	26,564.74	19,471.00	7,313.93	297,300.90
Oregon	855.00	395.50	6,190.65	7,599.50	3,170.00	26,120.95	14,258.60	4,006.00	1,720.00	64,292.20
Panama	105.00	570.00	234.00	300.00	—	600.00	—	—	—	1,809.00
Pennsylvania	19,239.41	3,608.00	434.00	217.00	435.00	39,113.28	7,079.94	1,900.00	300.00	72,326.63
Puerto Rico	5,671.80	11,306.00	27,210.00	30,544.00	49,304.50	17,455.00	13,910.00	5,650.00	3,000.00	164,130.30
Rhode Island	1,277.00	285.00	1,641.00	—	760.00	650.00	10,153.89	3,291.49	871.00	18,879.38
South Carolina	20,589.20	38,863.85	16,700.54	8,912.80	2,936.07	2,682.93	—	—	—	109,765.39
South Dakota	19,535.09	22,874.38	13,485.05	2,957.00	—	1,535.54	530.00	4,737.50	5,024.07	70,619.43
Tennessee	12,311.52	18,933.25	29,483.20	25,210.00	5,604.50	37,042.85	14,115.74	3,900.00	2,366.49	148,687.55
Texas	11,239.50	24,134.00	31,879.35	15,513.08	12,856.00	18,428.50	1,664.74	400.00	—	116,115.17
Utah	3,435.00	7,690.48	3,948.00	—	—	5,689.50	1,681.00	911.12	400.00	23,914.90
Vermont	1,599.50	365.00	9,026.50	225.00	—	1,000.00	2,525.00	500.00	—	15,101.00
Virginia	19,219.86	26,890.45	26,449.78	1,588.00	9,768.00	13,886.23	11,346.00	2,634.00	1,450.00	112,432.32
Washington	3,033.00	345.00	427.50	—	—	1,985.00	13,758.54	7,048.83	7,589.41	34,987.28
West Virginia	20,276.98	7,353.00	5,801.00	5,994.94	650.00	3,610.00	3,669.73	3,350.00	2,541.73	52,697.38
Wisconsin	9,561.68	6,328.30	2,542.00	5,525.25	2,116.00	10,999.17	4,569.45	2,900.00	561.68	45,095.53
Wyoming	6,885.00	1,295.00	793.00	1,200.00	—	1,750.00	579.00	—	—	12,502.00
Other Departments	200.00	360.00	173.50	—	—	—	—	—	—	733.50
Total	$380,877.34[1]	$541,695.61	$658,906.47	$431,030.26	$302,481.57	$846,644.16	$474,023.93[2]	$260,192.48	$132,133.03	$4,226,984.85

[1]Includes $19,499.21 for the year 1926 — Department totals not available.
[2]Includes 1st 5 months of 1993.

TABLE NO. 3

COMPARISON OF NUMBER OF CHILDREN OF WW II, KOREAN, VIETNAM AND GRENADA/LEBANON AND PANAMA VETERANS RECEIVING AID FROM NATIONAL CHILDREN & YOUTH DIVISION

	No. WW II Children	No. Korean Children	No. Vietnam Children	No. Grenada/ Lebanon Children	No. Panama Children
6-1-93 to 5-31-94	17 (.81%)	80 (3.83%)	1814 (86.84%)	142 (6.80%)	36 (1.72%)
6-1-92 to 5-31-93	8 (.45%)	29 (1.63%)	1565 (87.97%)	121 (6.80%)	56 (3.15%)
6-1-91 to 5-31-92	36 (2.27%)	68 (4.28%)	1371 (86.33%)	75 (4.72%)	38 (2.40%)
6-1-90 to 5-31-91	17 (1.32%)	74 (5.75%)	1074 (83.45%)	47 (3.65%)	75 (5.83%)
6-1-89 to 5-31-90	7 (1.09%)	49 (7.62%)	587 (91.29%)		
6-1-88 to 5-31-89	16 (2.35%)	61 (8.94%)	605 (88.71%)		
6-1-87 to 5-31-88	41 (6.65%)	68 (10.97%)	510 (82.38%)		
6-1-86 to 5-31-87	28 (4.60%)	60 (9.85%)	521 (85.55%)		
6-1-85 to 5-31-86	29 (4.54%)	114 (17.84%)	496 (77.62%)		
6-1-84 to 5-31-85	57 (9.27%)	114 (18.53%)	444 (72.16%)		
6-1-83 to 5-31-84	56 (8.8%)	125 (19.60%)	457 (71.60%)		
6-1-82 to 5-31-83	40 (5.9%)	158 (23.30%)	480 (70.80%)		
6-1-81 to 5-31-82	51 (14.36%)	80 (22.54%)	224 (63.10%)		
6-1-80 to 5-31-81	65 (14.74%)	125 (28.34%)	251 (56.92%)		
6-1-79 to 5-31-80	94 (21.81%)	58 (13.46%)	279 (64.73%)		
6-1-78 to 5-31-79	111 (27.54%)	101 (25.06%)	191 (47.40%)		
6-1-77 to 5-31-78	198 (30.33%)	215 (32.92%)	240 (36.75%)		
6-1-76 to 5-31-77	216 (38.30%)	140 (24.82%)	208 (36.88%)		
6-1-75 to 5-31-76	177 (29.70%)	233 (39.09%)	186 (31.21%)		
6-1-74 to 5-31-75	189 (36.60%)	208 (39.62%)	218 (41.52%)		
6-1-73 to 5-31-74	248 (36.69%)	334 (49.41%)	94 (13.90%)		
6-1-72 to 5-31-73	204 (43.59%)	150 (32.05%)	114 (24.36%)		
6-1-71 to 5-31-72	360 (46.15%)	309 (39.62%)	110 (14.10%)		
6-1-69 to 5-31-70	749 (53.32%)	417 (39.00%)	82 (7.68%)		
6-1-68 to 5-31-69	706 (61.49%)	414 (33.99%)	51 (4.18%)		
6-1-67 to 5-31-68	875 (61.66%)	390 (34.06%)	46 (4.01%)		
6-1-66 to 5-31-67	1,024 (64.02%)	463 (33.86%)	25 (1.83%)		
6-1-65 to 5-31-66	1,147 (72.86%)	384 (27.06%)	11 (.08%)		
6-1-64 to 5-31-65	1,091 (82.11%)	209 (17.82%)			
6-1-63 to 5-31-64	1,099 (79.86%)	273 (19.99%)			
6-1-62 to 5-31-63	1,077 (78.73%)	296 (21.20%)			
6-1-61 to 5-31-62	1,329 (82.47%)	221 (16.92%)			
6-1-60 to 5-31-61	1,716 (83.99%)	251 (15.79%)			
6-1-59 to 5-31-60	2,536 (84.99%)	288 (14.27%)			
6-1-58 to 5-31-59	1,589 (85.16%)	389 (13.06%)			
5-1-57 to 5-31-58	2,050 (86.78%)	195 (10.65%)			
6-1-56 to 5-31-57	1,713 (89.32%)	206 (8.98%)			
6-1-55 to 5-31-56	1,579 (90.06%)	142 (7.47%)			
6-1-54 to 5-31-55	2,098 (85.68%)	146 (7.92%)			
5-1-53 to 5-31-54	2,519 (84.32%)	140 (5.63%)			
5-1-52 to 5-31-53	2,050 (87.12%)	135 (4.66%)			
5-1-51 to 4-30-52	1,481 (94.36%)	39 (1.61%)			
5-1-50 to 4-30-51	1,506 (83.39%)	5 (.28%)			
7-1-49 to 4-30-50	1,584 (85.04%)				
7-1-48 to 6-30-49	1,796 (78.45%)				
7-1-47 to 6-30-48	1,218 (72.98%)				
7-1-46 to 6-30-47	785 (52.77%)				
Prior to 7-1-46	590 (43.83%)				

TABLE NO. 5

Printed Material Furnished Upon Request During Period June 1, 1993 through May 31, 1994

Annual Children & Youth Program Piece	28,365
Children Beware	85,432
April Is Children & Youth Month	26,400
American Legion Child Welfare Foundation	33,800
Department Children & Youth Chairman's Guide	122
Don't Hesitate — Vaccinate	74,601
Gateway Drugs	94,233
Make Halloween a Safe and Fun Night	99,244
National Resource Directory	1,221
Special Post Activity Award	9,467
TFA Applications	2,896
TFA Brochures	13,450
Warning Signs — Suicide Prevention	86,491
Safety Tips — Indoor	71,416
Safety Tips — Outdoor	60,190
Americanism/Children & Youth Catalog Brochure	5,819
Citations:	
Annual Children & Youth Citations	4,819
Certificate of Meritorious Service	169
National Achievement Award	85
Special Children & Youth Citations	1,296
Star Certificate of Excellence	36
Star Certificate of Participation	84
Reporting:	
Tally Sheet	986
Unit Report Form	5,472
We Want a Report from Your Unit or Salon	4,566
TOTAL	710,660

THE AMERICAN LEGION CHILD WELFARE FOUNDATION, INC.

U.S. "UDIE" GRANT, Kansas, *President*

TERRY L. WOODBURN, Illinois, *Executive Secretary*

The American Legion has been concerned about the welfare of children since it was founded. It has been a leader in youth activities around the country for both volunteer hours and financial contributions. In 1954 it allowed the separate incorporation of what is called The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation which has awarded just over four million dollars to nonprofit, youth oriented organizations. A grant may only be obtained for one of the following two purposes:

1. To contribute to the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual welfare of children and youth through the dissemination of knowledge about new and innovative organizations and/or their programs designed to benefit youth; and

2. to contribute to the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual welfare of children and youth through the dissemination of knowledge already possessed by well established organizations, to the end that such information can be more adequately used by society.

For the past 40 years the Foundation has received its primary support from the members of The American Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary, Eight and Forty, and Sons of The American Legion. It became an official part of The American Legion's Children and Youth Program in 1956 with the belief that it is better to prevent physical and social ills confronting our nation's youth than to try and correct the problem after it has occurred.

The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation, in its 40th year, has awarded $264,500.00 to 10 non-profit organizations. These grants were determined during the annual meeting of the Board of Directors, held at the Ramada Plaza in Indianapolis, on Sunday, May 1, 1994. These grants have been awarded to support worthwhile projects and disseminate information about them to the general public and specific target groups. The following is a brief summary of the grants awarded this year:

The Association of Birth Defect Children, of Orlando, Florida was awarded $36,900.00 for their project entitled "National Environmental Birth Defects Registry." The grant will be used to produce questionnaires, brochures and newsletters to determine any patterns of disability in the children of Vietnam veterans and other environmental exposures which will be reported to the National Academy of Sciences; the VA; the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee and to registry participants.

Big Brothers/Big Sisters of America in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania was awarded $16,000.00 for their project entitled "Tapping the Potential of College Students as Big Brothers and Big Sisters." The grant will produce recruitment materials and develop a planning guide to promote the development and expansion of college student volunteer programs by Big Brothers/Big Sisters agencies throughout the United States.

The Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America Inc. of New York was awarded $25,000.00 for their project entitled "Living With IBD." The grant will produce an educational book designed to help today's teenager better understand and cope with Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis and be distributed nationwide.

The Friends Network of Santa Barbara, California was awarded $12,000.00 for their project entitled "Funletters—For Kids With Cancer." This grant will produce Funletters, a therapeutic and upbeat resource distributed nationwide for children and teens fighting cancer.

Key Club International of Indianapolis, Indiana was awarded $55,500.00 for their project entitled "Respond to the Need, Education." This grant will supply 1,000 "Teen and Relationships" video kits to Key Clubs across the country and to those students who are in need of "training" in the area of relationship development and self-esteem.

The National Crime Prevention Council of Washington, District of Columbia was awarded $16,000.00 for their project entitled "How Communities Can Raise Youth Free From Violence." This grant will produce a booklet on ways in which youth-related violence can be prevented. This booklet will be distributed to criminal justice policy makers around the U.S., local elected and appointed leaders, and community leaders (through credible national and state organizations).

The National Hemophilia Foundation of New York was awarded $27,600.00 for their project entitled "My Parents Have HIV/AIDS: Some Advice From An Eight-

Year Old." This grant will produce a book which provides basic information about HIV/AIDS to children and disseminate copies of the publication through HANDI, NHF chapters, AIDS Clearinghouse, and pediatric AIDS foundations.

The National Marfan Foundation of Port Washington, New York was awarded $19,400.00 for their project entitled "Celebrating the Differences." This grant will produce a ten minute video that can be used in schools, support groups, and other venues to promote understanding, respect and acceptance between children and their peers who are perceived to be different.

The Sturge-Weber Foundation of Aurora, Colorado was awarded $17,100.00 for their project entitled "Face to Face With Sturge-Weber Phase II." This grant will produce an informative and supportive video to enhance the lives of children with Sturge-Weber Syndrome by educating those adults responsible for their care.

The Treacher Collins Foundation of Norwich, Vermont was awarded $39,000.00 for their project entitled "RARE Should Not Mean Alone." This grant will produce a 15–20 minute video about Treacher Collins Syndrome and distribute it to parents/children/families who contact the Treacher Collins Foundation; genetics departments of all U.S. Medical Schools; Craniofacial treatment centers throughout the U.S. and Canada; and other interested health care providers by request.

Since its first award in 1955, The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation has now given over four million dollars in grants to other not for profit organizations around the country.

During the meeting, the following officers were elected: U.S. (Udie) Grant of Kansas (President); Eugene V. Lindquist of Minnesota (Vice President); James P. Holley of Texas (Secretary); and W. Calvitt Bradwell of South Carolina (Treasurer). Administrative personnel that were re-appointed by the Board of Directors were Webber LaGrange (Assistant Treasurer) and Terry Woodburn (Executive Secretary). Under the 1969 Tax Reform Act, the Foundation retains its tax exempt status. Gifts, therefore, are deductible for federal income tax purposes to the extent permitted by law, and bequests to the Foundation are deductible for federal inheritance tax purposes to the extent permitted by the Federal Tax Act.

CONVENTION COMMISSION

JAMES J. CHARLESTON, Illinois, *Chairman*

ROBERT P. RADKE, Ohio, *Director*

The 75th Annual National Convention of The American Legion was held in Pittsburgh, PA, September 3–9, 1993. The Convention was highly successful and the attendees enjoyed the hospitality of the host city and the festivities of the Convention. Highlights were the National Contests, the Patriotic Memorial Service and the Convention Parade. On Labor Day afternoon, the Convention Festival was held at Station Square. Approximately 10,000 spectators enjoyed the festivities of the day including the Volunteers—the United States Army Field Band and musical legend—Lee Greenwood. Convention sessions were conducted by National Commander Roger A. Munson, Ohio, on September 7 through 9. Local Corporation officers, Committee Chairmen and members were commended by the Convention Commission for putting on a very fine Convention.

The following uniformed group units emerged as National Champions at the Pittsburgh Convention Contests:

Senior Band Contest—American Legion Band of the Tonawandas, Post 264, Tonawanda, NY.

Color Guard Contest (Military—Closed)—Speedway Post 500 Honor Guard, Speedway, IN.

Color Guard Contest (Military—Open)—Pure Heaven Color Guard Auxiliary Unit 37, Ames, IA.

Color Guard Contest (Open Class)—Conn-Weissenberger Glass City Guardsmen, Post 587, Toledo, OH.

Commission Meetings

The Convention Commission held three meetings during the past year. The first was held during the 75th Annual Convention at Pittsburgh on September 4, 1993. The second meeting was held at National Headquarters in Indianapolis, IN on October 18–19, 1993. Routine business was conducted at these meetings. The final meeting was held at National Headquarters on May 4–5, 1994. The following recommendations were made and later accepted and approved by the National Executive Committee:

1. Approval for the National Commander to sign the contract with the National Convention Corporation of Oregon for the 1995 Convention at Portland, OR;

2. That San Antonio, TX be withdrawn as the site of the 1996 Convention and be replaced by Salt Lake City, UT;

3. That Detroit, MI be withdrawn as the site of the 1997 Convention and be replaced by the city of Orlando, FL;

4. That the city of Anaheim, CA be given the tentative award for the 1999 Convention.

The Convention Commission considered the problem of holding Conventions in cities where outlying hotels must be used, resulting in shuttle service to transport attendees to and from hotels to Convention activity locations. It was generally decided that we must more often utilize cities which do not require shuttles, thereby, not subjecting attendees to the inconvenience of shuttling and also eliminating the high cost of the shuttle systems.

Future Conventions

1995—Portland, OR—September 1–7, 1995.
1996—Salt Lake City, UT—August 30–September 5, 1996 (T).
1997—Orlando, FL—August 29–September 4, 1997 (T).
1998—New Orleans, LA—September 4–10, 1998 (T).
1999—Anaheim, CA—September 3–9, 1999 (T).

76th National Convention—Minneapolis, MN

The 76th National Convention of The American Legion will be held September 2–8, 1994, in Minneapolis, MN. Plans are progressing on schedule for the Convention and the completion of the celebration of the 75th Anniversary of The American Legion. A large turnout of delegates and guests are expected to attend this Convention.

DISTINGUISHED GUEST COMMITTEE

JEFFREY L. OLSON, Minnesota, *Chairman*

The Distinguished Guest Committee operates under the umbrella of the Convention Commission and is directed to assume the responsibility of coordinating the activities of those persons invited to attend the National Convention as Distinguished Guests. The committee arranges transportation requirements upon arrival and departure at the Convention city and also provides such services to the various events which the guest wishes to attend. In the past few years, many of the functions of this committee have been programmed into a computer, helping to make the operation more efficient and successful. Proper credentials, agendas, itineraries and other necessary details are all part of this operation. The committee normally operates from the Legion's headquarters hotel. The facility is the nerve center for all the committee's operations and is also maintained as a convenience and central locator for all of the distinguished guests.

ECONOMIC COMMISSION

ALLEN L. TITUS, Indiana, *Chairman*

JAMES B. HUBBARD, Michigan, *Director*

This report covers the programs, activities and accomplishments of the National Economic Commission, its two standing committees (Employment and Veterans Preference), and the staff from July 1, 1993, through June 30, 1994. Since the commission and the committees always meet concurrently, all future reference to the commission in this report will automatically indicate the inclusion of the committees.

1993–1994 Meetings

During the period this report covers, the commission met for four regularly scheduled executive sessions. A list of those meetings follows:

(1) Members and guests of the National Economic Commission met on Saturday, September 4, 1993, in the Lawrence Convention Center in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in conjunction with the Seventy-fifth Annual National Convention. A report on that meeting was made to the National Executive Committee on Monday, Sept. 6, 1993. The complete text of that report appears in the Proceedings of the National Executive Committee's Pre- and Post-Convention Meetings.

(2) An executive session of the National Economic Commission was held in the Hilton Hotel in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 18–19, 1993. A complete report on that meeting appears in the Digest of Proceedings of the National Executive Committee, October 20–21, 1993.

(3) The National Economic Commission met in conjunction with the Thirty-fourth Annual Washington Conference on Monday, Feb. 14, and Wednesday, Feb. 16, 1994. Those sessions were held in the Sheraton Washington Hotel in Washington, DC. A report on the topics covered during those two sessions is contained in the commission's Advance Report to the NEC.

(4) Members of the commission met on May 2–3, 1994, in the Hilton Hotel in Indianapolis, Indiana. A complete report on that meeting appears in the Digest of Proceedings of the National Executive Committee, May 4–5, 1994.

Legislative Appearances

A very important part of the work of the National Economic Commission is the preparation and presentation of congressional testimony on issues affecting the economic well-being of America's veterans. During the period covered by this report, the commission testified on five separate occasions. A list of those hearings follows:

February 23, 1994; Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee; Homeless Veterans' Programs

March 17, 1994; House Appropriations Committee; Veterans' Employment and Training Service Budget

May 25, 1994; House Veterans' Affairs Committee, Subcommittee on Education, Training, and Employment; Transition Assistance Program (TAP) and Service Members' Occupational Conversion and Training Act (SMOCTA)

June 15, 1994; House Veterans' Affairs Committee, Subcommittee on Education, Training, and Employment; Reemployment Act of 1994

June 30, 1994; House Veterans' Affairs Committee, Subcommittee on Housing and Memorial Affairs; Department of Veterans' Affairs Home Loan Program

The economics staff prepared the commission's portion of the testimony that was presented in September 1993 by the National Commander at a joint session of the House and Senate Committees on Veterans' Affairs regarding The American Legion's goals and concerns, as well as the Legion's February 1994 appearance before the same committees concerning the administration's proposed FY 1995 budget for the VA and veterans' programs.

Administrative Activities

The commission's staff of three manage all of its activities and programs on a daily basis.

The staff's major responsibility is to promote employment and training opportunities for veterans at the national level. This is accomplished through the commission's ongoing work with Congress and the following federal agencies: the Department of Labor, Office of Personnel Management, Small Business Administration, and the Department of Veterans Affairs. The director and assistant director also represent The American Legion on the following boards and committees: Executive Committee of the President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities, and its Committee on Disabled Veterans; the Secretary of Labor's Committee on Veterans' Employment; the Veterans' Committee of the Interstate Conference of Employment Security Agencies; and the veterans' advisory committees of the Small Business Administration and the Office of Personnel Management. They also act as advisors to the Legion's Veterans Planning and Coordinating Committee.

Another staff responsibility is answering the large volume of mail that is received annually from veterans seeking information or assistance on issues which come under the commission's jurisdiction. While the staff can neither place individual veterans in jobs nor represent them in labor disputes, the staff does provide information, guidance and, when appropriate, referral. Besides correspondence from individuals, the staff also receives and answers frequent requests and inquiries from government agencies, members of Congress, congressional committees, private organizations, and other groups regarding veterans' economic issues.

One of the commission's major programs is its employer awards program, which is administered by the staff. Through this program The American Legion pays trib-

ute to those employers across the country who have established outstanding records in the employment and retention of veterans, workers with disabilities and older workers.

This year the commission added a whole new category of awards, to recognize outstanding veteran-dedicated Employment Service staff personnel and local offices.

Publications

As discussed elsewhere in this report, the commission does not place veterans in jobs, but rather, relies on a network of employment chairmen to assist individual veterans in finding employment.

In order to assist the employment chairmen to be as effective as possible, the staff provides them with pertinent information and guidance through the Legion's biweekly newspaper, The Dispatch. They also provide articles on a routine basis to The American Legion Magazine.

With the Commission on Children and Youth, the Economic Commission prepared a pamphlet on writing a résumé, directed mainly at first-time job seekers. This pamphlet was printed and distributed nationally during 1993.

Demand continues strong for the National Economic Commission's resource pamphlet for homeless veterans. Over 30,000 copies have been distributed to date.

Employer of the Year Awards

Each year since 1969, the Legion's National Economic Commission has sponsored an Employer of the Year Awards Program. This program seeks to honor those employers across the country that have established an outstanding record in the employment and retention of veterans. Nominations for these awards are submitted by Posts to their Departments for review. Each Department must then select what it feels is the most worthy nominee in the large employer category (those companies with more than 200 employees), one in the medium-size employer category (51–200 employees), and one in the small employer category (50 or fewer employees). These three nominations are then forwarded to the National Economic Commission prior to December 15 for final approval and the issuance of plaques. After the plaques are prepared, they are sent to the Departments for presentation.

Prior to this year's Washington Conference, the chairman of the National Economic Commission, Allen L. Titus (IN), appointed a five-person subcommittee to review all of the nominations that had been received during 1993 in the Employer of the Year Awards Program. The purpose of this subcommittee was to select a national winner and a runner-up in each of the employer categories. Those serving on the subcommittee were James A. McMahon (ME), Chairman; William E. Christoffersen (UT); Henry J. Field (SC); E. C. Toppin (NC), Leonard E. Shaw (IA), and Benedict A. Lee (NJ).

The members of the Employer of the Year Subcommittee met on February 14 and 15, 1994, to consider 41 employer nominations from 17 Departments. Of these nominations, 16 were for small, 11 were for medium, and 14 were for large employers. Six of these nominations (two large, one medium, and three small) were, for one reason or another, ineligible for the national awards.

Prior to the meeting, the staff liaison to the subcommittee mailed copies of all nominations and supporting data to each subcommittee member. After a thorough review of this material, the Employer of the Year Subcommittee selected the following winners:

Large Employer: Schneider National, Inc., Eastover, South Carolina.

Medium Size Employer: Morton International, Inc., Seabrook, New Hampshire.

Small Employer: American Classic Charter and Tours Inc., Selma, North Carolina.

The subcommittee also selected three runners-up in the event that one of the winners is unable to accept the award, or is disqualified because of any labor relations or OSHA violations that might be pending against them. The three runners-up are as follows:

Large Employer: Conrail, Altoona, Pennsylvania

Medium Size Employer: SEAIR Transport Services, Inc., Lakehurst, New Jersey.

Small Employer: Lithography by Turner, Inc., Deer Park, New York.

Officials of the three winning companies have agreed to come to the 76th Annual National Convention in Minneapolis to accept the national awards. Upon their arrival in the convention city, each company will receive a small stipend to help defray the travel costs of their representatives.

LVER and DVOP Awards

Beginning in 1993, three new awards have been presented, to the Local Veterans Employment Representative of the Year, the Disabled Veterans Outreach Program Specialist of the Year, and the Employment Service Office of the Year. These awards are given in cooperation with local Job Service offices across the country, to recognize truly outstanding veteran-dedicated staff members.

Department winners were selected and submitted to the national commission in the same manner as employer award winners. Entries were considered by the employer awards subcommittee on Feb. 14–15, 1994. Winners are to receive their plaques at their respective Department Conventions. National winners are the following:

LVER of the Year: Gary Bjorkquist, Escanaba, Michigan.
DVOP of the Year: Heywood Bell, El Centro, California.
ES Office of the Year: DuBois Jobs Center, DuBois, Pennsylvania.

EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE

JAMES A. MCMAHON, Maine, *Chairman*

JAMES B. HUBBARD, Michigan, *Director*

The mission of the committee is to promote employment and training opportunities for veterans. To accomplish this, the committee works at the national level with Congress and various federal agencies. The committee does not place veterans in jobs, but rather, relies on its network of employment chairmen to assist individual veterans in finding employment. These employment chairmen are appointed by their Posts and Departments. Occasionally, Departments also appoint them at the county and District levels.

Cooperative Job Training and Placement Project

The American Legion has undertaken a new job training and placement program with the Laborers' International Union of North America. In late March of 1993 American Legion and Laborers' Union officials interviewed 24 young men recruited from the Maryland Department of Economic and Employment Development and the District of Columbia National Guard. These people either had been out of the military for less than six months or were current members of the National Guard seeking full time employment. All who were interviewed were offered 80 hours of training in basic construction skills and employment following the training. This program is not a job training program, it is, in the words of National Commander Roger Munson, ″a job training and placement program.″

Seventeen of these people completed the training and are now working at construction sites in the Washington, DC, area. Top pay is $13.00 per hour. The lowest pay starts at $9.00 per hour.

The program operated in Washington was a pilot program. One more pilot was operated in the Philadelphia area later that summer. On June 30, 1993, the Veterans' Employment and Training Service awarded a grant worth over $166,000 to The American Legion to expand the program to Almond, Wisconsin, Des Moines, Iowa, and Lawrenceburg, Kentucky.

On June 30, 1994, the grant was extended for two years in the amount of $387,000. The project will be going to seven additional sites.

VETERANS PREFERENCE COMMITTEE

HENRY J. FIELD, South Carolina, *Chairman*

JAMES B. HUBBARD, MICHIGAN, DIRECTOR

This committee is charged with the responsibility of promoting veterans' employment opportunities in federal government and for ensuring that agencies continue to observe all veterans' preference laws.

Federal Veterans' Economic Programs

The following is a brief overview of the activities of those federal agencies, and their veterans' programs, with which the commission works regularly.

Department of Labor: Unemployment and underemployment among veterans and non-veterans has continued to decrease over the past year. However, there are still some major problems.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, veterans constitute 13–14% of the nation's labor force. However, over 26% of all dislocated workers are veterans. Many of these veterans lost their jobs because of automation, robotics or because the employer went out of business for one reason or another.

Unfortunately, it is generally very difficult for the dislocated worker to find new employment that is suitable. This is because most of these individuals do not have the financial resources necessary either to obtain job training or to relocate to an area where employment might be available. The problems of these men and women are further exacerbated by many employers' view of them as older workers.

The commission is also concerned about the employment of severely disabled veterans. According to data supplied by the Department of Labor's Assistant Secretary for Veterans' Employment and Training, over two-thirds of all veterans who are 60% or more compensably disabled have completely dropped out of the labor market. This has occurred because many employers in both the public and private sectors have refused to make the necessary accommodations for their employment.

Another major concern of the commission and the Department of Labor is homeless veterans. While there seems to be a vast disparity in the estimates of the number of homeless persons in this country, one thing the experts do agree on is that a large percentage are veterans. They also believe that many of the homeless veterans served during the Vietnam era. As mentioned earlier, the commission has prepared a pamphlet entitled A Resource Guide for the Homeless Veteran. This publication is intended to help homeless veterans locate resources and benefits that may be available to them because of their military service.

The American Legion will continue to work with the Department of Labor and other federal agencies that have the resources necessary to help homeless veterans to get off the streets and onto payrolls. In the weeks and months ahead, the commission will continue to work with the Labor Department to find solutions to these and other problems that affect veterans economically.

Department of the Treasury: The Economic Commission continues its active support of U.S. Savings Bonds, which have recently gained a new popularity because of an added education benefit. Savings bonds can be completely tax free when used for higher education tuition.

Because of federal budget cuts, the U.S. Treasury Department can no longer afford to send each Legion post promotional material on savings bonds. The Economic Commission, however, continues to provide Legionnaires with information on the value of these bonds through articles and public service advertisements in Legion publications.

Department of Veterans Affairs: The loan guaranty program operated by the Department of Veterans Affairs has guaranteed over 14.2 million loans to veterans since its inception in 1944. A high percentage of these loans were made with no down payment, enabling veterans and their families to attain home ownership without accumulating the financial resources required by conventional loans.

During the 1980s the program endured a difficult period. A severe recession in midwest-Great Lakes region impacting on the steel, automobile, glass, tire, and farming industries caused foreclosures of guaranteed loans to increase dramatically. This was followed by the recession in the energy belt (Louisiana, Texas, Oklahoma, Colorado), which also saw sharply higher foreclosures. VA paid more claims to lenders and acquired more properties, which led to higher costs. Consequently appropriations to support the program increased substantially.

Currently the program's status is much improved. Foreclosures have decreased every fiscal year since FY 1988. The 29,000 claims paid to lenders in FY 1993 was 44 percent below the 52,059 paid in FY 1988. In March of 1988 VA had title to 25,172 properties. By the end of FY 1993 the inventory of properties had decreased 55 percent to 11,283. Sharply lower interest rates have given veterans better opportunities to purchase homes and thousands of veterans are refinancing their existing GI loans at lower interest rates. In FY 1992 VA guaranteed 66,190 refinancing loans. This increased to 161,728 loans in FY 1993 and through June 1994 VA has guaranteed 228,125 refinancing loans. Lower monthly payments on these mortgage loans should contribute to reduced foreclosures in the future. Total loans guaranteed through June of 1994 amount to 406,201.

Office of Personnel Management: The federal government is the largest employer in the country as well as the largest employer of veterans. The responsibility for ensuring that veterans receive the preference they have been granted by law is vested in the Office of Personnel Management.

The following statistical summary appeared in OPM's annual report to Congress on veterans' employment in federal government. This summary covers veteran hiring and promotion activities for FY '93.

Veterans hired totaled 41,976;
18,714 of those were Vietnam era veterans;
7,424 were disabled; and
2,984 of those were 30% or more disabled.
Veterans promoted totaled 62,276;
disabled veterans promoted numbered 10,729; and
3,640 of those were 30% or more disabled.
14,008 Veterans Readjustment Appointments were made.
2,984 appointments of 30% or more disabled veterans were made;
1,670 of those were made through the special noncompetitive hiring authority.

Trends in veterans' employment in the federal service indicate an increase of Vietnam era veterans from 1983 to 1993, but a decline in veterans from other eras. This decline is due primarily to the retirements of older veterans (approximately 60 percent of all retirements over the last seven years were veterans). In spite of the overall decline in veterans in the federal work force, the 28.7 percent veterans' representation in the non-Postal federal service continues to be more than double the 14.5 percent in the civilian labor force. Veterans with 30 percent or more disability have increased since 1984 while those with less than 30 percent have declined.

The Veterans Preference Committee will continue to monitor these trends in the future. It will also continue to work with OPM to promote employment opportunities for veterans.

Postal Service: In its Disabled Veterans Affirmative Action Plan report for FY '92, the U.S. Postal Service reported that as of September 18, 1992, it had a total of 691,780 career employees. Of that number, 248,200 (35.9%) were veterans, 74,511 (10.8%) were disabled veterans, and 16,960 (2.5%) were 30% or more disabled.

The Veterans Preference Committee will continue to promote employment opportunities for veterans within the Postal Service.

During the past year the committee participated in two award ceremonies whose purpose was to recognize the efforts and accomplishments of the outstanding disabled employees of both the federal government and the Postal Service. On both occasions the committee presented each nominee with an American flag that had been flown over the Capitol.

Small Business Administration: During fiscal year 1993, about 42% of all of the Small Business Administration's direct loans were made to veterans. This translates into 260 loans for a total of $21.9 million. During the same period, 13% of the loans guaranteed by SBA were made to veterans, who received 3,874 loans totalling $826 million. Vietnam era veterans received $529 million, a 12% increase over the guaranteed loan dollars made to veterans over the last year.

The average size of SBA loans to veterans during FY 1993 was $213,240 for guaranty loans, and $84,584 for direct loans. Loans to Vietnam era veterans averaged $84,216 for direct loans and $202,122 for guaranty loans.

Vietnam era veterans received $19.5 million in direct loans or 96% of all SBA direct lending to veterans. Veterans received 25% of all agency direct lending.

Through SBA's 8(a) program, 842 contracts were awarded to veteran-owned firms for a total of $957.7 million, which represents 49% of the dollars and 15% of the contracts awarded in that program.

Many small business contractors are unable to obtain work because of the unavailability of bonding. During FY 1993, utilizing SBA's surety bond program, veteran-owned firms obtained contracts totalling more than $196 million, or 26% of the total dollar amount awarded.

During FY 1993, 57,786 veterans received SBA-sponsored business training and 130,202 received SBA-sponsored counseling. To serve our nation's veteran businesses better during fiscal years 1994 and 1995, SBA Administrator Erskine Bowles has entered into contracts with the agency's 68 District Directors agreeing on specific statewide goals for veteran lending during FY 1994.

Conclusion

The National Economic Commission is fully aware that it would be impossible to carry out its mandates without the active involvement of Posts, Districts, Counties, Departments and individual Legionnaires. We deeply appreciate their continued support and involvement. Chairman Titus also thanks the National Commander, the National Adjutant, the National Executive Committee, and the staff of both the

Washington and Indianapolis offices for the outstanding support and cooperation they have provided during the past year.

FINANCE COMMISSION

GEORGE W. BOUCEK, Illinois, *Chairman*

WEBBER LAGRANGE, Indiana, National Treasurer

PAUL M. ALLEN, Minnesota, *Director*

The primary obligation of the Finance Commission is to prepare a yearly budget for submission to the National Executive Committee, handle funds under that budget, and exercise reasonable oversight to see that the various divisions and departments of the National Organization operate within their approved appropriations. The Finance Commission is composed of seven members, with the National Adjutant as ex-officio secretary, and the National Commander and National Treasurer are ex-officio members. Also attending these meetings are the Executive Directors of the Washington and Indianapolis offices and the Finance Director, as well as our Liaison observers from the National Executive Committee.

The National Organization had an operating deficit of $1,613,864 for the year 1993. In 1993, we received $5.50 dues per member, which is allocated as follows: $3.00 to the General Fund; and $2.50 to The American Legion Magazine. In September 1993, at the 75th National Convention in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Resolution No. 1 was adopted which stated effective January 10, 1994 the national per capita will be $9.00.

The income of the National Organization is derived from annual membership dues, interest on investments, magazine advertisements, Emblem Sales, contributions, and other approved activities.

A full financial statement is incorporated in the Auditor's Report, and in addition, your attention is directed to the Reports of Committees and Trusts which come under the jurisdiction of this Commission and can be found elsewhere in this publication. These reports include the:

American Legion Child Welfare Foundation, Inc.
American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation.
American Legion Life Insurance and Trust Committee.
American Legion Emblem Committee.
American Legion Overseas Graves Decoration Trust.

EMBLEM COMMITTEE

KEITH GWILLIAM, Utah, *Chairman*

ALFRED L. LANKENAU, Indiana, *General Manager*

Meetings

The Emblem Committee has met twice since our last report. The meeting of the Committee in September, 1993, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, was to consider bids, award contracts for the 1994 requirements and to carefully study operating policy. The second meeting, in May of 1994, studied general operations and promotional plans.

Catalog

The 1994 National Emblem catalog combined American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion merchandise in seventy two (72) pages. The catalog, with order blanks bound into the book, was shipped using a pre-printed indicia on the back cover and a simple mailing strip. The catalog was mailed to all Departments, Posts and Units (approximately 65,000 copies) as soon as it was received from the printer. An additional quantity of approximately 30,000 was distributed to individual members in response to their requests and at department conventions where we have had Emblem Sales displays.

Advertising

Advertising in The American Legion Magazine since the last report promoted the 1994 catalog and rings. A four-color flyer promoting 75th Anniversary and 50th Anniversary of World War II merchandise has just been published.

We have continued the mailings to Post Commanders and Post Adjutants centered on Memorial and Veterans Day merchandise. Returns on this inexpensive vehicle continue to justify its use. In addition, it provides an inexpensive method of testing new and timely items.

The Emblem Committee continues to regularly review the advertising program.

Department Convention Exhibits and Display

The exhibit and display of the official emblem merchandise at 12 department conventions was conducted during the year of 1993. These exhibits were at the invitation of department officials for the purpose of goodwill and service to individual Legionnaires. We have exhibited at 9 conventions in 1994, also by invitation.

Each purchaser benefits by the division's economical direct sales program and quantity purchasing power. The net profit derived from sales is paid into the general fund, which is expended under the direct supervision of the Finance Commission to promote the aims and programs of the organization, thereby further benefiting the individual member.

Sales Data

The gross sales, net earnings, etc., for the entire year of 1993 and for the first six months of 1994, for the Emblem Sales Division are as follows:

January 1, 1993–December 31, 1993 (Twelve Months)

Gross Sales	$6,266,800
Cost of goods sold	3,505,170
Overhead	1,949,212
Operating profit including discounts taken	812,418

The number of individual orders processed during the twelve month period was 63,594.

January 1, 1994–June 30, 1994 (Six Months)

Gross Sales	$3,544,247
Cost of goods sold	1,931,999
Overhead	1,051,221
Operating profit including discounts taken	561,026

THE AMERICAN LEGION LIFE INSURANCE COMMITTEE

JEROME P. DOBEL, JR., Missouri, *Chairman*

G. PAUL DUNN, Oklahoma, *Assistant Director, Membership Services*

The American Legion Life Insurance Committee provides oversight for the several life insurance plans currently offered by The American Legion and is assigned to the National Finance Commission.

The American Legion Life Insurance Program supports several National programs which are among the most prominent and visible activities of The American Legion. The programs are listed below with the corresponding funding for 1994.

American Legion Baseball $660,385, National Oratorical Contest $277,050, Junior Uniformed Musical Groups, $20,000, for participation at the National Convention, Boy's Nation, $144,833, Boy Scout of the Year Scholarship Award, $14,000. An award of $2,000 per year up to four years, not to exceed $8,000, for pursuit of a course of study beyond high school. Three second-place awards in the amount of $2,000 each are also granted.

These requests for grants are approved by The American Legion Life Insurance Committee, the National Finance Commission and National Executive Committee.

New Product Development

The Life Insurance Committee is pleased to announce that Kirke-Van Orsdel, Inc., and Union Fidelity will be working together to expand the Life Insurance Program in 1994.

Several new products will be reviewed to give members a more flexible choice of life insurance benefits. Tax deferred savings, underwritten whole life and extended guaranteed term periods are a few of the features that will be studied to be included in future product offerings.

The Committee and insurance providers are seeking to fill the gaps in present coverages with an entire spectrum of life insurance products. A "return-of-premium" term product previously offered may again be available by late fall. Supplemental and conversion coverage for active duty and recently discharged members is also under study.

Claims

The primary feature of The American Legion Life Insurance Plan is the benefits paid to beneficiaries of deceased insured Legionnaires. In 36 years, claims have been paid amounting to more than $89 million in benefits. These benefits were paid at no cost to the National Organization of The American Legion and no expenses to the general membership, other than certificate-policyholders. The insurance plan has proven to be a self-sustaining program. By the end of 1994, the total benefits paid will be well over $92 million dollars.

THE PLANS

The American Legion is now offering a Level Term Life Plan to members, their spouses and dependents. This includes Sons of The American Legion members and spouses. The Legion-approved Level Term Life Plan is underwritten by Hartford Life Insurance Company. The ITT Hartford lends additional stability to the Legion-approved Life Plan because of that company's sound operating performance and consistent high ratings from A.M. Best. The Administrator for the plans is Kirke-Van Orsdel, Inc., located in West Des Moines, Iowa.

In addition to level term, the AdvanceLife Plan from The American Legion is one of the most unusual and important benefits Legion members and spouses will ever have the opportunity to acquire.

With AdvanceLife, members and spouses get not only life insurance protection, but also Nursing Home Benefits and Last Illness Benefits. The Nursing Home and Last Illness Benefits are automatically built into the Plan.

AdvanceLife provides more peace of mind and financial security than members ever had before.

The AdvanceLife Plan will pay 100% of the selected Life Benefit (up to a total of $100,000). Members are eligible to receive Last Illness Benefits if they are certified by a doctor to be terminally ill with a prognosis of 12 months or less to live . . . and notify the administrator that they want to accept Last Illness Benefits.

The monthly AdvanceLife Nursing Home Benefit is equal to 2% of the Life Insurance Benefit. This benefit can be used to help pay the extremely high cost of nursing home care, or for whatever is desired. The benefit can begin after living in a qualified nursing home for three consecutive months . . . and will continue for up to 25 months.

Another plan available to members and spouses is Birthday Life underwritten by Union Fidelity located in Trevose, Pennsylvania. This plan is a guaranteed-issue combined level whole life and accidental death benefit insurance plan with premiums at entry age which do not increase as the insured grows older. No medical exam is required.

Guaranteed renewable for life, Legionnaires and spouses age 45 through age 80 are eligible to enroll for this plan which builds cash values and offers a loan provision. The age limit in Washington and New Jersey is lower than age 80. Contact Union Fidelity for details.

The plan provides a limited death benefit for the first two years for natural causes and provides full benefits during that period for accidental deaths. Full benefits in any event are payable after two years.

Requests for information on the insurance plans should be directed to:

The American Legion National Headquarters
Attn: Mr. G. Paul Dunn
P.O. Box 1055
Indianapolis, IN 46206

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Requests for information concerning the status of applications, non receipt of insurance renewal, filing of death claims, status of death claims, amount of premium,

inquiries as to whether or not a member is insured, or specific questions pertaining to the terms of coverage should be directed to:

Decreasing Term
AdvanceLife
Level Term
Kirke-Van Orsdel, Inc.
1776 West Lakes Parkway
Des Moines, IA 50398
1–800–542–5547
Birthday Life
Union Fidelity Life Ins. Co.
4850 Street Road
Trevose, PA 19049
1–800–523–5758

APPENDIX A

4/27/94

NATIONAL EMERGENCY FUND UPDATE

Balance as of 7/31/92					$334,373.33
DONATIONS					
August - December 1992				405,896.75	
January - June 1993				94,414.45	
July-October 1993				284,076.27	
November - January 1994				54,981.56	
February - March 1994				98,324.24	
April 1994				33,884.15	971,577.42
					1,305,950.75
INTEREST					
3rd & 4th Quarter 1992				3,934.74	
January-December 1993				11,481.96	
January - March 1994				3,649.05	19,065.75
					1,325,016.50
ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS					
August - December 1992		9,489.94			
January - December 1993		9,870.38			
January - February 1994		17,051.17			
March - April 1994		19,004.71			
Projected		11,416.55	66,832.75		
EXPENDITURES					
August - December 1992		123,546.73			
January 1992 - January 94		3,972.75	127,519.48	194,352.23	

GRANTS (8/1/92 - 4/27/94)

DEPARTMENT	# POSTS INCLUDED	TOTAL GRANTS	TOTAL $
California	2	22	22,500.00
Alabama		1	1,500.00
Florida	4	124	47,577.00
Georgia	1	1	5,000.00
Hawaii		54	48,427.00
Louisiana	1	38	21,276.00
Minnesota	1	5	5,500.00
New Jersey		4	3,500.00
New York	1	19	16,400.00
Arizona		1	1,000.00
Oklahoma		2	490.00
Mississippi		2	2,700.00
Missouri	4	210	56,175.00
Illinois		118	78,390.00

Kansas		9	9,850.00		
Iowa	5	150	138,100.00		
Indiana		1	1,500.00		
Nebraska		1	1,500.00		
Texas	1	1	2,500.00		
TFA'S		1	5,000.00	468,805.00	663,157.23
	20	764			
BALANCE ON HAND					$661,859.27

NATIONAL EMERGENCY FUND
PERTINENT FACTS

Contributions

Total contributions since inception (October 1989) are:	1,501,231.42
Contributions received Oct. 89 - Sept 92 (Hurricane Hugo time frame)	529,654.00
Contributions received Sept 92 - July 93 (Hurricanes Andrew, Iniki time frame)*	501,068.
Contributions received July 28, 1993 - Jan. 28, 1994 (Midwest Flooding time frame)	338,300.
Contributions beginning Jan. 28, 1994 (CA earthquake time frame)	132,208.39

Fundraising

Total Fundraising expenses since inception	115,186.02
Fundraising 10/89 through 7/92 (Hurricane Hugo relief)	48,353.27
Fundraising 8/92 - 7/93 (Hurricanes Andrew, Iniki Relief)*	10,386.71
Fundraising 7/93 - 1/28/94 (Midwest Flood Relief)	6,239.06
Fundraising beginning 1/28/94 (CA earthquake time frame)	50,206.98

Grants/Assistance

	# Grants	$ Assince	$ Grants
Total grants/Assistance Provided	1188	127,519	675,659
Hurricane Hugo time frame	381	0	124,715
1989 California earthquake	8	0	8,000
Miscellaneous Assistance (fires, floods, etc.)	66	0	114,762
Hurricanes Andrew and Iniki*	222	123,547	117,279
Midwest Flooding	493	3,973	292,175
California Earthquakes, 1/94, AL, GA tornadoes, 3/94	18	0	19,100
Total grants and assistance provided			**$803,178**
Number of grants to Posts in Midwest			8
Total $ amount to Posts in Midwest area			22,500
Number of grants to Posts in California in 1994			2
Total $ amount to Posts in California			5,000

*Included in the total of contributions and grants is $5180 provided directly to the affected area by the Department of Virginia prior to activation of Hurricane Andrew relief effort.

GRANTS (August 1992 -April 27, 1994)			
August 92 - 1 GA;1 CA; 1 MN	3	3	7,000.00

September				
Florida (includes 3 posts)	78		34,700.00	
Louisiana (includes 1 post)	18		8,100.00	
California	2		2,500.00	
Minnesota	3		2,500.00	
Hawaii	13	114	18,700.00	66,500.00
October				
Florida	25		6,300.00	
California	3		2,750.00	
Hawaii	27		18,550.00	
Louisiana (includes 1 post)	12	67	7,050.00	34,650.00
November				
Florida	13		4,527.00	
Louisiana	4		3,126.00	
California	2		1,750.00	
Hawaii	13	32	9,927.00	19,330.00
December				
Florida (includes 1 post)	5		1,050.00	
Hawaii	1		1,250.00	
Mississippi	1	7	1,200.00	3,500.00
January				
Mississippi	1		1,500.00	
New Jersey	1	2	1,000.00	2,500.00
February				
New York	7		8,400.00	
New Jersey	2	9	1,500.00	9,900.00
March - none	0	0	0.00	0.00
April				
New York	11		7,500.00	
Arizona	1	12	1,000.00	8,500.00
May				
Louisiana	4		3,000.00	
Florida	2		700.00	
New Jersey	1	7	1,000.00	4,700.00
June				
Oklahoma	2		450.00	
New York	1	3	500.00	950.00
July (beginning Midwest Flood grants)				
Iowa	1		300.00	

Missouri	1	2	300.00	600.00
August				
Iowa	49		40,750.00	
Missouri (includes 1 post)	85		24,525.00	
Kansas	1		1,500.00	
Illinois	1	136	1,500.00	68,275.00
September				
Iowa (includes 3 posts)	49		56,150.00	
Florida	1		300.00	
Illinois	38		23,450.00	
Missouri (includes 2 posts)	82	170	19,100.00	99,000.00
October				
Illinois	19		11,700.00	
Iowa	23		17,150.00	
Minnesota (post)	1		2,000.00	
Missouri	12		3,600.00	
TFA Grant	1	56	5,000.00	39,450.00
November				
Iowa (includes 1 post)	15		12,400.00	
Missouri	19		4,150.00	
Illinois	23		20,000.00	
Indiana	1		1,500.00	
Texas (post)	1	59	2,500.00	40,550.00
December				
Iowa (includes 1 post)	8		6,700.00	
Missouri	8		1,650.00	
Illinois	19		9,750.00	
Nebraska	1		1,500.00	
Kansas	3	39	2,750.00	22,350.00
January 1994				
California	1		1,000.00	
Illinois	9		6,250.00	
Iowa	2		2,000.00	
Kansas	2		2,000.00	
Missouri	2	16	500.00	11,750.00
February 1994				
Missouri (Post)	1		2,500.00	
Illinois	8		5,200.00	
Iowa	3		2,500.00	
California	1	13	1,000.00	11,200.00
March 1994				

California (includes 2 posts)	8		9,750.00		
Illinois	1		500.00		
Kansas	3	12	3,600.00	13,850.00	
April 1994					
Alabama	1		1,500.00		
California	4	5	2,750.00	4,250.00	468,805.00
Grants paid to date	764				

Summary of Contributions, California Earthquakes
Beginning 1/28/94

STATE	DEPT	POST	AUX	SAL	OTHER	TOTAL
AK	$0.00	$25.00	$100.00	$0.00	$0.00	$125.00
AL	$0.00	$175.00	$250.00	$0.00	$0.00	$425.00
AR	$0.00	$525.00	$835.00	$0.00	$0.00	$1,360.00
AZ	$0.00	$500.00	$325.00	$20.00	$10.00	$855.00
CA	$0.00	$2,350.00	$744.65	$150.00	$1,025.55	$4,270.20
CN	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
CO	$0.00	$2,597.00	$795.00	$250.00	$30.00	$3,672.00
CT	$0.00	$425.00	$10,100.00	$0.00	$80.00	$10,605.00
DC	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$205.00	$205.00
DE	$0.00	$0.00	$525.00	$25.00	$5,000.00	$5,550.00
FL	$0.00	$1,700.00	$590.00	$150.00	$95.00	$2,535.00
GA	$0.00	$900.00	$220.00	$100.00	$10.00	$1,230.00
HI	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
IA	$0.00	$1,659.00	$1,212.88	$0.00	$550.00	$3,421.88
ID	$250.00	$270.00	$367.25	$0.00	$0.00	$887.25
IL	$300.00	$3,515.00	$1,185.00	$50.00	$58.00	$5,108.00
IN	$0.00	$5,500.00	$1,207.00	$195.00	$55.00	$6,957.00
KS	$0.00	$200.00	$335.00	$100.00	$10.00	$645.00
KY	$0.00	$758.00	$825.00	$275.00	$0.00	$1,858.00
LA	$0.00	$900.00	$250.00	$0.00	$10.00	$1,160.00
MA	$0.00	$285.00	$260.00	$35.00	$115.00	$695.00
MD	$0.00	$1,900.00	$785.00	$125.00	$32.00	$2,842.00
ME	$0.00	$200.00	$825.00	$25.00	$0.00	$1,050.00
MI	$40.00	$2,926.05	$3,475.00	$200.00	$85.00	$6,726.05
MN	$0.00	$4,800.00	$1,871.18	$150.00	$10.00	$6,831.18
MO	$0.00	$1,550.00	$1,469.00	$200.00	$115.00	$3,334.00
MS	$0.00	$1,325.00	$150.00	$0.00	$0.00	$1,475.00
MT	$0.00	$275.00	$260.00	$0.00	$0.00	$535.00
NC	$0.00	$125.00	$376.00	$50.00	$0.00	$551.00
ND	$0.00	$316.00	$195.00	$0.00	$12.00	$523.00
NE	$0.00	$826.50	$445.00	$25.00	$110.00	$1,406.50
NH	$583.48	$150.00	$320.00	$100.00	$77.00	$1,230.48
NJ	$0.00	$4,875.00	$805.00	$200.00	$130.00	$6,010.00
NM	$0.00	$660.00	$50.00	$0.00	$0.00	$710.00
NV	$0.00	$25.00	$150.00	$0.00	$0.00	$175.00
NY	$0.00	$3,990.00	$1,285.00	$205.00	$423.00	$5,903.00
OH	$0.00	$2,702.00	$968.00	$2,035.00	$20.00	$5,725.00
OK	$0.00	$875.00	$125.00	$0.00	$25.00	$1,025.00
OR	$0.00	$1,037.50	$355.00	$225.00	$0.00	$1,617.50
PA	$0.00	$3,745.00	$2,180.00	$185.00	$157.00	$6,267.00
PR	$0.00	$300.00	$30.00	$0.00	$0.00	$330.00

RI	$0.00	$50.00	$0.00	$0.00	$35.00	$85.00
SC	$2,000.00	$323.00	$345.00	$0.00	$25.00	$2,693.00
SD	$0.00	$420.50	$517.30	$0.00	$0.00	$937.80
TN	$0.00	$175.00	$0.00	$0.00	$25.00	$200.00
TX	$0.00	$1,321.00	$1,798.50	$0.00	$0.00	$3,119.50
UT	$100.00	$630.00	$0.00	$200.00	$0.00	$930.00
VA	$0.00	$2,375.00	$1,442.88	$350.00	$125.00	$4,292.88
VT	$0.00	$710.00	$260.00	$75.00	$65.00	$1,110.00
WA	$2,500.00	$0.00	$505.00	$0.00	$25.00	$3,030.00
WI	$0.00	$1,010.00	$2,535.98	$25.00	$52.00	$3,622.98
WV	$2,000.00	$1,250.00	$50.00	$25.00	$0.00	$3,325.00
WY	$0.00	$100.00	$95.99	$0.00	$0.00	$195.99
IT	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
FR	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
MX	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
NA	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
TOTALS	$7,773.48	$63,251.55	$43,796.61	$5,750.00	$8,801.55	$129,373.19

NA = NATIONAL

NATIONAL EMERGENCY FUND
TO POSTS/UNITS/SQUADRONS
COSTS - MAGAZINE BOOKLET/MAILING
January 1994

		Estimated Cost	Actual Cost
As of	4/27/94	11,416.55	43,151.61
	Grand Total		54,568.16
	Total contributions received from mailing		104,912.64
	Number of donations	1084	
	Average donation amount	96.78	
	Net gain		$72,076.82

FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMISSION

JOSEPH J. FRANK, MISSOURI, *Chairman*

G. MICHAEL SCHLEE, MARYLAND, *Director*

The following annual report covers the activities of the Foreign Relations Commission and Council of The American Legion for the 1993–1994 program year ending June 30, 1994.

Overview

The collective thrust of the foreign relations resolutions of The American Legion is to urge the development of a consistent, viable U.S. foreign policy based upon worldwide U.S. political, economic, and security interests.

Resolution 217, "America's Future," adopted at the 74th National Convention, will guide The American Legion's Foreign Relation's Program as the world moves forward into a new era. The major international goals long sought by The American Legion—democracy and deterrence of general war—are closer to realization than ever before. Far-reaching worldwide changes now occurring are altering American's perception of the threats to their security and making it imperative for the United States to adjust its grand strategy in light of new realities and future challenges as we prepare for the new millennium. Ideas of democracy and market economics are gaining increasing acceptance around the world, thereby creating new hopes of peace and prosperity for mankind. Nuclear and regional threats still confront the Free World and transnational issues such as terrorism and drugs still confront civilization. The collapse of the Soviet Bloc, demands for democracy in Eastern Europe, expansion of Japanese economic power, movement toward European unity, and growing international interdependence jointly create a new political situation in the world. The United States faces serious economic challenges through the relative decline of American economic influence in the world, trade and budget deficits which threaten to limit future prosperity, and worldwide economic competition. As Americans search for a new definition of America's world role, they must forge a bipartisan consensus providing focus, continuity, and wise use of limited national resources for national security-foreign policy.

Resolution 217 resolves that:

> We, as a grassroots organization reaching throughout the land, recognize the unprecedented changes sweeping the world and urge the U.S. Government to adopt a bipartisan national security-foreign policy of "Democratic Activism" promoting democratic values, maintaining adequate military strength to deter aggression, cooperating with allies, encouraging free and fair trade, and assisting developing nations.

Over several decades, the adopted foreign relations resolutions generally have reflected these basic principles, which Resolution 201, "United States Foreign Policy," adopted at the 75th National Convention promulgates:

1. Recognition of U.S. responsibilities as leader of the Free World and of our heritage and traditions.
2. Dedication to achievement of world peace with freedom, secured by a peace through strength posture.
3. Active promotion of democracy.
4. Participation in essential collective security alliances, provided our allies contribute their fair share.
5. Use of national resources in critical world regions to achieve U.S. national interests.
6. Negotiation of equitable, verifiable arms control agreements which improve U.S. national security.
7. Opposition to the spread of nuclear, chemical or biological weapons or long-range ballistic missiles to terrorist, communist or aggressor nations.
8. Determined opposition to international terrorism and drug trafficking.
9. Support for responsible international organizations that are consistent with U.S. sovereignty and serve U.S. national interests.
10. Participation in an increasingly interdependent Free World trading system based on fair and equitable trading practices.
11. Recognition that the world basically operates on a national basis; consequently, U.S. sovereignty must not be abridged unless required by important U.S. national security interests.

12. Recognition that the President must be the chief architect of U.S. foreign policy as envisioned in the U.S. Constitution, while Congress performs important functions of advice and oversight.

General Foreign Policy

Resolution 11—"POW/MIA National Recognition Day"—We support the designation by the U.S. Government of April 9 as POW/MIA National Recognition Day. (74th National Convention)

Resolution 15—"National Commission on Prisoner of War Policy"—We urge legislation calling for the President and the Congress to establish a Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Commission, comprised of individuals to include members of the nation's major veterans organizations, for the purpose of ascertaining during any peace negotiations between the United States and any belligerent powers that American POW/MIAs are all accounted for, treated properly, and released from captivity at the earliest possible moment. It is also our strong view that no deals should be negotiated to the detriment of POW/MIAs which will leave even one individual behind in captivity longer than absolutely necessary to arrange for emergency medical care and transportation out of hostile territory. We believe this Commission should be a standing entity to allow familiarity and interaction with other members of any future peace negotiation delegation to include Secretary of State, Secretary of Defense and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. We urge the U.S. Government to seek appropriate changes to international laws and regulations relating to prisoners of war and missing in action. (75th National Convention)

Resolution 23—"Contraband Drugs"—We urge maximum efforts to be made to prevent illegal entry into the United States of any foreign commodity listed as "contraband" with special attention given to contraband drugs. Further, we urge the U.S. Government to efficiently apply U.S. laws which provide that foreign nations must reasonably cooperate with U.S. drug control programs if they are to receive U.S. foreign aid. (Fall NEC Meeting 1989)

Resolution 23—Veterans Employment Preference with the United States Government Overseas—We urge Congress to enact legislation requiring the Department of State and the Department of Defense to ensure the protection of veterans' employment benefits in all future treaty negotiations, renegotiations, amendments or adjustments of any nature with foreign nations. (Spring NEC Meeting 1994)

Resolution 50—"Information Activities"—We urge the U.S. Government to provide adequate funds to conduct an effective international program to provide other nations with objective news, information about the blessings of democracy and the free enterprise system, and accurate reporting about suppression of freedom and international aggression. (74th National Convention)

Resolution 57—"Control of Military Technology"—We urge the Defense, Commerce, and State Departments jointly to develop a coordinated program to stop the illegal flow of military useful technology to any foreign country. (74th National Convention)

Resolution 60—"World War II, Cold War, and Korean War POW/MIAs"—We urge the U.S. Government to make a maximum effort to resolve the fate of unaccounted Americans from World War II, the Cold War and the Korean War by obtaining the return of any live prisoners, the repatriation of remains, and the fullest possible accounting for the missing and call on the U.S. Government not to provide normalization or any type of aid to North Korea until it fully cooperates on POW/MIA matters. (74th National Convention)

Resolution 61—"Missing Service Personnel"—We urge Congress to enact legislation that would disallow passage of time as the sole basis of a death declaration for missing service personnel and would provide adequate opportunities for comments from family members. (74th National Convention)

Resolution 121—"Priority POW/MIA Actions"—We believe the following priority actions should be taken by the U.S. Government:

Centralize POW/MIA responsibilities in a powerful office reporting directly to the Secretary of Defense, remove the Defense Intelligence Agency from all POW/MIA responsibilities and make each military service responsible for its own POW/MIAs.

Provide necessary resources so field operations can be conducted at a maximum rate of activity with more timely follow-up of live sighting reports.

Declassify all POW/MIA information (except that revealing intelligence sources or methods) in a form readily available to public review.

Reassign responsibilities for identification of remains from the U.S. Army Central Identification Laboratory, Hawaii to the Smithsonian Institution.

Cancel the "Road Map."

Provide adequate personnel and resources so that investigative efforts of World War II, Cold War, and Korean War POW/MIA situations can be broadened and accelerated.

Initiate or strengthen joint commissions with Russia, the People's Republic of China, and North Korea to increase POW/MIA recovery efforts.

Establish a centralized office responsible to keep POW/MIA families informed on their loved ones.

Establish a joint standing congressional committee on POW/MIA affairs to ensure continued action by the executive branch in addressing the POW/MIA issue. Absent such a joint committee, establish a presidential POW/MIA commission comprised of non-governmental officials.

Take favorable actions toward Vietnam only after Hanoi provides the fullest possible accounting for POW/MIAs in Vietnam or in areas of Laos and Cambodia it controlled during the Vietnam War, however, maintain a degree of flexibility with respect to a continued U.S. presence in Vietnam and the provision of humanitarian assistance if such actions are helpful in finally resolving this issue;

Take favorable actions toward Laos or Cambodia only after those nations provide the fullest possible accounting for POW/MIAs.

"Fullest possible accounting" is defined as turning over live prisoners, repatriating remains of those who were killed in action or died in captivity, or providing a valid, conclusive report why neither is possible.

Resolution 122—"The American Legion Policy on Activities Relating to Southeast Asia POWs and MIAs"—We will assist POW/MIA families and all others by ensuring that the Federal Government gives expeditious and sincere consideration to any evidence, reports, photographs, or other information relating to their loved ones. We will provide assistance to POW/MIA families and all others by assuring that the Federal Government provides all information it possesses on their POW/MIAs. When it is deemed appropriate, The American Legion will authorize officials to travel to Southeast Asia, including Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia, for the purpose of gathering information relative to the ongoing POW/MIA investigations and the manner in which they are being conducted. (75th National Convention)

Resolution 126—"U.S. Employment Overseas"—We urge the U.S. Government to return to its policy prior to World War II of hiring U.S. citizens and American corporations for all support requirements for all civilian and military overseas operations. (75th National Convention)

Resolution 138—"International Lending Agencies and POW/MIA Cooperation"—We believe future congressional appropriations to international lending agencies should be contingent on such agencies' compliance with strict standards which would prohibit assistance to nations which give aid and comfort to hostile groups or which are demonstrably hostile to the United States, including communist and communist-dominated countries and countries which do not cooperate in our search for POW/MIAs of past wars. (74th National Convention)

Resolution 139—"OPEC Cartel Practices"—The U.S. Government should denounce the current practices of the OPEC Cartel as being detrimental to the well-being and national security of this nation. The President and the Congress should enact incentives and encourage further development of our oil-producing areas and continue seeking alternate sources of energy. (71st National Convention)

Resolution 143—"Curtailing U.S. Government Subsidization of Foreign Competition"—We will monitor activities of the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the Department of State, other federal agencies, and Congress to ensure and encourage policies and practices by the U.S. Government to eliminate unfair government-subsidized foreign competition. We urge Congress to hold hearings to determine the extent of the impact of unfair government subsidized foreign competition on our national economy and labor force and to enact legislation curtailing such practices. (74th National Convention)

Resolution 148—"Overseas Employment for Military Retirees"—We urge the Administration and Congress to take appropriate action to reopen the discussion with host nations to change or modify the NATO Status of Forces Agreement and other pertinent treaties to permit employment of retirees with the U.S. armed forces overseas on an equal employment opportunity basis. (74th National Convention)

Resolution 201—We believe that the objectives of U.S. foreign policy must be to maintain peace with freedom while preserving and promoting democracy. We also believe that U.S. foreign policy should embody the following principles:

1. Recognition of U.S. responsibilities as leader of the Free World and of our heritage and traditions.

2. Dedication to achievement of world peace with freedom, secured by a peace through strength posture.

3. Active promotion of democracy.

4. Participation in essential collective security alliances, provided our allies contribute their fair share.

5. Use of national resources in critical world regions to achieve U.S. national interests.

6. Negotiation of equitable, verifiable arms control agreements which improve U.S. national security.

7. Opposition to the spread of nuclear, chemical or biological weapons or long-range ballistic missiles to terrorist, communist or aggressor nations.

8. Determined opposition to international terrorism and drug trafficking.

9. Support for responsible international organizations that are consistent with U.S. sovereignty and serve U.S. national interests.

10. Participation in an increasingly interdependent Free World trading system based on fair and equitable trading practice.

11. Recognition that the world basically operates on a national basis; consequently, U.S. sovereignty must not be abridged unless required by important U.S. national security interests.

12. Recognition that the President must be the chief architect of U.S. foreign policy as envisioned in the U.S. Constitution, while Congress performs important functions of advice and oversight. (75th National Convention)

Resolution 214—"Nuclear Proliferation"—We urge the U.S. government to take all reasonable steps to halt nuclear proliferation. (74th National Convention)

Resolution 215—"Freedom of the Seas"—We believe the U.S. Government should exercise U.S. rights to unhindered navigation in international waters whenever necessary to protect U.S. national interests and U.S. international commercial interests as a great maritime and trading nation. We also believe that in conducting such operations the U.S. Government should use an adequate and effective force fully capable of self-defense; obtain allied cooperation as appropriate; take retaliatory action against foreign interference; and treat any members of the armed forces killed or injured in such duty (and their survivors) with the utmost honor, support, and compassion. (74th National Convention)

Resolution 217—"America's Future"—The American Legion as a grassroots organization reaching throughout the land, recognizes the unprecedented changes sweeping the world and urges the U.S. Government to adopt a bipartisan national security-foreign policy of "Democratic Activism" promoting democratic values, maintaining adequate military strength to deter aggression, cooperating with allies, encouraging free and fair trade, and assisting developing nations. (75th National Convention)

Resolution 221—"Regulation of Lobbying"—We believe there should be acts requiring (1) complete and accurate disclosure requirements for all foreign and U.S. lobbyists; (2) reasonable post-employment restrictions for former members of the executive and legislative branches; (3) restrictions on floor privileges in Congress of former members who become U.S. or foreign lobbyists; (4) measures to help ensure that U.S. lobbyists in other countries receive equal access; (5) favorable considerations for foreign governments that grant reciprocal privileges to American lobbyists; and (6) a federal government office to administer and enforce the acts. (74th National Convention)

Resolution 222—"United Nations"—We urge the Administration to continue seeking effective, equitable, efficient UN operations consistent with the UN Charter's stated purposes. (75th National Convention)

Resolution 288—"Support 'Empty Chair' Program (POW/MIA)"—We urge the National Commander to encourage posts, units, districts and departments to implement the Empty Chair Program at all official meetings as a continual physical symbol of the POW/MIAs and that at each chair a POW/MIA flag be displayed. (67th National Convention)

Resolution 385—"Care of Hostages"—We urge Congress to enact legislation that would make individual civilians and/or their employers responsible for all expenses incurred to extricate such individuals from a hostage situation if they remained in harm's way after due warning by the U.S. Government. We believe no veterans' military facility should be used to treat or house any such civilian hostage or their families at the expense of the taxpayer. (74th National Convention)

Resolution 532—"Presidential Military Initiatives to Protect U.S. National Interests"—We support prompt military action by the President to protect U.S. national interests and recommend that the President expeditiously report such activity to the Congress and the American people. (68th National Convention)

Resolution 552—"Department POW/MIA Committees"—We urge all Departments to appoint POW/MIA Committees. (74th National Convention)

European Affairs

Resolution 53—"Canada"—We believe the U.S. Government should pursue policies toward Canada which will provide for free trade, continued military cooperation, and cooperation in all endeavors which benefit both nations. (74th National Convention)

Resolution 55—"North Atlantic Treaty Organization"—We urge the U.S. Government to maintain the forward deployment of adequate U.S. troops in NATO and to encourage our NATO allies to take these actions necessary to meet any threats to the security and stability of Europe and areas of common interest outside the North Atlantic Treaty area. (74th National Convention)

Resolution 56—"Eastern Europe"—We support democracy and free enterprise in Eastern Europe and call upon the U.S. Government to provide aid, technical assistance, and moral leadership to encourage development of this important. (74th National Convention)

Resolution 66—"Testing of Anti-Ballistic Missile Components"—We affirm that testing of anti-ballistic missile components does not violate the terms of the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty. (69th National Convention)

Resolution 211—"Turkey"—We support aid for the modernization of Turkish armed forces in conformance with the Defense and Economic Cooperation Agreement, without attachment of restrictions unrelated to Turkey's membership in NATO, and urge that this important member of NATO be properly and adequately supported as a lasting friend of the United States.

Resolution 213—"Strategic Nuclear Policy"—We support:

1. A United States nuclear deterrent force TRIAD at least equivalent to opposing nuclear forces in all respects and capable of credibly deterring nuclear attack, or if deterrence fails, achieving successful conflict resolution.
2. Continuation of United States underground nuclear testing as necessary to modernize nuclear offensive and defensive forces and to ensure the reliability of existing nuclear weapons.
3. Verifiable implementation of the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty and Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty.
4. Significant, mutual, verifiable reductions of strategic nuclear forces by opposing forces and the United States to equal levels, resulting in stable nuclear deterrence at lower levels of armaments and with a lessened likelihood of nuclear war.
5. Maximum emphasis on the equality and verifiability of any nuclear arms control measures, including effective, unalterable verification procedures going beyond national technical means to include on-site inspection by all sides.
6. Full integration of nuclear arms control into national security planning by the United States and its allies to ensure strategic stability and credible deterrence. (74th National Convention)

Resolution 221—"Relations with the Former Soviet Union"—We urge the U.S. Government to welcome substantive changes that help bring democracy, market economics, and peaceful foreign policies to the former Soviet Union and to extend economic aid and technical assistance to encourage and assist them. We call upon the U.S. Government to urge the former Soviet Union to increase its cooperation on the POW/MIA issue. (75th National Convention)

Far Eastern Affairs

Resolution 64—"People's Republic of China Trade status"—We call upon the Congress of the United States to reject a "most-favored-nation trade status" for the People's Republic of China unless it ceases human rights violations against its own people, provides an acceptable accounting of American POW/MIAs from the Korean War and the Vietnam War, engages in fair trading practices, and cooperates in limiting proliferation of nuclear weapons. (74th National Convention)

Resolution 64—"Japanese Compensation to American POWs"—We believe the Japanese government should render an official apology for the pain, suffering and death inflicted on American POWs in World War II. We also believe the Japanese government should pay the surviving POWs and the families of the non-surviving POWs an appropriate sum of monetary compensation arrived at by appointed members of the United States and Japanese governments. (75th National Convention)

Resolution 65—"Military Sales to Communist China"—We urge the United States Government to refrain from the transfer of military and dual-use equipment and technology to the Chinese communists. (74th National Convention)

Resolution 120—"Trade with Japan"—We believe the U.S. Government should make a determined effort to encourage Japan to follow equitable trading practices between itself and the United States. We urge Congress to cut Japan's car exporting

to the U.S. by 20% each year until Japan has only 16% of the U.S. auto market, unless Japan eliminates its huge and continuing annual trade surplus with the United States. (75th National Convention)

Resolution 126—"U.S. Relations with the Republic of China on Taiwan"—We support the initiation of negotiations between the United States and the Republic of China for the use of military facilities on Taiwan by the United States armed forces. We urge the United States Government to immediately approve the sale of front-line combat aircraft (such as F–15, F16C, and F–18) to the Republic of China. We fully support the establishment of full diplomatic relations between the Republic of China on Taiwan and the United States of America. (74th National Convention)

Resolution 168—"Support of Republic of Korea"—We believe the United States should increase its military aid and assistance to the Republic of Korea by providing modern state-of-the-art weapons and technology to safeguard her freedom, sustain her development, and promote Pacific and Asian regions. We also believe the United States should provide a strong flexible military force in the Republic of Korea to vigorously respond to any military and/or political aggression by North Korea. We also believe the United States, in concert with its allies, should bring pressure to bear on North Korea to immediately cease its efforts to develop nuclear weapons and comply with the safeguard accord of the International Atomic Energy Agency. (75th National Convention)

Resolution 169—"Reunification of China"—We support the peaceful reunification of China under The Three Principles of the People and restoration of the government of the Republic of China, as the sole legal government of all China. We also support return of the government of the Republic of China to its rightful position in the United Nations and other international organizations. (75th National Convention)

Resolution 171—"Exporting Alaskan Oil to the Orient"—We encourage Congress and the Administration to adopt legislation to allow export of oil and oil products directly to Oriental destinations. (75th National Convention)

Resolution 255—"Support for Viet-Nam Assistance for the Handicapped"—We support the operation of the Viet-Nam Assistance for the Handicapped, so as to help in providing functional prosthetic appliances to our former ARVN allies who had limbs amputated during the Vietnam War. (75th National Convention)

Inter-American Affairs

Resolution 20—"North American Free Trade Agreement"—We support the North American Free Trade Agreement among Canada, Mexico, and the United States. (Fall NEC Meeting 1992)

Resolution 58—"Cuban Drug"—We believe that the Congress and the President should condemn the role of Cuba in international drug trafficking in all appropriate international fora. (74th National Convention)

Resolution 63—"Caribbean Basin"—We believe that the Caribbean Basin Initiative should be fully implemented and expanded to permit duty free access to the U.S. market for all Caribbean Basin products for a 12-year period, thus encouraging productive activity to promote economic growth. We urge the United States to provide economic and security assistance as needed to help develop prosperous, democratic societies in the region. We support increased educational exchanges between the United States and the Caribbean Basin nations at the college and high school levels and increased support for primary education to promote literacy. (74th National Convention)

Resolution 71—"Reexamination of Panama Canal Treaties"—We request the President of the United States to call upon the U.S. Senate to promptly undertake intensive hearings, with full debate, for the purpose of reexamining the 1977 Treaties with Panama and our rights and commitments thereunder, with an eye to recommending renegotiating or renouncing them after having resolved once and for all the contradictions presently encumbering said treaties. (74th National Convention)

Resolution 202—"Panama Canal"—We believe:

1. The United States should take any necessary actions to ensure Panama will be able to operate the Panama Canal efficiently after Panama assumes control in the year 2000.

2. The United States should take any necessary actions to ensure that the Panama Canal is operated efficiently and in a manner consistent with U.S. national security interests.

3. Construction of a new canal or major improvements in the existing Panama Canal should be consistent with U.S. national security interests.

4. The United States should seek agreement with Panama to continue stationing U.S. forces in Panama after 2000 to protect the Panama Canal as well as evolving democratic nations in the region.

5. The United States should encourage democratic evolution in Panama to help provide stability and a better, freer life for Panamanians. (75th National Convention)

Resolution 287—"War on Drugs in Latin America"—We urge the U.S. Government Executive Branch to cooperate fully with Latin American nations to destroy the international traffic in illegal drugs and to provide appropriate economic assistance to aid in this vital endeavor. We urge the U.S. Congress to provide adequate funds to support this program. (74th National Convention)

Resolution 288—"Enterprise for the Americas Initiative"—We support participation by the United States in the Enterprise for The Americas Initiative seeking to enhance growth and cooperation throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. (74th National Convention)

Resolution 393—"Referendum for Puerto Rico"—We believe the Congress of the United States should promptly complete legislation to conduct a referendum in Puerto Rico concerning the future status of the island. The Referendum is to provide the following options: (1) complete independence, (2) statehood, or (3) continued commonwealth status. We urge the U.S. Government to act promptly to carry out the will of the Puerto Rican people that will have been expressed in the referendum. (74th National Convention)

Resolution 396—"Mexico"—We urge the U.S. Government to increase its emphasis on Mexican-U.S. cooperative endeavors both politically and economically to enhance the prosperity and security of both nations as well as that of the Western Hemisphere. We believe the U.S. Government should provide a greatly expanded number of scholarships to Mexicans, particularly those lacking funds to attend undergraduate and appropriate vocational-technical programs, provided said students promise to return to Mexico after completing their education. We also believe a student exchange program between Mexico and the United States be conducted to acquaint the future leaders of both countries with their neighbors. (74th National Convention)

Resolution 397—"Cuba"—We urge the U.S. Government to continue and intensify economic sanctions against Cuba, maintain control of Guantanamo Bay Naval Base, continue intelligence overflights over Cuba, remain firm in opposition to export of revolution by Cuba, continue broadcasting true news and information to the Cuban people and encourage the development of democracy and a free market economy in Cuba. (74th National Convention)

Resolution 398—"Central America"—We urge the U.S. Government to continue economic aid to friendly, democratic Central American nations which are seeking to develop democratic societies with market economies. We recommend the U.S. Government provide only minimal amounts of military aid while urging nations in the Central American region to adopt the model of Costa Rica and Panama, disbanding military forces and relying solely on police forces for internal security, thus freeing funds for development and contributing to peaceful relations in the region. (74th National Convention)

Resolution 399—"Haiti"—We urge the U.S. Government to continue applying all legitimate means in conjunction with the Organization of American States to restore democracy to Haiti. (74th National Convention)

Middle Eastern and African Affairs

Resolution 68—"South Africa"—We urge the U.S. Government to:

1. Adopt a policy toward South Africa of supporting moderates who seek equality and representative democracy.

2. Respect the sovereignty of the Government of South Africa by recognizing that the problem of South Africa in dismantling apartheid is primarily one that must be solved by the South Africans themselves.

3. Not use economic sanctions against South Africa because they are counterproductive in promoting democratic changes.

4. Encourage South Africa to adopt a political system that will meet the needs of all the people of South Africa. (74th National Convention)

Resolution 118—"Iran"—We urge the U.S. Government to pursue policies preventing aggression or terrorists actions by Iran in the Persian Gulf region or elsewhere. We also urge the U.S. Government to apply pressure on Iran to stop violations of human rights and interference with neighboring countries. (75th National Convention)

Resolution 164—"Removal of Saddam Hussein"—We believe Saddam Hussein should be removed from power by any legal means possible. (73rd National Convention)

Resolution 208—"Middle East"—We urge the U.S. Government to adopt a comprehensive policy for the Middle East to achieve the following objectives:

1. A secure Israel living within recognized borders determined by negotiations between Israel and the Arab states.
2. Prevention of regional domination of the Middle East or Persian Gulf by any power.
3. A free and uninterrupted flow of petroleum from the Persian Gulf States to Europe, Japan, and the United States.
4. Restoration of full Lebanese sovereignty and withdrawal of all foreign troops from Lebanon. (74th National Convention)

Resolution 210—"Iraqi War Crimes"—We urge the President of the United States, in conjunction with the coalition of United Nations member states, to apprehend and commit to custody individual members of Iraq's Revolutionary Council, including Saddam Hussein. We believe such member states should convene a Judicial War Crimes Tribunal for the purpose of adjudicating allegations of crimes against humanity, crimes against the peace, and the waging of offensive warfare, made against individual members of Iraq's Revolutionary Council, including Saddam Hussein. We also believe, if such allegations are proven, such tribunal should authorize appropriate punishment of the individuals so convicted. (74th National Convention)

POW/MIA Activities

The American Legion continued to implement a very dynamic POW/MIA program seeking to obtain the fullest possible accounting for American POW/MIAs from World War II, the Cold War, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War.

In the fall of 1991, implementing a newly adopted resolution, the National Commander appointed a special POW/MIA Committee. It consists of a chairman, four members and one ex-officio member, the chairman of the Foreign Relations Commission. The POW/MIA Committee has the mission of thoroughly reviewing all available information relating to the issue and investigating all possible avenues of obtaining a full accounting for those who are held prisoner of war or are missing. The POW/MIA Committee typically meets twice a year and recommends appropriate actions to strengthen The American Legion's POW/MIA Program. The Executive Director of the Washington Office serves as staff liaison for the POW/MIA Committee.

A variety of methods are used to implement POW/MIA resolutions. For many years, most Departments have appointed POW/MIA chairmen to devise and implement POW/MIA activities at the local level. Mailings of POW/MIA information are sent approximately monthly to Department POW/MIA chairmen to provide them the data they need to conduct effective programs of public awareness and bring the Legion's POW/MIA to the attention of the President and Congress. When immediate action at the "grass roots" level is necessary, the Washington Office staff makes telephone calls and sends fax messages to Department Adjutants so that they can mobilize the members of their Departments. To influence Presidential and congressional actions, the National Commander writes letters to the President, key officials in the Executive Branch and influential members of Congress. He also frequently meets with them and makes the Legion's case in person.

Under Corporate Strategic Goal 3, "Resolve POW/MIA Issue," The American Legion is in the process of organizing a POW/MIA Ad Hoc Working Group. It will bring together in a cooperative manner veterans service organizations, family organizations, researchers and activists. They will prepare a national POW/MIA Action Plan, incorporating all of the many necessary organizational and operational changes desperately needed, and seek to have it adopted and implemented by the President.

On a continuing basis, the Washington staff provides a great deal of assistance to POW/MIA families seeking information about their loved ones or concerned about the identification of remains. Similar coordination is effected on almost a daily basis with various POW/MIA researchers and activists. The Executive Director of the Washington Office visits Vietnam approximately annually as part of a presidential delegation, congressional delegation or on a Legion trip. During each National Convention and Washington Conference, the POW/MIA Committee conducts a POW/MIA Update, usually lasting half a day and featuring three speakers. The POW/MIA Committee, recommended a nonpartisan statement for inclusion in state and national political party platforms be prepared and forwarded to Department level in order to have it brought to the attention of state political party organizations.

Reform of Lobbying Disclosure

As it has done for the past several years, The American Legion continued to support congressional efforts to strengthen lobbying disclosure requirements. While seeking to preserve First Amendment freedoms which provide the constitutional basis for lobbying, we have long sought to require meaningful lobbying disclosure reports, extend post-employment restrictions for high government officials, remove congressional floor privileges for former members of Congress who become lobbyists, and encourage reciprocal free access to lobbying for Americans in foreign countries. The American Legion was very pleased, therefore, when the Senate passed the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1993 which is a good start to meeting our objectives for reform. The Legion also was pleased to note passage of similar legislation in the House. We were particularly pleased that the legislation received bipartisan support and full backing from the Administration.

Support by National Commander

The Foreign Relations Commission deeply appreciates the outstanding leadership in the field of foreign relations exercised by National Commander Bruce Thiesen. He worked extensively to develop bipartisan support for a strong U.S. foreign policy. He made the Legion's strong POW/MIA positions known through press releases, public speeches, and letters to the President. He placed emphasis on foreign relations in his monthly Commander's Message in The American Legion Magazine, speeches, press conferences, and press releases. He took advantage of his trips to the Far East, Mexico and Europe to study key issues of U.S. foreign policy. The National Commander explained the Legion's positions on foreign affairs in meetings with Department of State officials and numerous members of Congress.

Commission Meetings

74th National Convention: On September 4, 1993, during a joint meeting of the National Security and Foreign Relations Commissions, Rear Admiral Irve C. LeMoyne, Deputy Commander in Chief and Chief of Staff, United States Special Operations Command, highlighted the fact that with the collapse of communism in the former Soviet Union, the likelihood of increased and continued regional conflicts heightened the role and missions of Special Operations Forces. Assistant Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness) Edwin Dorn emphasized that, despite the downsizing of the military, the President and Secretary of Defense are strongly committed to maintaining the readiness posture of Active, National Guard and Reserve Forces at high levels. Special Assistant to the Ambassador-at-Large and Special Advisor to the Secretary of State William C. Danvers analyzed the future of U.S.-Russian relations. Despite extreme difficulties in transition to market economics and democracy, a great deal of progress has been made in Russia. On September 6, 1994, the Foreign Relations Commission attended a POW/MIA Update presented by the Special POW/MIA Committee. Dr. Stephen Morris, noted researcher from Harvard University, described how he found the Soviet 1205 document in Soviet archives and explained why he thinks it is a valid document proving that American POWs were left behind in Vietnam after Operation Homecoming in 1973. Colonel Joseph Schlatter, Defense POW/MIA Office, explained the U.S. Government's POW/MIA program. Major General Bernard Loeffke, USA (Ret.), former Director, Task Force Russia, recounted the extremely useful research conducted in Russia on American POW/MIAs prior to the disbandment of the Task Force.

Fall National Executive Committee Meeting: On October 18–19, 1993, the Foreign Relations Commission met at National Headquarters. In the initial meeting, the Commission considered one resolution and recommended it be rejected. The Commission also conducted tentative planning for the Washington Conference and received a briefing on the status of implementation of Resolution 221, "Regulation of Lobbying." The Commission also discussed developments in Russia, to include an analysis of possible scenarios of future evolution in that troubled nation. Discussion of the situation in Somalia and Bosnia focused on identification of American national interests, command of American military forces, the role of the United Nations, and protection of Americans taken captive in peacekeeping or humanitarian operations. Discussion of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) provided an update of the current status of Congressional consideration of this issue. The final discussion concerned an update on the current status of the POW/MIA issue, from World War II through the present. At the final meeting, the Commission attended a joint session with the National Security Commission to view three very interesting video tapes. The first tape, "I'm Glad to See the Army's in Your Hands," by the U.S. Army, briefly explained the Army's role in protecting our national secu-

rity since colonial times. The second tape, "From the Sea," by the U.S. Navy, covered naval principles and programs for maintaining control of the high seas in the future. The final tape, "Searching for Vietnam POW/MIAs," by the 20/20 television program, covered the visit last July to Vietnam by Senator Robert Smith, accompanied by former Representative Billy Hendon and Mr. Robert Garwood to check live sighting reports of American POWs.

Washington Conference: The Foreign Relations Commission and National Security Commissions met in joint session on February 14, 1994 in Washington, DC. Dr. Ellen L. Frost, Counselor in the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative spoke on "International Economics and National Security." Two themes are critically important: trade is good for America, despite the incorrect perception it losses jobs to foreigners, and open trade and investment policies are not a one-way street—other countries must do their share.

Mr. Larry Napper, Director, Office of Independent States and Commonwealth Affairs, Department of State, discussed "Developments in the Former Soviet Union." If the United States remains engaged and persistent in negotiations, we can accomplish great steps toward a safer world. The revolution that swept aside the Soviet Union brought real benefits to the United States by ending the Cold War confrontation, saving funds through military reductions and expanding nuclear non-proliferation agreements. The United States seeks a strategic alliance with successor states for reforms leading to democracy, market economics and moderate foreign policies. Although the December 1992 elections were a setback to reform parties, they were positive since they were fairly conducted and brought into being a new constitution with strong executive powers.

The National Security and Foreign Relations Commissions met in joint session on the afternoon of February 14, 1994 to attend the POW/MIA Update presented by the Special POW/MIA Committee.

Mr. Al Santoli, journalist and author, spoke on "Honor Before Trade: What Needs to be Done." Lifting the economic embargo against Vietnam has removed all excuses for the Administration not getting the fullest possible cooperation. Current investigations in Vietnam by Joint Task Force Full Accounting have many problems and are being conducted by unqualified personnel. The U.S. Government should permit the American public to have access to the resolution of each POW/MIA case and the reason for closure, declassify all relevant National Security Agency files, establish an oversight commission of non-biased experts to review all POW/MIA case files, put an end to "stonewalling" families and activists, hold U.S. officials personally liable for keeping faith with POW/MIAs and enact a law providing POW/MIA families the right to file court appeals to status determinations on the cases of their loved ones. The American Legion should support such legislation, support establishment of the oversight commission, continue submitting Freedom of Information Act requests and work with intelligence experts to refine them and support a congressional probe of what happened to Senator Smith's criminal allegations against some U.S. Government officials.

Mr. Kent Wiedemann, Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Asian Affairs, National Security Council, discussed "The U.S. Government POW/MIA Program." We agree with much of what The American Legion has to say on the POW/MIA issue, but there is some disagreement. All Americans need the truth. The argument is over how to find the truth. The President is committed to achieving the truth. He campaigned on that, has worked on that and it is a sacred trust. Lifting the embargo is a step along the way to the fullest possible accounting. Without the help of Vietnam, we will get nothing done. Therefore, when they provide help we can feel, touch or count, we must reward them. We did not lift the embargo to make bucks. Secretary of Commerce Brown was not present at any meetings about the embargo; it was not an economic issue. We lifted the embargo to be sure that we could continue to get access in Vietnam.

Dr. George A. Carver, Jr., Senior Fellow, Center for Strategic and International Studies, addressed the topic "Did All American POWs Return During Operation Homecoming?" Through defectors and other means, in 1973 we knew Vietnam kept back about 300 POWs during Operation Homecoming. But, in the anti-war atmosphere of 1973 in Congress and the media, it was impossible to use military force to go after the POW/MIAs. After Operation Homecoming, the government line became "They have all come home. Let's close the door and put it behind us." Other sources showing Americans were left behind include the Soviet 1205 and 735 reports, which are consistent with two major defectors and communications intercepts. U.S. searches now in Vietnam are focused on returning remains. Instead, they should work on the last known alive cases. Regarding the argument that Vietnam will only cooperate if we lift the embargo, remember they followed the same tactics during the war of demanding much and giving little. Essentially, Hanoi believes

"Why pay a price for something you can get for free?" We gave them what they want for what they did not do. We are witnessing an unseemly rush for illusory profits. We must remember Vietnam and North Korea are the only Stalinist states left in the world. Now that we have lifted the embargo, Vietnam has no further incentive to cooperate. Until we learn the fate of the approximately 300 POWs we left in Vietnam, we cannot put the war behind us.

Spring National Executive Committee Meeting: On May 2–3, 1994, the Foreign Relations Commission met at National Headquarters. In the initial meeting, the Commission considered one resolution and recommended it be held for further study. During the Washington Conference, the Commission had considered one resolution and recommended it be approved. The Commission discussed plans for the 76th National Convention, including potential speakers. The Commission received an update report on implementation of Resolution 221, "Regulation of Lobbying." The preparatory work for the Foreign Relations Commission's study entitled "U.S. Participation in the United Nations" was reviewed in detail. Concerning the POW/MIA issue, note was taken of the National Commander's recent letters to the President and Congress recommending the creation of a National POW/MIA Commission and changing international laws to provide full prisoner of war protections under the Geneva Conventions for Americans captured during peacekeeping or humanitarian operations, conducted by the United Nations or otherwise. At the final meeting, the Commission attended a joint session with the National Security Commission to view three video tapes. The first tape, "Army-Count on Us," by the U.S. Army emphasized the important national defense role of the U.S. Army. The second tape, "National Security Forum-Indianapolis," contained excerpts of the meeting to discuss key issues of military strategy, budgeting and force structure held earlier in which The American Legion participated. The final tape, "United Nations," by the Foreign Policy Association featured a discussion with the U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Madeline Albright on the Clinton Administration's outlook on the role of the United Nations.

Foreign Relations Commission Staff Activities

The Washington Staff operates in Washington, DC as a combined division serving both the Foreign Relations and National Security Commission, under the overall direction of the Director for National Security-Foreign Relations. Ms. Cheryl L. Henson provided excellent administrative support.

The Foreign Relations Washington Staff during the past year performed the following functions for the commission, the National Commander and the Legion's 58 Departments and approximately 16,000 Posts:

1. Preparation of policy papers supportive of the Legion's foreign relations mandates.
2. Preparation of background papers and speeches on foreign policy matters for the National Commander, Foreign Relations commission, and individual Legionnaires.
3. Liaison with U.S. agencies in the executive branch, such as the Departments of State and Defense, and other Federal agencies involved with international relations.
4. Preparation of congressional testimony on international affairs.
5. Staff assistance for major activities, including the National Convention, National Executive Committee Meetings, and the Washington Conference.
6. Liaison with foreign diplomatic personnel as appropriate in the support of Legion mandates.
7. Preparation of speeches, articles and interviews as required.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION

HERMAN G. HARRINGTON (New York), *Chairman*

HUBERT R. DAGLEY II (Indiana), *Director*

The Internal Affairs Commission was established as a constitutional commission with a purpose to formulate and recommend policies and to oversee the implementation of adopted policies relating to activities conducted for organizational purposes, including but not limited to such as do not properly come within the scope of any other national commission; further review and give guidance to the necessary administrative operations of the National Headquarters.

The Internal Affairs Commission is responsible for policies relating to the internal structure and operation of The American Legion at all levels.

There are four national standing committees that are assigned to the commission for supervision and coordination . . . they are: Trophies, Awards & Ceremonials, Resolutions Assignment, Constitution & By-Laws; and Membership and Post Activities.

The Internal Affairs Commission is also the supervisory body for the Sons of The American Legion program.

Other areas of responsibility include the National Emergency Fund, the Paid-Up-For-Life program, and a special committee to commemorate World War II.

Direct Renewal

One of the measures The American Legion uses to judge the success of the various programs is through the continuing strength of its membership. Instrumental to the retention of members in the organization is the Direct Renewal Program, which is the use of a direct-mail method that invites members to renew. This organized, uniform, and simple method has been a very successful and effective approach and is funded at NO COST to the Departments or Posts. Members of participating Posts receive a first renewal letter about July 1, or August 1, depending on the Department. Subsequent renewal notices are mailed to unpaid members about October 1, or November 1, December 15, or January 11, March 13, and May 1.

Direct Membership Solicitation

Research studies have shown that many veterans would consider joining The American Legion, but they have never been asked. In an attempt to reach as many of these veterans as possible and to further support our membership efforts, we solicit new members through various direct marketing media. This innovative membership program is called Direct Membership Solicitation (DMS).

DMS has proven successful, having acquired over 1,500,000 new members for The American Legion since its inception. Fifty-two (52) Departments participate in the DMS program.

DMS will continue to support The American Legion's on-going membership efforts.

National Leadership Workshops

Members of every Post, Squadron, or Unit are encouraged to attend one of the annual National Leadership Workshops. Each workshop provides professional instruction on Flag Education, American Legion Baseball, National High School Oratorical Program, Junior Shooting Sports, Missing Children, Teen Suicide, Membership (attracting new ones and training current members), Disability Compensation & Pension, Burial Benefits, Public Relations . . . dealing with the news media, and much, much more.

One of the very best ways to build and maintain a strong and active American Legion is to have a membership that is well-informed on issues, goals, and programs important to the organization . . . the future of the Legion depends on this.

Attending each workshop are new officers, as well as members of long-standing experience in leadership roles, other members that are aspiring to be elected or appointed to an office or committee position, and finally those members that are just plain interested in maintaining the strength of this country's largest veterans organization . . . there are enough topics to satisfy everyone's interest about the Legion, the SAL, and the Auxiliary.

Concurrent workshop programs to be covered are Americanism, Auxiliary, Children & Youth, Membership, Public Relations, and Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation.

Member Benefits

The Member Benefits Program was developed to respond to the call for value-added membership.

An important part of using these benefits is to call the toll-free numbers listed for information on the benefit and how to use it. Also, make advance reservations if applicable, such as rental cars and hotel/motel discounts.

We are seeking to expand our benefit offers and one area in particular is a Discount Prescription Program currently being tested in the Department of Indiana only. The Program provides both mail order and walk-in retail service as well as significant savings on brand name and generic drugs. Plans are to present the Program to the National Executive Committee for approval of a nationwide rollout. Ac-

cess to this benefit will require only an American Legion or Sons of The American membership card.

We are also seeking to clarify SAL member eligibility for our existing benefits. This will require a review of all contracts and contact with all benefit providers. We do not foresee any problems but clarification will take time. When finalized, an announcement will be sent to Departments and materials will be updated at next printing.

Finally, a benefit package concept is under study, that would allow the purchase of additional benefits in connection with Paid-Up-For-Life, Insurance and other programs. The benefits include auto purchase and maintenance discounts, travel service, medical emergency data card, and discount shopping to name a few.

Paid-Up-For-Life Membership Program

Paid-Up-For-Life started with the 1976 membership year as a convenience for Legionnaires, offering them a method to purchase a membership for life, through a one-time payment.

Since the program's beginning, nearly 150,000 Legionnaires have taken advantage of the opportunity, and enrolled in the program.

During the next twelve months, it's anticipated that an additional 20-25,000 American Legionnaires will apply for membership into the program . . . you can be in this prestigious group.

The average age of a Paid-Up-For-Life member is the mid-60's, and the average fee paid to enroll is $155–160, which goes into a very carefully controlled trust fund.

From the trust, annual per capita monies are rebated to the Posts, the Departments, and to National for each Paid-Up-For-Life member's dues.

The primary promotional strategies are (1) renewal inserts, (2) periodic Magazine ads, (3) brochure/flyer materials shipped to Departments for Post distribution, and (4) word-of-mouth support at local, state, and national meetings.

From experience and observations, it is evident that, as the level of awareness increases, through the education of the membership about the program's availability, the number of new applications increases very dramatically.

Also, as more Legionnaires become sensitized about the program, the average age of applicants is dropping, which is a clear indication that the "younger" member is seeing the program as a good investment opportunity.

There is no reason to expect that the effect of expanded promotional efforts will produce anything less than positive results for the Paid-Up-For-Life program. It is well within reach of The American Legion to have 300-400,000 Legionnaires enrolled in the program by the end of this decade.

Fifty-three Departments participate in the National Paid-Up-For-Life membership program.

Five Departments . . . Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, Ohio, and Pennsylvania, operate their own separate life membership plans for members in their respective states, and do NOT participate in National's program.

National Emergency Fund

Since inception in October 1989, the National Emergency Fund has provided financial assistance to members of the Legion family. This fund serves as a resource from which a member may receive temporary financial assistance after a natural disaster has happened.

These violent acts of nature have plagued mankind since the beginning of time and The American Legion National Emergency Fund is but one small area in which our level of readiness must be maintained. This fund guarantees that our membership has a place to turn for help; in most cases, long before other relief agencies arrive and with less red tape. The National Emergency Fund was not designed to replace insurance or other disaster relief services, but a source from which our members can receive financial help to offset initial expenses, such as food, housing, clothing, etc.

Our long-term goal is to have a minimum of one million dollars available in this fund. At the present time, the National Emergency Fund has $679,564.06 available to disburse for future disasters.

Fundraising activities are on-going. Articles are published in The American Legion Magazine, The Dispatch newspaper, and periodic special mailings are sent out to departments and posts. The purpose is to heighten awareness and solicit contributions to support the fund.

The National Emergency Fund is provided assistance to Georgia, Alabama, and Florida after the flooding in July 1994. The flood conditions in Georgia have made a black mark in the history books of the National Emergency Fund. A Legion family

member's life was lost in flash flooding, marking the first time a member has been taken from our family during a disaster.

To date, the National Emergency Fund has had contributions in the amount of $1,537,892.47. A total of 1,205 grants have been disbursed to members and posts accounting for $834,028.00 in direct financial assistance to our family.

Consolidated Post Reports

The Consolidated Post Report—one of The American Legion's most valuable internal documents—is our report card to Congress. It outlines a summary of the collective aid and assistance provided to the communities, states, and nation.

For the 1993–94 year, approximately 60 percent of the posts of the organization filed an annual report, covering activities that include (1) athletic teams sponsored, (2) volunteer hours performing community service, (3) pints of blood donated, (4) Boy Scout troops sponsored, (5) scholarships awarded, (6) jobs found for veterans, (7) contributions, cash and goods, given to programs helping children and veterans, plus many other areas and projects of involved Legionnaires.

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS COMMITTEE

FRANCIS L. GIORDANO, New York, *Chairman*

The National Constitution and By-Laws of The American Legion can only be amended by the duly elected delegates at a National Convention.

However, the Constitution and By-Laws Committee, established by the authority of the National Executive Committee in 1939, authorizes this committee to study and make proper recommendations concerning all of the matters that pertain to the Constitution and By-Laws, as well as matters that relate to the Uniform Code of Procedure, which provides rules and regulations for the Revocation, Cancellation, or Suspension of Department and Post Charters of The American Legion.

RESOLUTIONS ASSIGNMENT COMMITTEE

EVERETT L. MCCONNELL, Colorado, *Chairman*

This committee meets only at the annual National Convention, and at least three days before it convenes. The committee has the responsibility to receive, consider, and transmit all resolutions (with or without recommendation) to the appropriate convention committee for a report to the convention. During an average year, 3–400 resolutions will be assigned; though, as many as 750 have been received for review at a past convention.

TROPHIES, AWARDS AND CEREMONIALS COMMITTEE

EARL D. FRANKLIN, JR., Colorado, *Chairman*

This committee supervises all of the official national awards, and recommends to the National Executive Committee recipients for the Distinguished Service Medal; over the years, some of the people awarded the Legion's highest honor are: General John J. Pershing, Ignace Jon Paderewski of Poland, Henry Ford, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Ernie Pyle, General Dwight David Eisenhower, Bob Hope, Harry Truman, Babe Ruth, Dr. Jonas E. Salk, Bishop Fulton J. Sheen, John F. Kennedy, the Dead & Missing of the Vietnam War, Astronauts John Young and Robert Crippen, plus many other citizens of renown, who have made lasting and significant contributions during the 20th century.

This committee also makes recommendations on the International Amity Award, the Canadian Friendship Award, and presents a report to the NEC on miscellaneous awards that have been made during each year.

They also supervise the contents of the Manual of Ceremonies of The American Legion.

MEMBERSHIP AND POST ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

BETTYLOU EVANS, Delaware, *Chairperson*

LEE A. HARDY, Minnesota, *Director*

The 1994 membership year has been one of continued innovation within the organization. It is quite evident, with our membership, we are the largest veterans organization in the Nation.

Membership Statistics

Final 1992 membership	3,115,340
Final 1993 membership	3,104,973
1994 membership as of August 11, 1994	3,047,418

Education and Training

31st Annual National Membership Workshop

More than 400 Legionnaires, representing 52 Departments, gathered in Indianapolis July 29–31, to acquire the information and tools necessary for a successful membership year in 1995. The theme for the 1995 year, introduced at the Workshop, put everyone on the "1995 Membership Trail" leading to the National Convention in Portland, Oregon. As we travel the road to Oregon, we need to recall the traditional ways to recruit new members to our organization through face-to-face and neighbor-to-neighbor personal contact. And, as was typical in the days of the pioneers, members of the wagon train broke off and formed new settlements along the way, just as we need to do in forming new posts. We currently are losing three posts for each one we charter and, for the first time since World War II, the organization has on record just under 15,000 posts world-wide.

Membership Campaign Promotion

The National Membership Awards Program distributes between 65,000–70,000 various awards annually to recognize membership accomplishments at all levels of the organization. The promotion plan for the National Membership Campaign is formulated during the annual planning session of the M&PA Committee held in Indianapolis in January.

Unofficial Membership Awards

Contained within this extensive program are a wide variety of prizes ranging from simple certificates and ribbons to valuable gifts and travel. The awards are designed to reward the membership success of dedicated Legionnaires at all levels of the organization and encourage continued growth.

Early Bird Awards—August 17, 1993

Forty-five Departments qualified for the 30% awards.

Autumn Festival—September 21, 1993

Fifty-three Departments qualified for the 40% awards with 52 of them qualifying for the 45% bonus awards. Each winner earned a choice of several gifts.

Octoberfest—October 19, 1993

Fifty-three Departments qualified for the 40% awards with 52 of them qualifying for the 55% bonus awards. Appropriate gifts were awarded for their continuing membership efforts.

Pearl Harbor—December 14, 1993

Fifty Departments qualified for the 70% awards with 40 of them qualifying for the 70% bonus. Excellence in membership earned additional gifts and rewards.

Big Twelve Competition—February 23, 1994

Thirty-three Departments qualified for the 90% awards with 8 of them qualifying for the 95% bonus award.

"Big Twelve" Competition Winners

Category I—Ohio.
Category II—No Department qualified.
Category III—Kansas.
Category IV—No Department qualified.
Category V—Idaho.
Category VI—Delaware.

The membership efforts of the winning Departments, earned them a $2,000 credit with National Emblem Sales of The American Legion.

The American Legion birthday—April 12, 1994

Twenty-five Departments qualified for the 95% awards with 2 of them qualifying for the 100% bonus award. The value of the gifts earned ranged from $25–$150. The bonus awards ranged in value from $15–$75.

Department commander of the year

Any Department Commander who met or exceeds his/her 100% goal for 1994 by May 4, 1993, received a plaque recognizing his/her achievement. The plaque was presented at the National Convention in Minneapolis.

May Day—May 3, 1994

By achieving 100% of the Department's 94 membership goal, winning Department Commanders and Membership Chairmen had a choice of several gifts available, based on the number of targets/bonuses made during the year.

Gold Brigade recruiter award

A Legionnaire who recruits 50 or more NEW members by District Competition target date, May 4, 1994, qualified for enrollment in the elite GOLD BRIGADE of the American Legion.

Gold Brigade drawing

All certified members of the Gold Brigade were automatically entered in a drawing with the five winners announced at the 1994 National Convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The five winners of the drawing receive a $1,000.00 Award Certificate.

Diamond recruiter award

A Legionnaire who recruits 75 or more NEW members into The American Legion by Target Date VII, May 3, 1994 qualified for a 75th Anniversary Diamond Lapel Pin and Recruiter Cap.

Delegate strength—August 8, 1994

Delegate Strength is determined by membership in the hands of the National Treasurer 30 days prior to the National Convention. Total number of delegates for each Department is based on five delegates at large, one delegate for each 1,000 members or major fraction thereof, and the members of the National Executive Committee.

Post honor ribbons

Post Honor Ribbons were shipped to 2,616 Posts whose 1994 membership as of December 31, 1993 exceeds the final 1993 membership.

Certificate of meritorious service

These certificates were awarded for 405 Posts for attaining a new All-Time-High membership for 1994 by December 31, 1993.

Five consecutive years all-time high

These citations were awarded to Posts with five or more consecutive years all-time high membership.

District Commanders "Race To The Top"

District Commanders are the lynch pin of The American Legion's chain of command, serving as the vital link between the National and Department organizations and all Posts. The local Post is where the "rubber meets the road" and if it doesn't happen at the Post level—it doesn't happen at all. District Commanders are the people charged with insuring that all Posts in their District maintain their vitality.

Consequently, this unique award was created to provide a meaningful incentive for the District Commanders and reward their successful membership efforts. The winning District Commander and guest receive:

Reserved tickets to the Indianapolis 500, "the greatest spectacle in racing".
First-class hotel accommodations for four nights at the Ramada Plaza Hotel.
Reserved seating for the Indianapolis 500 parade.
Dinner reservations Friday and Saturday evening at two of Indianapolis' finest restaurants.
Tour of the National Headquarters of The American Legion.

Previous winners have reported how much they enjoyed their opportunity to participate in this world-renowned racing event and that they have fond memories that will last a lifetime. 1994 Race To The Top Competition Rules are as follows:

Competition is divided into five categories based on the membership of the District without regard to geographic locations. District Commanders compete in each of the following categories based on the final 1993 totals, and a top District Commander for the National award is selected from each of the five categories. Second and Third place awards are also to be presented in each category.

Category I—Districts of 15 to 1,499 members.
Category II—Districts of 1,500 to 2,999 members.
Category III—Districts of 3,000 to 4,999 members.
Category IV—Districts of 5,000 to 7,499 members.
Category V—Districts of 7,500 and above members.

The 500 Trip is to be presented to the Top District Commander in each category whose District membership for 1994 on March 31, 1994 represents the greatest percentage over the final 1993 membership of the District. Cannot be less than 100% to qualify. The First Place Award entitles winners to attend the 1994 Indianapolis 500 Race, and first-class hotel accommodations.

Second Place awards are presented to the District Commander in each category whose District membership for 1994 on March 31, 1994 represents the second highest percentage over the final 1993 membership of that District. Cannot be less than 100% to qualify. Winners receive their choice of several gifts valued at $500.

Third Place awards are presented to the District Commander in each category whose District membership for 1994 on March 31, 1994 represents the third highest percentage over the final 1993 membership of that District. Cannot be less than 100% to qualify. Winners receive their choice of several gifts valued at $375.

1994 First Place Winners: Trip to the Indianapolis 500 Race

Category I
Paul Smith, New Mexico, 111.43 percent, Dist 10.
Category II
John B. Dunlap, Oklahoma, 109.62 percent, Dist 1.
Category III
Carl Platner, Delaware, 104.81 percent, Dist 4.
Category IV
Paul Martel, Florida, 102.38 percent, Dist 15.
Category V
Edward J. Dionne, Florida, 103.90 percent, Dist 8.

1993 Second Place Winners: Choice of Several Gifts Valued at $500

Category I
Ken Noack, Idaho, 110.17 percent, Dist 8.
Category II
James Gilmore, Oklahoma, 107.63 percent, Dist 6.
Category III
Robert Schmidt, Florida, 102.62 percent, Dist 3.
Category IV
James Papin, New York, 102.28 percent, Dist 28.
Category V
Herbert G. Hoying, Ohio, 102.56 percent, Dist 2.

1994 Third Place Winners: Choice of Several Gifts Valued at $375

Category I
Charles Tonnacliff, North Carolina, 110.08 percent, Dist 6.
Category II
Joseph R. McConomy, New Jersey, 106.18 percent, Dist 8.
Category III
Blanche E. Smith, Wisconsin, 100.24 percent, Dist 2.
Category IV
William H. Johnson, Nebraska, 100.37 percent, Dist 8.
Category V
William C. Willis, Ohio, 101.09 percent, Dist 3.

District Commander New Post Achievement Award

District Commanders who achieve the goal of creating new American Legion Posts in their respective District and have the new Post's Temporary Charter Application on file in National Headquarters by the 7th Target Date "May Day" May 3, 1994, qualify for a special recognition plaque and a 75th Anniversary Diamond Lapel Tack.

Department Recruiter Of The Year

Each American Legion Post has the opportunity to submit the name of the "Top Recruiter" for that Post who has signed up the highest number of new members for the 1994 membership year by May 4, 1994. Department Adjutants determine the Top New Member Recruiter for their respective Department and certify their "Department Recruiter" to National Headquarters on or before May 18, 1994.

The "Department Recruiter" properly certified from each Department, is awarded a State Outline Plaque with his/her accomplishment inscribed thereon.

National Recruiter Of The Year

The individual certified with the highest number of new members recruited from among all the Departments is declared "National Recruiter of the Year". The winner of this award receives an expense paid trip to the 1994 National Convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

1993 Houghton award winners

The Arthur D. Houghton Sons of The American Legion is presented annually to the Detachment of the Sons of The American Legion which on December 31 of each year has attained the greatest percentage of increase over the previous year's total membership. There are three (3) categories and three (3) awards. The winners are:

CATEGORY I—New Mexico 131.9 percent
CATEGORY II—Colorado 129.7 percent
CATEGORY III—Pennsylvania 114.6 percent

The Sons Of The American Legion

Membership in the Sons of The American Legion for 1993 was 161,376. As of August 10, 1994, the Sons of The American Legion membership has grown to 168,776 members and is expected to grow to 170,000 by December 31, 1994.

The Sons of The American Legion's main emphasis focuses on two major areas (1) VA & R Volunteer Support (VAVS) Rehabilitation to Veterans in VA homes and hospitals and (2) raising funds in support of The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation.

In the area of VA & R, the Sons of The American Legion provided over 45,000 volunteer hours in VA homes and hospitals and donated over $71,000 in cash and goods for our nation's Veterans.

The Sons provided three grants through The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation to (1) Friends Network (2) The Caring Program for Children and (3) National Marfan Foundation. At the end of the Foundation's reporting year (May 31, 1994) the Sons of The American Legion donated $78,362.80.

The Sons of The American Legion remains a healthy and vibrant program experiencing continued growth and support to Posts throughout The American Legion.

LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION

CHARLES PESSO, New York, *Chairman*

STEVE ROBERTSON, Louisiana, *Director*

This report covers the activities of the Legislative Commission from August 1, 1993 through August 10, 1994. During this period, the Commission met five times to review the legislative program and to make recommendations to the National Executive Committee. Reports of these meetings are contained in the published proceedings of the National Executive Committee.

Purpose, Personnel and Organization

The Legislative Commission represents The American Legion before the Congress of the United States on all legislative matters in which the Legion is officially interested, and it assists the National Executive Committee in formulating an appropriate legislative program for each session of Congress. The Commission consists of thirty-two members and five National Executive Committee liaisons.

To further assist the Commission in its work with Congress, the National Executive Committee in 1975 created the National Legislative Council, composed of Legionnaires whose judgment and advice are respected by their elected representatives. The Council is headed by a National Chairman, who is assisted by a Vice Chairman in 50 Legion Departments. The Chairman, Vice Chairmen and general membership of the Council are appointed by the National Commander upon recommendation by the Departments.

The professional staff of the Commission (the Legislative Division) concentrates on implementing the legislative mandates of The American Legion which are expressed in resolutions adopted at its annual National Convention and by the National Executive Committee at each of its regularly scheduled meetings. The Legislative Division is located in Washington, DC and consists of the director, two assistant directors, two secretaries, a research analyst and a librarian. The director and assistant directors are registered lobbyists and submit quarterly reports to Congress. Because the Legion is a federally chartered organization, an annual report is prepared and submitted to Congress.

103d Congress, First Session

The following section provides a review of significant legislative activity during the last five months of 1993 which impacted on the Legion's legislative program. These highlights are organized by subject area.

Americanism/Children & Youth

Flag Protection.—The Legion's continuing campaign to protect the American flag from physical desecration earned additional victories as 1993 came to a close. At the Fall NEC meetings in October, National Commander Bruce Thiesen challenged the 17 remaining states to increase their efforts in obtaining a memorial resolution through their state legislatures. By the end of the First Session, only 15 states had not achieved this goal. The American Legion will continue its campaign to have all 50 states send memorializing resolutions for a flag protection amendment to Congress.

Resettlement of Iraqi POWs Examined.—Only 2 years after the end of the Persian Gulf War, the Clinton administration came under fire for allowing former Iraqi nationals being resettled in this country. During FY 1993, nearly 4500 Iraqi refugees were settled in the U.S. They were chosen from nearly 39,000 Iraqis in Saudi Arabia who could not return to Iraq after the conflict because of political circumstances. About 4000 were former soldiers who deserted between the invasion of Kuwait or were captured by coalition forces at the beginning of the U.S. offensive against Iraq. Nearly 10,000 were members of ethnic or religious minorities opposed to Saddam Hussein. Finally, some participated in the failed coup against Hussein in March, 1991 and feared reprisals.

Members of Congress have raised objections to this refugee resettlement program, and legislation has even been introduced to halt the program's implementation. In FY 1993 INS approved 2153 Iraqi refugees from Saudi Arabia for settlement in the U.S. Of these, 533 were former soldiers. The quota for FY 1994 is 3229, of which 549 were former soldiers. Quotas for FY 1995 could be as high as 6000. Refugees go through a screening process by federal agencies before they are cleared for resettlement. The vast majority are sponsored by benevolent organizations, who assist

in resettlement and employment efforts. The U.S. and 15 other nations are resettling these refugees. The American Legion will continue to monitor this situation carefully.

OJJDP Funding.—On October 27, President Clinton enacted Public Law 103–121, the FY 1994 Departments of Commerce, Justice, State and the Judiciary funding measure. The most important item of concern to the Legion contained in the bill is the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). Under the provisions of the legislation, OJJDP received $107 million for the current fiscal year, a substantial increase over FY 1993's $77 million.

INS Funding.—Another area of importance to the Legion in PL 103-121 is funding for the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). The law contains $1.05 billion for INS programs, including hiring of new Border Patrol agents, purchasing new equipment for the Border Patrol and updating the State Department's overseas visa processing requirements. A portion of this money will be funded through increases in various immigration user fees.

National Family Week.—In mid-November President Clinton enacted PL 103–153, which recognized the week of November 21, 1993 and November 20, 1994 (which include Thanksgiving Day) as "National Family Week." The American Legion has taken the lead over the past two decades in promoting this commemorative week, recognized as a meaningful time to stress the importance of family values.

Childhood Immunization Programs Funded—As contained in PL 103–112, the FY 1994 Departments of Labor, HHS and Education funding bill, a program to protect this nation's children against vaccine-preventable diseases by their second birthday received $528 million.

The authorizing legislation for this childhood immunization program, originally contained in S. 732, was amended onto a similar bill (H.R. 2659) which passed the House on October 5 and then the Senate on March 24. The American Legion's Americanism/Children & Youth Division is working with HHS and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta to work out a cooperation agreement involving the Legion's resources and volunteer assistance.

Economics

TJTC Reauthorized, Temporarily.—On August 10, President Clinton signed PL 103–66, the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 (OBRA 93). Included in the law was another temporary, thirty month reauthorization for the targeted jobs tax credit (TJTC). This new reauthorization was made retroactive to June 30, 1992 when TJTC expired. This means that before the end of the 103rd Congress, the Legion and other groups who support TJTC must return to Congress and ask for yet another extension. In addition, the administration has expressed its desire to eliminate TJTC altogether. The American Legion will continue to seek the permanent reauthorization of TJTC.

ASVET Funding.—President Clinton on October 21 enacted PL 103–112, the Departments of Labor, HHS and Education appropriations bill for FY 1994. The measure contained a total of $186.6 million for programs under the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training (ASVET). The Disabled Veterans Outreach Program (DVOP) was funded at $84.2 million for the current year, an increase of $2.2 million over FY 1993. The Local Veterans Employment Representative (LVER) program received $78.2 million, $2.1 million more than FY 1993. Finally, the National Veterans Training Institute (NVTI) received $2.9 million, an increase of $100,000 over the previous year.

VA Home Loan Increase.—On September 21, the House by a voice vote passed H.R. 949, a measure which would increase the amount that veterans could borrow under VA's home loan program. According to this legislation, veterans could borrow up to $203,000 (the current limit is set at $184,000). The bill would also extend bridge loans of up to $10,000 to veterans who are facing foreclosure on their home mortgages because of job loss or underemployment.

Soldiers and Sailors Civil Relief Act.—The Senate on November 8 passed H.R. 995, a measure to simplify the Soldiers and Sailors Civil Relief Act, by substituting language of S. 843 (its own version of the legislation) for the House-passed version. Following the Persian Gulf War, many employers and veterans were unsure of their obligations and rights under the act. H.R. 995 would reaffirm the obligation of all employers to rehire a veteran who returns from service within five years of leaving his job. The returning veteran is also entitled to the same or a similar job as well as any promotions that would have accrued had he not served in the military. The legislation would also add new provisions requiring servicemembers called to active duty to give reasonable notice to employers before leaving. Also added was a provi-

sion which would guarantee that any pension benefits continue to accrue during the veteran's time of service. The bill now goes back to the House for further action.

Foreign Relations

Foreign Aid Appropriations.—On September 30 PL 103–87, the FY 1994 foreign aid bill, was enacted. It contained just under $13 billion in foreign operations funding, $1.4 billion less than was requested by the Clinton administration. Most of the initial disagreements between the House and Senate were over the Senate's insistence on certain spending mandates for specific aid accounts, as opposed to the House's desire to allow the White House wider latitude in allocating foreign aid.

NAFTA Approval.—The President on December 8 enacted P.L. 103–182, which would implement the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). On November 17, by a 234–200 recorded vote, the House passed the legislation after long and often heated debate. NAFTA would create the largest free trade area in the world, to include the U.S., Canada and Mexico. This agreement is intended to break down most trade, tariff and employment barriers between the three countries, encompassing 358 million consumers and a total market of $6.5 trillion.

Post-Cold War Military Matters Examined.—Since the end of the Cold War and the emergence of the U.S. as the last major superpower, The American Legion has been concerned with two important factors. First, as the number of peacekeeping, peacemaking or humanitarian missions occur, that American forces have been placed under foreign command. In a letter dated October 5, the Legion informed Congress of its opposition to such actions.

In the same letter, the Legion also addressed the possibility that American servicemembers could be taken prisoner by hostile nongovernmental forces in the course of post-Cold War military actions. This situation became a hot issue late in 1993 as American forces became more involved in peacekeeping activities in Somalia, and a U.S. Army helicopter pilot was captured by irregular forces loyal to a Somali warlord. The Legion urged Congress to examine the current U.S. POW/MIA policy, and to set up mechanisms to insure that American citizens are treated fairly and that our government will do everything possible to secure their release, even the use of force.

Lobbying Restrictions.—The American Legion is officially on record in support of legislation to regulate the activities of individuals who lobby government agencies on behalf of corporations or foreign governments or interests. In particular, the Legion believes that former high-ranking administration officials and former members of Congress should be prohibited from lobbying their former colleagues on behalf of foreign government or interests. Legislation to streamline the lobbyist reporting process (S. 349) passed the Senate on May 6, 1993 by a 95–2 recorded vote.

Internal Affairs

Revenue Forgone and Nonprofit Rate Reform.—On October 28 P.L. 103–123, the FY 1994 Treasury-Postal Service funding measure, was signed into law. The revenue forgone account received $91.4 million in funding for the current fiscal year. (In the previous two fiscal years, nonprofit postal subsidies shrank from $470 million in FY 1992, to $121 million in FY 1993, to the current year's total.) A four percent rate increase on third class nonprofit rates and a two percent increase on second class nonprofit mailings will go into effect soon, with similar increases taking effect in each of the next five years thereafter. Also, a 4¢ per piece surcharge on third class flat pieces will continue. The American Legion will continue to seek true reform of the nonprofit mailing rates.

World War II Memorial.—In 1992, P.L. 102–414 was enacted, allowing the Treasury Department to mint a coin to commemorate the 50th anniversary of U.S. participation in World War II. Funds from sales of the coin would be used to build a World War II memorial in Washington DC. Unfortunately, legislation to authorize the actual construction of the memorial expired when the 102nd Congress adjourned. To correct this oversight, a bill to authorize construction of the World War II memorial was introduced at the outset of the 103rd Congress, quickly passed and on May 25 President Clinton enacted P.L. 103–32.

Memorial Coins Bill Enacted.—On December 14, the President enacted P.L. 103–186, a bill which authorizes the U.S. Treasury to mint several commemorative coins. They include: a Prisoner-of-War Commemorative Coin, to memorialize the experiences of Americans who have been POWs; a Vietnam Veterans Memorial Commemorative Coin, to honor the 10th anniversary of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial; and, the Women in Military Service for America Memorial Commemorative Coin, to honor the service of women in U.S. armed forces. Funds from the sales of these coins will be used, respectively, to build a Prisoner-of-War Museum in Andersonville

GA, repair and maintain the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, and build and maintain the Women in Military Service for America Memorial.

Vietnam Women's Memorial Coin.—On November 24, the Senate by a voice vote passed S. 469. If this measure is enacted, it will authorize the U.S. Treasury to mint a commemorative coin to support construction and perpetual care of the Vietnam Women's Memorial, which was dedicated on November 11, 1993 in Washington, DC.

National Security

DoD Budget, Appropriations.—The President on November 11 signed P.L. 103–139, the Department of Defense (DoD) funding bill for FY 1994. It funded DoD at a level of $240.5 billion, $12.6 billion less than was appropriated for FY 1993. Total U.S. active-duty forces under P.L. 103–139 will be 1.62 million, a projected reduction of 103,000 personnel.

Some specific highlights of the bill include: $2.64 billion for anti-missile programs (formerly SDI); $2.64 billion to build three additional Aegis anti-missile destroyers; $2.09 billion to continue development of the F–22 as a successor to the F–15; $1.94 billion for six more C–17 wide-body cargo jets; and, $1.47 billion to continue development of enlarged models of the Navy's F/A–18. In addition, P.L. 103–139 includes $2.49 billion for defense conversion projects intended to cushion defense contractors, their employees and their communities against the steady decline in Pentagon spending.

In addition to the active-duty personnel reduction stated above, other reductions recommended in the DoD authorization measure (P.L. 103–160) include: 60,000 fewer reserve personnel; 2 less Army divisions; 397 naval combat ships (28 less than currently available); 12 aircraft carriers (a reduction of one carrier); 2 less tactical fighter wings (2 less than presently on active-duty); 191 long-range bombers (cutting out 10); and, 667 intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs), reducing the total by 120.

These reductions reflect a new perspective on U.S. defense policy away from a Cold War posture to an emphasis on regional security, reduction of weapons of mass destruction, and a strengthening of U.S. economic security. Pentagon officials claim that the DoD budget is adequate to meet the new post-Cold War challenges. Despite certain cuts already announced, House Armed Services Chairman Ron Dellums claims that more can be cut from the DoD budget and still maintain American military strength. His Senate counterpart, Sam Nunn, has expressed an unwillingness to cut any further.

The American Legion continues to be concerned with efforts to reduce the U.S. military. Despite assurances that American armed forces will be able to maintain up-to-the-minute readiness, the Legion is still anxious over the 9.4 percent cut in defense spending contained in PL 103–139.

Military Pay Raise Approved.—Also included in PL 103–139 was a 2.2 percent pay raise for armed services personnel in FY 1994. White House budget plans call for tight controls on pay raises, hoping to limit pay raises to one percent under inflation during FY 1994–1997. However, House Defense Appropriations Subcommittee chairman John Murtha (D–PA) insisted on the modest raise in order to keep trained servicemembers and to keep the services on an up-to-the-minute readiness. Both chambers of Congress agreed with Murtha.

U.S. Coast Guard.—The President on December 20, enacted P.L. 103–206, the FY 1994 Coast Guard authorization measure. The law authorizes $3.6 billion for the Coast Guard, including $2.6 billion for operations and $418 million to buy vessels, aircraft and other equipment. It also includes provisions aimed at improving Coast Guard resources to respond to oil spills and to increase the number of active-duty commissioned officers from 6,000 to 6,200. On October 27 the President signed PL 103–122, the FY 1994 Transportation Department funding bill. The Coast Guard received $3.6 billion in funding to continue its various missions, which include air-sea rescues, drug interdiction, pollution control and illegal alien interception.

Base Closures.—On July 1 the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission sent its final list of base closing recommendations to President Clinton. The list included 35 major and 95 minor military installations targeted for closure and 27 major bases and 18 minor facilities scheduled for cutbacks of some kind. The President approved the list within 24 hours and sent the list to Congress. On September 20 the Senate voted 83–12 to allow the closures and realignments to proceed. According to law, either chamber of Congress could overturn the entire list but not remove individual facilities from the list.

Selective Service Saved.—During early consideration of the FY 1994 VA, HUD and Independent Agencies funding measure (P.L. 103–124), the House made a deep cut in money for the Selective Service System, effectively restricting the agency to main-

tenance of a computer program that contains the registry dates of all individuals entered thus far into the system. Funded at $28.6 million in FY 1993, Selective Service would have received only $5 million.

However, the Senate disagreed and appropriated $25 million for the agency in FY 1994. On October 29 the House voted 236–194 to agree to the Senate amount. The American Legion regards Selective Service as a necessary hedge against the possibility of large-scale international emergencies, and will continue to support this agency.

Military Families Recognized.—On November 8 PL 103–137 was enacted, which recognized November 22, 1993 as "National Military Families Recognition Day." This commemorative day is designed to acknowledge the sacrifices of military families and the hardships they often endure, and to recognize "their patriotism through their steadfast support and commitment to the nation."

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

FY 1994 VA Spending.—On October 28 President Clinton enacted P.L. 103–124, the FY 1994 VA, HUD and Independent Agencies appropriations bill. The measure funded VA at $35.9 billion, an increase of $813 million over the previous year's figures. The medical care account received a funding increase of nearly $1 billion, while the medical and prosthetic research account was raised by $20 million. An extra $133 million was appropriated for readjustment benefits, while funding for major and minor construction projects actually went down by $120 million from FY 1993 to the current year. The American Legion will continue to lobby Congress for adequate funding for VA, especially much needed health-care reform.

Veterans Provisions in OBRA 93.—PL 103-66 contained provisions which affected veterans. VA was given authority to continue billing nonservice-connected veterans for health care until the end of FY 1998. Next, the law allows VA to continue a program to require private insurers to reimburse VA for treatment of veterans for nonservice-connected disabilities. Other veterans will also continue to pay copayments for medication received on an outpatient basis.

Other OBRA 93 provisions affecting veterans include: an increase in the VA home-loan user fee from 1.25 percent to 2 percent; elimination of an FY 1994 cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for Montgomery GI Bill participants, and a 50 percent reduction in a similar COLA for FY 1995; and, FY 1994 COLAs for dependency and indemnity compensation payments would be tied to increases in Social Security payments, would halve those COLAs and have them rounded down to the nearest dollar amount.

As The American Legion has said in the past, our nation's veterans did not create the current deficit and it is unfair for the federal government to balance the budget on their backs. The Legion will continue to oppose these "savings" as unfair and shortsighted.

Future Planning of VA Construction.—P.L. 103–79, signed by the President on August 13, requires VA to engage in detailed planning before deciding on future hospital construction projects. The law directs VA to review the mission of each facility within a year of the law's enactment. It further requires VA to make long-term care and ambulatory care the major priorities when building new hospitals or expanding existing facilities. This provision reflects the fact that VA will need to stress this type of care in the future in order to cope with a veteran population that is getting older.

National Service Program Become Law.—On September 21, President Clinton enacted P.L. 103–82, which codifies his National Service Program. Under the plan, selected individuals would receive educational grants, government-funded health care and child care, a monthly stipend and other generous benefits in exchange for up to 1,700 hours of community service or volunteer work. Funding for the new program was included in P.L. 103–124, the FY 1994 VA, HUD and Independent Agencies spending bill. The Legion and its supporters attempted to have this program included under the Labor, HHS and Education appropriations measure, but was unsuccessful. The program was funded in FY 1994 at $370 million.

The American Legion does not oppose the concept of national or community service and volunteerism. However, our organization feels that this program will be in direct competition with the armed forces to recruit young people. The program also offers benefits which, taken as a whole, are superior to those offered by the current Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB). Congress has limited the educational grants of the National Service Program not to exceed 90% of educational benefits of the MGIB. The Legion will use National Service Program criteria to urge Congress to either improve MGIB benefits or institute a new GI Bill for Persian Gulf veterans.

Veterans, Survivors Comp COLAs.—On November 11, President Clinton signed P.L. 103–140, which set the FY 1994 COLA for veterans' disability compensation and survivors' benefits at a percentage equal to the COLA for Social Security recipients. That COLA was set at 2.6 percent after inflation figures (as measured by the Consumer Price Index) were released earlier.

Medal of Honor Pensions Increased.—The President on November 30, signed PL 103–161, legislation which increased the pension paid by the federal government to living Congressional Medal of Honor recipients. Under this law, the pension was raised from $200 a month to $400 per month.

VA Health Care for Desert Storm Veterans.—On December 20, President Clinton enacted PL 103–210, a bill which authorizes VA to provide health care for veterans of the Persian Gulf War. This law goes into effect as thousands of Desert Storm veterans, both active-duty and Reserve personnel, are experiencing a variety of symptoms and ailments which have thus far defied explanation. The American Legion continues to press Congress to mandate a thorough epidemiological study of Persian Gulf veterans.

Selected VA Care Expanded.—On November 16, the House gave voice vote approval to H.R. 3313, a measure aimed at making several changes in VA health care. The bill combines the texts of four measures originally passed by the House Veterans Affairs Subcommittee on Hospitals and Health Care on October 6. H.R. 3313 aims to enhance treatment for veterans suffering from exposure to Agent Orange and ionizing radiation. It would also authorize VA to treat Vietnam veterans for those conditions the National Academy of Sciences has found or will subsequently find to be related to Agent Orange.

Another provision of the bill would mandate outpatient treatment for conditions caused by Agent Orange or radiation exposure. The bill would expand existing VA medical treatment offered to women veterans. In addition, H.R. 3313 would authorize VA to establish nonprofit corporations at its health-care facilities to provide therapeutic work for chronically mentally ill patients. Finally, the measure would authorize VA to furnish preventive and other medical care at community-based Vet Centers.

103rd Congress, Second Session

The Second Session of the 103rd Congress convened on January 25, 1994. On February 7 President Clinton unveiled his Fiscal Year 1995 budget proposal of $1.51 trillion. The House of Representatives on March 11 passed House Concurrent Resolution 218, which generally agreed with the President's budget request, by a 223–175 vote. On March 25 the Senate passed an amended version of H. Con. Res. 218 by a 57–40 vote.

The President on February 12 enacted PL 103–211, the first supplemental appropriations measure of FY 1994. The majority of the bill provides $10 billion in emergency aid to victims of the January 17 California earthquake. Some of this emergency aid, $66.6 million, was allocated specifically for repairs to the VA medical center at Sepulveda which was closed due to heavy quake damage. The money, which remains available until spent, includes $45.6 million for repairs and $21 million to treat the VAMC's patients at other veterans hospitals.

The measure also contains $698 million for increased disability payments and pension benefits, as well as $103.2 million for higher readjustment benefits. Finally, the law transfers $2.5 million from VA medical care to medical administration, most of which will be used to avoid layoffs at the Veterans Health Administration headquarters in Washington, DC. The money will cover the cost of a $500,000 contract awarded to help VA plan for health-care reform.

In April, The American Legion expressed concern with the membership of the Bipartisan Entitlement Task Force, a group formed to examine ways to reduce federal government entitlements and thereby reduce the deficit. The Legion was most concerned that none of the task force members, mainly drawn from congressional and private business leaders, directly represented the veterans' community. This oversight could have a tremendous effect on veterans appropriations over the next several years, and The American Legion requested that this oversight be remedied.

This year is also an election year, and there will be major changes in both the House and Senate. Nine senators have announced their retirements from Congress, while 49 representatives have either retired, resigned, are running for another office, or already lost primary elections. The retirement of Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell (ME), has set off a leadership scramble in the Senate as well as in the state of Maine. Both current House members which represent Maine have declared their candidacy for Mitchell's seat, which now opens both House seats. Fur-

ther, Senators Tom Daschle (D-SD) and Jim Sasser (D-TN) have begun lining up votes for the leadership slot.

The death of Representative William Natcher of Kentucky (who chaired the House Appropriations Committee), besides opening a seat in the House, resulted in the selection of Representative David Obey (WI) to become the new panel chairman. In announcing their retirements, some senior House members of both parties will be setting off major committee realignments of chairmanships and ranking minority members. The House Veterans Affairs Committee will lose seven members, three of whom currently serve as subcommittee chairmen.

Americanism/Children & Youth

The American Legion is continuing its campaign to have state legislatures pass memorializing resolutions urging Congress to adopt a proposed constitutional amendment. In February, Michigan joined the ranks of flag protectors, followed by New Mexico, Nebraska, Maryland, New York, Arizona, Minnesota, Oklahoma and North Carolina to bring the total number of states passing memorializing resolutions to 44. The Legion will continue its campaign to have all 50 states send memorializing resolutions for a flag protection amendment to Congress.

The American Legion has joined forces with the Citizens Flag Alliance, a broad-based, national organization formed to persuade Congress to pass a constitutional amendment to protect the flag. The Citizens Flag Alliance has targeted the First Session of the 104th Congress for passage of a narrowly drawn constitutional flag protection amendment.

The Senate on March 24 passed H.R. 2659, a bill which contains authorizing legislation for a childhood immunization program which has been a major objective of the White House. The immunization provisions would help insure that all children in this country are protected against vaccine-preventable diseases by their second birthday. It would also establish a national immunization tracking system and ensure continued operation of the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program. Both congressional chambers approved nearly identical funding amounts for the program, the House appropriating $463 million and the Senate providing $464 million. Since the bill is different from the version originally passed by the House, a conference committee will be necessary to reconcile disagreements.

On July 22 the Senate by a voice vote passed H.R. 4603, the FY 1995 Departments of Commerce, Justice, State and the Judiciary funding measure. The Senate's version of the measure would provide about $600 million more than the House bill.

The Justice Department would receive a 26.5 percent increase in funding over FY 1994 for a total of $12.1 billion. Some of that money will go towards the hiring of a projected 100,000 new police officers. The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) will get $1.3 billion, $301 million over current year totals. Much of that funding will be used to hire 700 new Border Patrol agents.

In addition, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) would receive $146.5 million from the House and $144 million from the Senate. If signed into law, this would be the second year in a row in which OJJDP would receive substantial funding increases. Spending in FY 1993 totalled $77 million, and FY 1994 programs were funded at $107 million. The American Legion has supported the goals of OJJDP since it inception and will continue to support its various programs aimed at keeping this country's children and youth crime-free.

Economics

On July 20 the Senate Appropriations Committee approved its version of H.R. 4606, the FY 1995 Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education spending measure, sending the bill to the full Senate for further action. The House on June 29 had passed the measure by a 339–89 recorded vote.

The bill contains funding for the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans Employment and Training (ASVET). A total of $185.3 million would be given to this office under the House version of H.R. 4606, which is $1.4 million less than was appropriated in the current year. The Senate would appropriate $188 million, an increase of $1.3 million. The Disabled Veterans Outreach Program (DVOP) would receive $83.6 million, nearly $600,000 less than FY 1994 funding. Under the Senate's version DVOP would be funded at $85 million, $800,000 more than current year totals. In addition, the Local Veterans Employment Representative (LVER) program would receive $77.6 million, another $600,000 reduction over current year amounts. The Senate would provide LVER with $78.8 million, an increase of nearly $700,000 over FY 1994 amounts. The National Veterans Training Institute (NVTI) would receive $2.9 million from both chambers, the same amount appropriated for

FY 1994. Finally, both chambers would fund Title IV–C of the Job Training Partnership Act at $8.9 million.

On June 27, the Veterans Employment Training Service (VETS) held a ceremony to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the enactment of the Veterans Preference Act. During the ceremony, Labor Secretary Robert Reich stated the Clinton Administration's commitment to preserving veterans preference and VETS.

The American Legion and other veterans' service organizations put those comments to the test late in July. In early June the Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB) ruled that a controversial 1992 restructuring of the U.S. Postal Service was a reduction in force, or RIF. Under RIF law, seniority and veterans preference determines who can claim remaining jobs and who gets laid off during federal downsizing. The Clinton Administration appealed that ruling on July 27, exactly one month after the veterans preference anniversary ceremony.

Almost immediately, the Legion scored the White House for this hypocritical decision. On August 3, however, the Clinton Administration had reconsidered its position and announced it would drop the appeal.

The House on August 1 passed by voice vote two measures to several measures which will benefit veterans. (These measures passed the House Veterans Affairs Committee on July 21 by voice votes.) One bill, H.R. 4776, would require businesses with federal contracts worth $10,000 or more to give preference in hiring and promotion to combat veterans. Federal contractors would also have to inform veterans of job openings before announcing them to the public through local employment agencies. The measure also requires that Vietnam veterans and women veterans be included in the Bureau of Labor Statistics' biennial survey of unemployment among veterans.

Further, H.R. 4724 would expand eligibility for VA guaranteed home loans. The bill would waive a requirement that reservists discharged for service-connected injuries have served at least six years to qualify for a VA loan. Spouses of reservists killed on active duty would also qualify for loans.

There are over 600,000 homeless persons in America each night, approximately 250,000 of these are veterans. In May, the White House initiated a new program entitled *Priority: Home!* This new program will direct the Departments of Health and Human Services, Labor and Veterans Affairs to work together to provide relief to the homeless problem. The program will also dramatically increase funding for the McKinney Act to allow state and local governments and nonprofit groups increased funding to provide housing. On June 17, VA announced a Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA) for its new Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program. Under NOFA, $5.5 million will be available through the remainder of FY 1994.

Legislation introduced in this session, S. 2111, would promote increased competition throughout the communications industry, as well as an estimated 500,000 jobs within the next two years. As part of a public relations campaign to foster support for S 2111, National Commander Bruce Thiesen lent his support and that of The American Legion to S. 2111.

FOREIGN RELATIONS

On February 2 President Clinton announced his intention to lift the 19-year economic embargo against Vietnam. The American Legion and other veterans' organizations had met with the President in the days prior to his action, stating their opposition to his proposal. As there are still over 2,200 MIAs from the Vietnam War unaccounted for, the President was advised not to lift the embargo against Vietnam or to normalize relations with Vietnam until Hanoi provides the fullest possible accounting of American POW/MIAs.

There are still many POWs and MIAs from World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War that are unaccounted for that need to be investigated and resolved. Until these long-overdue answers are found, The American Legion believes the issue requires the continuing national visibility that can only be provided by a presidential commission or a congressional oversight committee. Legislation has been introduced in the House to create another select committee on POW/MIA affairs.

On August 4 the House by a 341–85 vote passed H.R. 4426, the FY 1995 foreign aid funding measure. Final action by the Senate is expected. The bill would provide $13.8 billion in overseas aid to a variety of programs benefitting many nations. That figure represents a $250 million reduction from the administration's request and almost $510 million less than was funded in FY 1994. The measure as passed by the conferees was relatively free of earmarks, specific spending mandates intended to funnel money to individual nations.

Some specific funding areas include: $220 million in debt relief for Jordan, which late in July ended its 46-year state of war with Israel; $850 million in aid to the nations of the former Soviet Union; $365 million in loans to Turkey; $255 million in loans to Greece; $3 billion in aid for Israel; and, $2.1 billion for Egypt.

On March 24 the House by a vote of 315–110 passed S 349, legislation aimed at streamlining the lobbying reporting process. The measure would create a new independent agency to monitor lobbyists, require them to report to this agency every six months, direct persons who lobby executive branch agencies to register, and prohibit most gifts in excess of $20. Many House members, particularly freshman legislators, complained that there were still too many loopholes in gift-giving for S 349 to work effectively. There are many differences in the two versions of the bill, so a conference committee will be required to craft a version acceptable to both chambers.

Internal Affairs

After initial Senate passage in the First Session, S 469 has become stalled in the House of Representatives. The bill would authorize a commemorative coin to support construction and maintenance of the Vietnam Women's Memorial. Despite the fact that a companion measure, HR 2467, has 222 cosponsors, that legislation is currently stalled in the House Banking Subcommittee on Consumer Credit and Insurance, chaired by Representative Joseph Kennedy (D-MA). It is likely that final action on this measure will occur in the 104th Congress.

The Senate on June 22 passed by a 72–27 vote HR 4539, the FY 1995 Treasury-Postal Service funding measure. The House passed its version of the bill on June 15 by a 276–139 tally. The House version of the bill contained $85.7 million for revenue forgone postal subsidies, while the Senate-passed version funded the account at $102.3 million. While this amount is a modest increase over the House version and current year amounts (FY 1994 revenue forgone funding totalled $91.4 million), it is still a far cry from the $470 million set aside for this account a mere two years ago.

Earlier this year, the U.S. Postal Service published new regulations to govern third-class rates for nonprofit mailers. Though PL 103–123 contained guidelines (the so-called "Clay compromise") for USPS to follow in formulating these rules, the published regulations generally ignored congressional intent as contained in the law. The Legion will continue to seek major nonprofit postal rate reform.

National Security

On July 29 the Senate Appropriations Committee completed action on HR 4650, the FY 1995 Department of Defense (DoD) funding bill, with spending totalling $243.8 billion. The House passed its version of the measure on June 29 by a 330–91 recorded vote. The House version contains a total of $243.6 billion for programs related to this nation's military, approximately $3 billion more than was funded in the current fiscal year.

The major provisions of the measure include: an FY 1995 active-duty force of 1.53 million personnel; $389 million to buy 60 additional Blackhawk troop-carrying helicopters; $217 million for the Marine Corps to buy 18 Cobra attack helicopters; $934 million for 24 additional F/A–18 fighters; $2.44 billion for continued development of the F–22 for the Air Force; $2.45 billion for an additional nuclear-powered aircraft carrier; $2.61 billion for three Aegis missile destroyers; $497 million to continue development of the V–22 Osprey aircraft for the Marines; $2.3 billion for continued production and testing of the C–17 wide-body cargo jets; $2.75 billion for anti-missile defenses; and, $3.49 billion for economic conversion programs.

Last year, the House attempted to cut the majority of funding proposed for the Selective Service System, but was thwarted by the Senate. On March 3, a report was released by the Pentagon that stated that peacetime registration could be suspended "without irreparable damage to national security." The report stopped short, however, of a recommendation to abolish the system, and President Clinton said in an accompanying letter that registration should continue pending further review by the National Security Council. Funding for the Selective Service is included in H.R. 4624, the FY 1995 VA, HUD and Independent Agencies funding measure, totalling $23 million.

The House by a 363–49 vote on June 16 and the Senate on July 21 by a 91–9 tally passed H.R. 4556, the Department of Transportation funding measure for FY 1995. This bill contains money for the U.S. Coast Guard, which would receive $3.7 billion for its various tasks including air-sea rescue, pollution fighting, drug interdiction and illegal alien interception. One of its missions can be clearly seen in the Coast Guard's participation in operations to intercept Haitian refugees. Each chamber gave slightly varying amounts to Coast Guard functions.

On June 15 the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee approved for Senate action H.R. 6, a bill to authorize for six years a number of elementary and secondary education programs. The measure was approved by the full House on March 24 by a recorded vote of 289–112. One of the components of H.R. 6 involves impact aid. This is funding which would compensate localities for costs associated with educating children from families connected to large federal endeavors, such as military bases. In many cases the demands on civilian facilities and teaching staffs met by communities are overwhelming because of the added workload created by the dependent children of our nation's service personnel.

After considerable debate in June and into July, both the House and Senate approved legislation which would shift receipt of military and federal civilian retirement COLAs to April, 1995. In a unique display of unity, federal civilian retirees and military retirees worked together to avoid providing COLAs to one group of retirees at the expenses of the other. The bill will also add an additional $367 million to the FY 1995 DoD funding measure for the COLAs. The COLAs will be funded out of non-readiness accounts. Receipt of COLAs in 1996 and later years are yet to be decided.

Efforts by the Legion have been consistent in both sessions of Congress to support changes in legislation to allow military retirees to receive both retirement pay and disability pay. Senator John McCain (R–AZ) introduced an initiative in the First Session to allow concurrent receipt for 100 percent disabled veterans. Its implementation was predicated upon the ability of DoD to fund and support the requirement. Those monies and DoD staff support failed to materialize.

Late in the current session, Senator McCain reintroduced his legislation with the additional caveat that only 100 percent service-connected, 20-year military retirees be allowed to receive concurrent receipt. An estimated 3500 individuals would be affected, costing an estimated $55 million. A similar effort has been on-going in the House since early 1993 contained in H.R. 65. This bill, however, proposes concurrent receipt for all retirees. At the time of this writing, the McCain initiative is pending debate in the Senate.

Budget cutting and deficit reduction activities continued to serve as the catalyst for consideration of certain programs for cancellation. One of those was the Uniformed Services University of the Health Services (USUHS). This program, which furnishes about 160 military doctors to the military services each year, costs an estimated $185 million each year. Initial efforts to close the facility began in mid-1993 with the issuance of Vice President Gore's National Performance Review. Since that time, several House and Senate measures, budget debates and cost cutting initiatives have been introduced to close USUHS. Thus far, compelling and unique international humanitarian catastrophes have supported retention of the facility.

Concern for budgetary expenditures also carried over into the world of science and exploration as conducted by NASA. In late February the House Science, Space and Technology Subcommittee on Space heard testimony in support of a strong national space program. The Legion spoke in favor of the nation's investment in exploration, education, youth indoctrination programs and a dynamic aerospace program that furthers U.S. national defense and economic security goals, as well as space science. The Legion noted that if a "made in space" label could make a difference in the U.S. economy, our organization would support it.

VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION

The House on June 29 by a recorded vote of 344–84 passed H.R. 4624, the VA, HUD and Independent Agencies spending bill for FY 1995. The Senate passed the measure on August 4 by a vote of 86–9. Funding for VA was set at $37.3 billion by the House, at $37.4 billion by the Senate. Some of the funding levels in major accounts:

Account	Fiscal year 1994	H.R. 4624 (House proposed)	H.R. 4624 (Senate proposed)
Compensation & pension (billions)	$17.53	$17.63	$17.63
Medical care (billions)	15.62	16.23	16.23
Readjustment benefits (billions)	1.05	1.29	1.29
General operating expenses (millions)	827	888	893
Major/minor construction (millions)	567	255	362
Prosthetic research (millions)	252	252	252
National Cemetery System (millions)	71	73	73

On May 4 President Clinton enacted P.L. 103–240, legislation which extends to National Guard and Reserve retirees who served 20 or more years the right to be buried in national cemeteries. This right also includes dependents of those personnel. It is estimated that some 800-1000 new interments a year will result from the enactment of this bill.

The President on July 1 enacted P.L. 103–271, which seeks to make the Board of Veterans Appeals more efficient. One of VA's continuing problems is a huge backlog of pending claims which have increased from 377,000 in 1992 to a current level of about 550,000. Many veterans going through the appeals process must sometimes wait years for a decision. The law seeks to change BVA procedures by reducing from three to one the number of members needed to adjudicate a claim.

One of the provisions of H.R. 949 (see Economics section of First Session review above), which was approved by the House on September 21, 1993 and currently awaits Senate action, would help states pay for establishing, expanding or improving veterans' cemeteries by increasing the federal matching share in VA grants from 50 percent to 65 percent per plot. Under current regulations, these grants are only available to wartime veterans. Further, VA would pay each state $150 for each veteran interred in a state veterans' cemetery who would also have been eligible for burial in a national cemetery.

During the First Session, the House passed a bill, H.R. 3313, which would expand VA health care to veterans suffering from exposure to Agent Orange and ionizing radiation. It would also expand existing VA medical care for women veterans. On June 8 of this year, the Senate passed its version of the bill by substituting language of a similar measure (S. 1626) for the House legislation. The bill now goes back to the House for either its approval or to a conference committee.

The Senate and the House, on March 1 and 17 respectively, defeated proposed legislation that would have required the federal government to have a balanced budget by the year 2001. In the Senate, the vote was 63–37 in favor of Senate Joint Resolution 41; the House tally was 271–153 in favor of House Joint Resolution 103. However, as a two-thirds majority in each chamber was needed to pass the bills (67 in the Senate and 283 in the House), the measures were defeated.

Passage of the amendment would have required the federal government to make deep, across-the-board cuts in all federal programs, including VA. These cuts would be in addition to personnel cuts proposed in the Clinton administration's FY 1995 budget. According to VA Secretary Jesse Brown, VA would have to make do with approximately $4.2 billion less in the upcoming fiscal year. This would have translated into the loss of nearly 4,000 health care workers and 622 benefits claims personnel, losses which VA cannot afford to absorb. It is ironic that President Clinton's health-care reform proposal includes VA in the mix, but that his Office of Management and Budget would take away the funds which would allow VA to be competitive in attracting patients to the VA system.

On March 24 the Senate approved, by a voice vote, two measures to make changes to veterans' benefits. The first, S. 1226, would expand the current mandate for VA's Vet Centers program, which provides counseling and other services to veterans of the Vietnam War and post-Vietnam conflicts. Under this bill, these Centers would be directed to serve all combat veterans, including those of World War II and Korea. It would also authorize a two-year pilot program to provide limited health-care services, such as blood pressure screening and other medical tests, at Vet Centers. An amendment was added to S. 1226 to allow family members of former POWs to receive counseling at Vet Centers.

A second measure, S. 1512, would establish a VA pilot program for research into and treatment of mental health disorders of veterans. It would also establish five centers for mental health research in appropriate areas throughout the country. The bill would authorize $3.1 million in FY 1994 for the program, and $6.3 million each year between FY 1995 through 1997.

On April 14 the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee approved several pieces of legislation for further action by the full Senate. Among those bills were:

S. 1908, which would ease the rules governing lawsuits by veterans who claim to be suffering from radiation exposure contracted during military service. It would also authorize the Administrative Conference of the U.S. to conduct a study on the effectiveness of VA's adjudication and appeals system.

S. 1626, which would allow a veteran to apply for a second VA guaranteed home loan before disposing of a home purchased with a first VA loan. This is intended to help veterans who, through divorce or job transfer, must buy a new home before selling their existing residence.

On April 28 by a vote of 282–118, the House approved H.R. 4013, a bill to exempt VA from personnel reductions planned by the Clinton administration. The administration wants to trim 252,000 full-time positions from the federal work force. Under

that plan, VA would have to reduce its staff at the Veterans Health Administration by 25,000 over the next five years, with almost 4000 positions slated for elimination in FY 1995.

However, the President's plan to overhaul America's health-care system requires VA to compete with private medical providers for patients. The American Legion has argued that the personnel reductions directly conflict with VA's new health-care mission of offering a wider and better range of services to attract patients.

The bill would also authorize VA to establish pilot programs that will enable the department to work with up to five states that are revising their health-care systems. These programs would allow VA to restructure its local medical system to fit within a state's new health-care structure. Another provision of the bill would require each VA facility participating in the pilot program to form a committee made up of veterans and others to advise managers on the changes being made.

The Senate on June 8 approved an amended version of H.R. 4013 (substituting S. 1974 for the original House language) which excludes the VA personnel exemption. The bill must now be reconciled in a conference committee before it can become law.

The House on August 8 passed by unanimous consent H.R. 4088, a bill which would provide veterans' disability compensation and survivors' benefits recipients with a cost-of-living adjustment equal to Social Security recipients. The Congressional Budget Office has projected this amount will be 3 percent. The Senate on May 4 passed by unanimous consent a similar bill, S. 1927.

On May 23 the House by a voice vote passed H.R. 4425. This bill would authorize major medical construction projects for VA in FY 1995. The measure would authorize $343.8 million for construction and repair of VA medical facilities, with nine projects receiving specific funding levels. The authorization level contained in this bill is nearly three times as much as was requested by President Clinton in his budget. Further, the bill would require VA to establish specific missions for each health-care facility in order to allow for better use of future resources.

The House passed by a voice vote on June 13 H.R. 3013, a bill to establish a Center for Women Veterans in VA. The center's director would report directly to the VA Secretary and be responsible for the adoption and implementation of policies and programs for women veterans, as well as conducting outreach activities.

On August 8 the House approved by unanimous consent the bill, H.R. 4386. Introduced by panel chairman "Sonny" Montgomery (D–MS), the measure would authorize VA compensation for Desert Storm veterans suffering from disabilities resulting from service in the Middle East during the war.

This measure was a compromise version of Montgomery's bill and H.R. 4540, a bill introduced by Representative Lane Evans (D–IL), which would have given compensation to Gulf War veterans even if the causes for their ills were never discovered. A Senate companion, S. 2178, was introduced in that chamber by Senator Tom Daschle (D–SD). A competing measure, S 2330, was introduced by Senate Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman Jay Rockefeller (D–WV).

This compensation would be provided in spite of the fact that VA is still unsure about the exact causes of these veterans' ailments. These compensation payments would be available to Gulf War veterans for up to three years after the measure becomes law. If after three years a cause is not discovered, the compensation payments would be extended for another three years. It would also authorize funds for a study of the causes of "Gulf War Syndrome."

Also on July 21 the House Veterans Affairs Committee completed final action on its portion of H.R. 3600, the health care reform package. The bill provides the necessary framework to allow VA to participate under national health care reform.

Under the measure, all veterans would have access to the system by electing to enroll in a VA health plan. Service-connected and low-income veterans who choose VA plans would be provided cost-free health care through a guaranteed funding mechanism. (This provision goes a step beyond the administration's version, which does not give these two veteran categories an entitlement to health care.)

In addition, the bill would require the VA Secretary to offer a family plan option for the dependents of veterans who enroll in VA health plans. The measure also calls for a substantial investment fund of more than $4 billion over the next three years to meet existing infrastructure needs and enable VA to better compete against private insurers in the changing health care environment.

Prior to the committee markup, Chairman Montgomery had introduced separate legislation, H.R. 3808, which would have given the VA secretary authority to make changes in VA's health-care delivery system to better serve this country's veterans and their families. The majority of the provisions of H.R. 3808 were included in the portions of the administration's bill which impacted upon VA.

After the committee markup, Chairman Montgomery said, "This has been the only House committee to report health care reform legislation in a bipartisan manner. We've succeeded because we kept sight of our primary objective—doing right by our Nation's veterans."

On August 1 the House gave voice approval to several measures to benefit veterans. These measures were passed by the House Veterans Affairs Committee on July 21 by a voice vote. One of these bills, H.R. 4768 would make minor changes to veterans' education programs. One of those changes would allow veterans to receive education aid for courses taken from an institution outside the U.S., if the courses are approved by the VA secretary.

NATIONAL SECURITY COMMISSION

ANTHONY G. JORDAN, Maine, *Chairman*

G. MICHAEL SCHLEE, Maryland, *Director*

As has been its custom since its inception, the National Security Commission has attempted to remain informed, and to keep the membership of The American Legion informed on the range of issues related to the defense of the United States in order to recommend responsible national security policies to the governing bodies of The American Legion. To accomplish this task, the Commission conducts regular meetings designed to provide members with current information from responsible government officials on timely issues concerning national security. One of these meetings takes place in conjunction with the National Convention, two in conjunction with meetings of the National Executive Committee, and the fourth is held during the Washington Conference of The American Legion.

Mr. William O. Moore, Jr., (Kentucky) was Chairman of the National Security Commission until October 1993. Mr. Anthony G. Jordan (Maine) was selected as Commission Chairman at the Fall meetings of the National Executive Committee.

Pre-Convention Meetings

On Saturday, September 4, 1993, the National Security and Foreign Relations Commissions convened a joint session to hear the scheduled Speaker's Program. Rear Admiral Irve C. Lemoyne, United States Navy, the Deputy Commander-in-Chief and Chief of Staff of the United States Special Operations Command, spoke on Special Operations Forces. He highlighted the fact that with the collapse of communism in the former Soviet Union, the likelihood of increased and continued regional conflicts heightened the role and missions of Special Operations Forces. His presentation was complete with videotapes and slide presentations.

The two Commissions then heard the Honorable Edwin Dorn, Assistant Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness) who emphasized that despite the deep downsizing of the military, the President and the Secretary of Defense were strongly committed to maintaining the readiness posture of Active, National Guard and Reserve Forces at high levels. The Bottom-Up-Review was nearly completed and was to be made public.

Such presentations and other actions are part of The Commission's Plan referred to as Defense 2010. During the coming year, the Commission plans to participate in a series of panel forums to address manpower issues and other issues related to the Total Force Policy. These forums will be conducted in conjunction with the Association of the United States Army and the National Guard Association of the United States at different sites throughout the country. The National Security Forums will be conducted in light of the continued downsizing of the Armed Forces and to further implement American Legion mandates which historically have supported a strong national defense.

Mr. William Danvers, the Special Assistant to the Ambassador-at-Large and Special Advisor to the Secretary of State for the newly Independent States spoke on the future of U.S.-Russian relations.

That afternoon, the National Security Commission and its Standing Committees conducted a comprehensive review of all resolutions assigned to the Convention Committee on Security.

On September 5, 1993, many members of the National Security Commission attended the POW/MIA Update session and listened to excellent speakers address this compelling issue.

National Executive Committee, October 20–21, 1993

An Executive Session of the National Security Commission met in the Circle Center Room (Lower Level) of the Hilton Hotel on October 18, 1993 to consider resolutions properly before it and to conduct other business. A total of 47 Commission members and guests were in attendance.

Nine resolutions were considered and five were recommended for adoption. Two resolutions recommended for adoption, "The Retention of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences," and "Retention of Full Federal Funding for the United States Merchant Marine Academy," address issues which are contained in the Government's *Report of the National Performance Review*, commonly referred to as "Reinventing the Government." On October 18, 1993 the National Security Commission met in joint session to view several videotapes to include "From the Sea" and "Searching for Vietnam POW/MIAs."

The Department of Defense publication entitled "The Bottom-Up Review: Forces For A New Era," made available to the National Executive Committee, represents the assessment of the strategy, force structures and funding levels required by the end of the decade to enable the United States to fight and win two nearly simultaneous major regional conflicts on the order of the Korean and Persian Gulf Wars.

Chairman William O. Moore, Jr.'s remarks to the National Executive Committee follow:

"Congress is nearing completion on the Fiscal Year 1994 Defense Budget, and the House and Senate versions fall somewhat short of the Administration's proposed budget of $263 billion. Several noteworthy features include military manpower, which will be further reduced by 108,000; and, for the first time, the ban on women serving on Navy warships will be lifted. The Congress also voted a 2.2 percent military pay raise which the Administration had proposed to freeze. After much Congressional debate, military retirees will receive a full but delayed COLA.

After the Administration had proposed to lift the DOD ban on homosexuals serving in the Armed Forces, The American Legion vigorously supported the retention of the ban and urged that it be codified into law. Although the Administration reached a compromise position, the Congress wrote more restrictive language into law to include the provision that the Secretary of Defense could reinstate questioning of recruits as to their sexual orientation if deemed necessary. It appears that the issue will eventually be decided by the Supreme Court.

As part of the Defense Budget process, the DOD completed its five-year defense blueprint, known as "The Bottom-Up Review." The selected strategy calls for the military to fight and win two major regional conflicts on the order of the Korean and Persian Gulf Wars nearly simultaneously. The National Security Commission has real concerns with this strategy and whether the recommended force levels and funding will enable the United States to achieve these objectives with reduced forces and increased missions to include peacekeeping and humanitarian assistance.

Resolution 170, "Foreign Command of U.S. Forces," was adopted at the 75th National Convention which stated that American lives could be placed in jeopardy unnecessarily if the United Nations, or foreign commanders, pursued policies contrary to our national interests. With the recent American casualties sustained in Somalia, including one U.S. soldier detained, National Commander Thiesen, in a letter addressed to the President, the Congress, and the Departments of Defense and State, expressed the Legion's view that immediate action must be taken on two vital issues: curtailing foreign command of U.S. military forces unless the Congress grants specific approval, and providing protection for Americans captured by hostile, nongovernmental forces in undeclared wars. The letter concluded that the DOD has not gotten the message on protecting American POW/MIAs.

Our service men and women who are captured by hostile forces need to know that our Government will take whatever measures are necessary to secure their immediate release, including the use of force.

WASHINGTON CONFERENCE

The National Security Commission met in general session during the Washington Conference on Monday, February 14 and Wednesday, February 16, 1994. The Commission was chaired by Mr. Anthony G. Jordan who had been appointed Chairman in October 1993. Subjects covered during each session follow.

MORNING SESSION, FEBRUARY 14

The National Security Commission and Foreign Relations Commission met in joint session. Dr. Ellen L. Frost, Counselor in the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, spoke on "International Economics and National Security." Two themes

are critically important: trade is good for America, despite the incorrect perception that it loses jobs to foreigners, and open trade and investment policies are not a one-way street—other countries must do their share. Half of America's economic growth comes from increasing exports, and seven million Americans work in export industries. Completion of the Uruguay Round agreements to enhance the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade will provide a 37% reduction in tariffs, expand trade rules to agriculture and services, strengthen protections for intellectual property and retain rights for unilateral U.S. action wherever necessary. Our trade deficit with Japan indicates structural problems and cultural barriers. The United States will try to accelerate opening Japanese markets. Future trade negotiations will involve environmental, labor and anti-trust standards.

The Honorable Deborah R. Lee, Assistant Secretary of Defense (Reserve Affairs) spoke on "The Future of the Total Force Policy." Despite the ending of the Cold War, the United States now faces a myriad of new threats which are far more perplexing, complex and difficult to deal with than that posed by the former Soviet Union. Under the Administration's current military assessment, referred to as the Bottom-Up Review, the roles of the National Guard in their federal and state roles would be considerably expanded. Under a restructuring agreement, the Army National Guard and Army Reserves would be reduced by over 100,000 in the years ahead. The Army National Guard would be composed of about 37 combat brigades, of which 15 would be at enhanced readiness levels to supplement active forces in the event the United States had to fight a nearly simultaneous second major regional conflict. The Army Reserves would be comprised mainly of combat support and combat service support units. This would entail transferring some Reserve combat units to the National Guard. Additionally, the Air Force Reserves would be receiving the B–1 and B–52 bombers, the Navy Reserves would be manning an aircraft carrier, and the Marine Reserves would have a major reinforcement mission. The Reserve components need to attract recruits of the highest caliber. The Department of Defense is reviewing the adequacy of the current call-up authority, looking at ways to compensate Reservists who volunteered for peacekeeping missions in Somalia and Bosnia, examining possible tax incentives for Reservists, and providing more adequate medical care for Reservists who became injured during the first 30 days of activated service.

Mr. Larry Napper, Director, Office of Independent States and Commonwealth Affairs, Department of State, discussed "Developments in the Former Soviet Union." If the United States remains engaged and persistent in negotiations, we can accomplish great steps toward a safer world. The revolution that swept aside the Soviet Union brought real benefits to the United States by ending the Cold War confrontation, saving funds through military reductions and expanding nuclear non-proliferation agreements. The United States seeks a strategic alliance with successor states for reforms leading to democracy, market economics and moderate foreign policies. Although the December 1992 elections were a setback to reform parties, they were positive since they were fairly conducted and brought into being a new constitution with strong executive powers. Economic reform has made considerable progress and 90% of all goods are free of government controls, 45% of all property has been privatized and 33% of all workers are in the private sector. The Clinton-Yeltsin summit was positive in that it included signing an agreement exchanging Russian recognition of Ukraine for dismantlement of Ukraine's nuclear weapons. However, President Clinton informed President Yeltsin that Russia's integration into the world community depends on respecting the rights of neighboring states and that the United States does not recognize any special Russian rights in them. Positive results have been achieved by the joint POW/MIA commission and further progress is expected.

AFTERNOON SESSION, FEBRUARY 14

The National Security and Foreign Relations Commissions met in joint session to attend the POW/MIA Update presented by the POW/MIA Committee and presided over by Chairman Robert S. Turner of that body.

Mr. Al Santoli, journalist and author, spoke on "Honor Before Trade: What Needs to be Done." Lifting the economic embargo against Vietnam has removed all excuses for the Administration not getting the fullest possible cooperation. Current investigations in Vietnam by Joint Task Force Full Accounting have many problems and are being conducted by unqualified personnel. The U.S. Government should permit the American public to have access to the resolution of each POW/MIA case and the reason for closure, declassify all relevant National Security Agency files, establish an oversight commission of non-biased experts to review all POW/MIA case files, put an end to "stonewalling" families and activists, hold U.S. officials personally liable

for keeping faith with POW/MIAs and enact a law providing POW/MIA families the right to file court appeals to status determinations on the cases of their loved ones. The American Legion should support such legislation, support establishment of the oversight commission, continue submitting Freedom of Information Act requests and work with intelligence experts to refine them and support a congressional probe of what happened to Senator Smith's criminal allegations against some U.S. Government officials.

Mr. Kent Wiedemann, Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Asian Affairs, National Security Council, discussed "The U.S. Government POW/MIA Program." We agree with much of what The American Legion has to say on the POW/MIA issue, but there is some disagreement. All Americans need the truth. The argument is over how to find the truth. The President is committed to achieving the truth. He campaigned on that, has worked on that and it is a sacred trust. Lifting the embargo is a step along the way to the fullest possible accounting. Without the help of Vietnam, we will get nothing done. Therefore, when they provide help we can feel, touch or count, we must reward them. We did not lift the embargo to make bucks. Secretary of Commerce Brown was not present at any meetings about the embargo; it was not an economic issue. We lifted the embargo to be sure that we could continue to get access in Vietnam.

Dr. George A. Carver, Jr., Senior Fellow, Center for Strategic and International Studies, addressed the topic "Did All American POWs Return During Operation Homecoming?" Through defectors and other means, in 1973 we knew Vietnam kept back about 300 POWs during Operation Homecoming. But, in the anti-war atmosphere of 1973 in Congress and the media, it was impossible to use military force to go after the POW/MIAs. After Operation Homecoming, the government line became "They have all come home. Let's close the door and put it behind us." Other sources showing Americans were left behind include the Soviet 1205 and 735 reports, which are consistent with two major defectors and communications intercepts. U.S. searches now in Vietnam are focused on returning remains. Instead, they should work on the last known alive cases. Regarding the argument that Vietnam will only cooperate if we lift the embargo, remember they followed the same tactics during the war of demanding much and giving little. Essentially, Hanoi believes "Why pay a price for something you can get for free?" We gave them what they want for what they did not do. We are witnessing an unseemly rush for illusory profits. We must remember Vietnam and North Korea are the only Stalinist states left in the world. Now that we have lifted the embargo, Vietnam has no further incentive to cooperate. Until we learn the fate of the approximately 300 POWs we left in Vietnam, we cannot put the war behind us.

Mr. Bill Bell, former U.S. Government POW/MIA investigator, spoke on "U.S. Government POW/MIA Investigations." Vietnam continually deals in duplicity and manipulation on the POW/MIA issue. Vietnam has most of the answers we need, even in Laos where over 90% of our losses were in Vietnamese-controlled areas. At this date, there are only 21 live sighting reports that remain open and under investigation. Twelve of them pertain to captive-like settings. About 120 formerly active reports were closed out in 1992–1993, mostly by an individual who was teaching Arabic at the U.S. Air Force Academy and then was transferred to Vietnam to head the Hanoi Office of Joint Task Force Full Accounting. In terms of remains, we know with certainty Hanoi has more remains. The mortician who defected in 1978 with personal knowledge of 400 warehoused remains was telling the truth, as verified by several follow-up investigations. Regarding documents, of those received only one percent pertain to American POWs. Furthermore, the photos obtained recently actually had already been obtained at a cost of $1 in 1981 by German journalists. Vietnam still has plenty of documents we need. Live sighting report investigations are ineffective. We must apply far in advance for permission to proceed. When we arrive on site, the records for the periods of interest to us are always missing. Investigations are done hastily without access to uncorrelated reports that are necessary if a good job is to be done. All pilot distress signals have been debunked as being natural phenomena, being manmade or being too irregular. Actually, pilots are trained to make them irregular so the enemy cannot read them from the ground. Most investigations and closures of discrepancy cases are poorly done. So far, 123 have been removed from the list, mostly in a "pending" status, i.e., awaiting further information.

MORNING SESSION, FEBRUARY 16

The National Security Commission conducted its business meeting, including consideration of two resolutions which were recommended for adoption at the Spring meeting of the National Security Commission. The Law and Order Chairman pro-

posed that his Committee develop a strong resolution on combating crime in the United States and Commission members expressed their concurrence. The Commission Chairman mentioned that the staff was making progress in preparation of an American Legion "Blue Book" on National Security and that plans were being finalized for the conduct of a National Security Forum to be held in Indianapolis, Indiana on March 4, 1994 in conjunction with the Association of the United States and the National Guard Association of the United States. This was to be the first of several Forums planned in 1994, and its purpose was to inform the American public on national security issues as contained in the Bottom-Up Review.

National Executive Committee May 4–5, 1994

An Executive Session of the National Security Commission met on May 2, 1994 in the lower level of the Ramada Plaza Hotel to consider resolutions properly before it and to discuss other business. On May 3, 1994, the Commission met in joint session with the Foreign Relations Commission to review the following videotapes: "Army—Count on Us;" a 30-minute excerpt of the "National Security Forum—Indianapolis" videotape; and an excerpt on the "United Nations," produced by the Foreign Policy Association.

Eight resolutions were considered by the National Security Commission. Four resolutions were recommended for adoption, including the capstone resolution entitled, "National Security for the Future."

The Commission heard from Law and Order Chairman Dudley Robbins who discussed his proposed resolution on combating crime in America which would be considered at the National Convention. Chairman Robbins also reported on the program status of the Junior Law Cadet program and other Law and Order Committee items. Commission Chairman Jordan led discussions dealing with future National Security Forums; the status of the National Security "Blue Book;" Pre-convention trip planning; and reviewed a Congressional Committee proposal for The American Legion to consider supporting the Army's funding of the School of the Americas. Chairman Anthony G. Jordan's remarks follow:

"The American Legion appeared before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense on April 14, 1994 to express its concerns about Fiscal Year 1995 Defense appropriations. The Fiscal Year 1995 Defense Budget represents the first installment of this Administration's five-year assessment known as the Bottom-Up Review. In response to the current unpredictability of the world situation, The American Legion strongly recommended that the military drawdown be placed on hold until the Bottom-Up Review had been thoroughly analyzed and America's true defense needs were more realistically assessed.

The American Legion, in conjunction with the Association of the United States Army and the National Guard Association of the United States, held its first National Security Forum in Indianapolis on March 4, 1994. The Forum, entitled "National Defense in an Uncertain World," featured a panel of retired senior military officers and heard from Mr. David Ochmank, who defended the Bottom-Up Review as a reasoned response to an unstable world, as well as Congressman Steve Buyer from Indiana and others. The consensus of the Forum was that the United States' national military assessment does not adequately match its proposed strategy for our military to fight and win two nearly simultaneous major regional conflicts with its resources, and the result could be counted in American lives lost unnecessarily in future conflicts.

General John W. Foss, USA (Retired), stated that "there are too many assumptions in the Bottom-Up Review and we feel many of these assumptions are flawed." He added that "the good news is that the United States Army is still the best Army in the world; the bad news is that it is only the eighth largest in the world."

The American Legion's Policy Coordination and Action Group (PCAG) met on April 12–13, 1994 in Washington, D.C. During that conference, American Legion Corporate Strategic Goal No. 8, which contains the plan to implement a comprehensive program to support a strong National Defense, was briefed and discussed. As a result of that conference, your National Security Commission developed the resolution, "National Security for the Future," which you will consider. This resolution incorporates our recommended proposals and principles which we in the Commission believe should be incorporated into the Government's emerging National Military Strategy. I strongly urge its adoption."

National Security-Foreign Relations Division

Responsibility for the daily conduct of the extensive work of The American Legion in defense and foreign policy is assigned to the National Security-Foreign Relations Division located in the Washington, D.C. office. The staff of the Division consists of:

G. Michael Schlee, Director; Harry E.B. Sullivan, Deputy Director; Dennis M. Duggan, Assistant Director; Denise R. Wilkins, Executive Secretary to the Director; and Cheryl L. Henson, Secretary.

During the year, the combined Division has endeavored to not only fulfill its responsibility to implement the mandates and policies of The American Legion relating to national defense and foreign affairs, but to constantly expand and improve the ways and means of projecting our interest in these two important areas. The duties have consisted of answering correspondence and telephone inquiries; maintaining liaison with the Departments of Defense, Energy, State, Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Transportation (Coast Guard); the Selective Service System, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the American Red Cross. These contacts related to a variety of matters, some of which involved members of the armed forces.

Liaison also is maintained with a host of military and quasi-military organizations with whom common goals are shared. Among these are: Reserve Officers Association; Air Force Association; The Retired Officers Association, Association of the U.S. Army; and the National Guard Association of the United States. Most importantly, the National Security-Foreign Relations Division provides a steady flow of information on defense matters to members of both commissions and the leadership at all levels of our organization. Writing and delivering speeches, preparing reports and testimony, is also a duty of the staff. Additionally, promotional material is prepared and distributed to support the five national programs in the national security field.

Continual use is made of all American Legion national publications, such as "The Dispatch", "The American Legion Magazine" and the "American Legion News Service", the principal means for distribution of factual information and program support in the fields of national defense and foreign affairs.

Committee Reports

The following reports, received with grateful appreciation, were prepared under the leadership and guidance of the following Committee and Council Chairmen: Robert C. Gabrielson—Aerospace; Frank J. D'Amico—Defense Civil Preparedness; W. Dudley Robbins—Law and Order; Charles F. Moreland—Merchant Marine; Norbert G. Harmeyer—Military Affairs; Wilson R. Timmons—National Security Council; and John J. Wrenn—Naval Affairs.

AEROSPACE COMMITTEE

ROBERT C. GABRIELSON, South Dakota, *Chairman*

During the past year, the Aerospace Committee continued its efforts to ensure that the United States does not become a second-rate power in modern air power or advanced aerospace technology. The authority for the Committee's efforts are the resolutions adopted at the 74th and 75th National Conventions. The effort to implement these positions required both administrative and legislative activities.

Legislative Activities.—Implementation of these policies necessitates correspondence and testimony to the Armed Services and Appropriations Committees of both the Senate and House in coordination with our Legislative Division. In addition to correspondence, principal presentations were before the House and Senate Defense Appropriations Subcommittees. Testimony and resolutions on aerospace were presented to the Subcommittee in their consideration of Fiscal Year 1995 defense appropriations bills. Of particular emphasis was support of the National Space program and adequate provision for Operations and Maintenance funding, the military health care system, research and development, strategic airlift, and the new F-22 tactical fighter.

Civil Air Patrol.—Pursuant to Resolution 14, adopted by the Denver National Convention, appropriate certificates have been prepared for Departments to recognize the outstanding CAP squadrons in their States. All Department Adjutants have been notified of the availability of the certificates and many requests have been received during this reporting period.

Aerospace Developments.—The Persian Gulf War provided the dramatic illustration that stealth technology, namely, the F–117 works and works well, which reinforces our need for continued production of the B–2 stealth bomber. Although the airlift fleet of C–41, C–5 and CRAF aircraft performed admirably, the air deployment of troops and cargo could have been enhanced with the employment of C–17 aircraft. The American Legion is highly supportive of continued production of the B–2 bomber, C–17 transport aircraft and development of the F–22 fighter.

DEFENSE CIVIL PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE

FRANK J. D'AMICO, New York, *Chairman*

The American Legion continues to advocate adequate staffing, adequate budgeting and adequate technical and research support for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). In an era when Russian civil defense efforts are far greater than those of the United States, it becomes imperative that planning for emergencies to include a nuclear exchange be enhanced.

Disaster Relief Assistance.—At the Fall 1989 meeting of the National Executive Committee, Resolution 37 was adopted which called for improvements on the part of FEMA with regard to the Hurricane Hugo and California Earthquake disasters. Both the Commission and Committee Chairmen presented oral reports and an interim written report to the NEC at the Spring 1990 meeting. Based on these reports, recommendations for improvements in FEMA's responsiveness to major natural disasters were consolidated into Resolution 18 which was adopted by the NEC at its October 1990 meetings.

The following recommendations were discussed with FEMA authorities and improvements appear to be progressing:

The entire FEMA mission and its capability to coordinate and execute its disaster relief assistance roles should be reviewed by the Executive Branch and appropriate subcommittees of Congress in order to assure prompt, effective disaster relief. Particular attention should be given to determining whether FEMA's major priority should be civil defense or natural disaster relief.

Full manning of FEMA, from its top leadership positions to its field staff should be a high government priority. Statutes and regulatory requirements should be assessed so as not to preclude or reduce the availability of trained and experienced personnel such as military retirees to assist in disaster relief.

FEMA should consider expanding the role of the military in disaster relief with an eye toward its greater participation in on-site assessments, victim registration, and other areas.

The National Emergency Training Facility should be fully operational and its emergency management curriculum and attendance quotas expanded so as to include greater emphasis on natural disaster assistance

FEMA should streamline its registration and application procedures so as to expedite assistance to disaster victims. FEMA should also enhance its planning and coordination with state, local and military officials for disaster relief assistance and conduct realistic, effective disaster relief exercises.

Finally, it was recommended that in coordination with its Departments, The American Legion National Organization should review the capabilities of its Posts to render assistance in disaster relief as prescribed in its Disaster Relief Understanding Between The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary and The American Red Cross; and the Study Group strongly urges the participation in, and continuation of, The American Legion National Emergency Fund. Finally, the Defense Civil Preparedness Committee, under direction of the National Security Commission should continue to review and monitor the progress and After-Action Reports of FEMA as well as legislation affecting disaster relief assistance. In 1992–1993, 1,474 Posts were working with the American Red Cross in disaster relief programs, up from 1,309 in 1990–91.

Family Protection Program.—At its 73rd National Convention, The American Legion adopted Resolution 288, which encourages Departments, Posts and Auxiliary Units to incorporate FEMA's Family Protection Plans at the family, neighborhood and community levels. The Family Protection Program is based on the understanding that Americans share responsibility for their own protection, and that no government or private-sector capability can replace the need for an informed and prepared citizenry.

Energy.—War in the Persian Gulf has refocused the attention of The American Legion on America's continued reliance on foreign sources of energy. Unquestionably, Iraq's seizure of Kuwait and the imminent threat to Saudi Arabia endangered our national security interests and economic well-being.

Energy and conservation issues had been at various times assigned to the Economics or Internal Affairs Commissions of The American Legion. The energy crisis in 1973 prompted a series of energy-oriented resolutions in the mid-1980s which addressed, primarily, energy recovery and conservation. At its Fall meetings in 1989, the National Executive Committee mandated that the Chairman of the National Security Commission annually appoint a Subcommittee on the Conservation of Natural Resources, which included energy issues. Over 900 American Legion posts have appointed Energy Chairmen.

The American Legion at its 73rd National Convention adopted a comprehensive National Energy Strategy resolution which collectively addressed energy conservation and efficiency, energy recovery and development, and alternative sources of energy and included proposed incentives such as individual and corporate tax credits for energy recovery, conversion, etc. Many of these recommendations were incorporated in the National Energy Act. The American Legion has also been supportive of opening the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge area for oil exploration, while remaining sensitive to environmental concerns.

Blood Donor Activities.—The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary continue to be principal sources of supply for blood. Through our vast network of Posts and Units organized into Department programs, Legionnaires and Auxiliary members through a variety of programs continue to supply the blood needs of their own members, hospitalized veterans and through cooperative agreements, to patients in civilian hospitals. In this past year, the program has continued to grow. During 1992–93, a total of 108,076 pints of blood were donated by 54,539 American Legion donors.

National Commander Awards.—To stimulate activities on the part of Departments and Posts, annual awards are made by the National Commander. During the period from July 1, 1993 through June 15, 1994, many Departments of The American Legion actively participated in the Blood Donor program. The criteria for the National Commander's Awards for Post and individual participation was based on Resolution 14, adopted at the Spring meeting, May 1–9, 1985 of the National Executive Committee. The resolution provides that Departments be placed in categories based on the size of the Department, using criteria established by the Membership and Post Activities Committee. The winners for the 1993–94 Blood Donor Program are:

Category I—(more than 100,000 members)—Post and Individual Participation: Illinois.

Category II—(70,000 to 99,999 members)—Post and Individual participation: Wisconsin.

Category III—(40,000 to 69,999 members)—Post and Individual participation: Nebraska.

Category IV—(25,000 to 39,999 members)—Post and Individual participation: Tennessee.

Category V—(10,000 to 24,999 members)—Post and Individual participation: Rhode Island.

Category VI—(less than 10,000 members)—Post and Individual participation: Delaware.

Each winning Department will receive a certificate of recognition signed by National Commander Bruce Thiesen and National Adjutant Robert W. Spanogle.

Holiday Blood Drive.—During the 1994 Holiday Season, American Legionnaires and members of the Auxiliary will be urged to give a gift of life—blood. For the past several Christmas seasons, demands for blood were exceptionally high while supplies were so critical that only emergency operations could be performed. Numerous Departments and Posts have actively publicized the "Holiday Blood Drive," noting that this was opportunity to establish closer ties with the community.

Plans are in place to conduct a blood drive at the 76th National Convention of The American Legion in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

The American Blood Commission. During this past year, The American Legion has continued its participation as a member of the Board of Directors of the American Blood Commission. Established in 1975, the American Blood Commission is comprised of national organizations whose goal is the implementation of the National Blood Policy.

The American Blood Commission has been particularly valuable in disseminating information on Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS). This disease and its effect on the blood supply will be carefully monitored.

LAW AND ORDER COMMITTEE

W. DUDLEY ROBBINS, North Carolina, *Chairman*

The Law and Order Committee continued this year to emphasize crime prevention by promoting the distribution of the Crime Prevention booklet across the nation. Liaison was maintained with the National Crime Prevention Coalition in order to keep the committee up-to-date on the latest developments in the field of crime prevention.

American Legion Departments, Posts and individual citizens have been overwhelmingly responsive to the Legion's Crime Prevention program. Requests for our booklet have come from state and local law enforcement officials; from senior citizen groups; from libraries; and from school children. This program is viable, ongoing and important to our National interest. The Law and Order Committee will continue to promote our goals in this area. Over 1,323 Posts had crime resistance programs in 1992–93.

Fire Protection/Prevention.—The National Executive Committee authorized the beginning of an American Legion Fire Protection and Prevention program. An information booklet on this subject was published in the Spring of 1986, and was the basis of a slide show production. Over 1,404 Posts had Fire Prevention programs in 1992–93.

Junior Law Cadet Program. The American Legion, in its efforts to better educate our young people in regard to laws which govern our society, and the agencies which enforce those laws, has developed several programs which feature law enforcement training. Fourteen Departments, in cooperation with state law enforcement agencies, sponsored youth programs designed to acquaint the participants with methods of basic law enforcement. These high school students actually spend time with state troopers, at the various police academies, learning about such diverse subjects as traffic law, police ethics, traffic control, unlawful drugs, court procedures and the responsibility of citizenship.

Our coloring poster, "Your Friend—the Policeman," continues to be a successful program. Well over 40,000 copies have been distributed to elementary school teachers and members of the American Legion Auxiliary.

MERCHANT MARINE COMMITTEE

CHARLES F. MORELAND, Florida, *Chairman*

Since its founding, The American Legion has realized the importance of a strong American merchant marine and the indispensable role of this "fourth arm of defense." Today, the ever increasing dependence of the U.S. economy on raw materials from Third World countries and overseas areas demand renewed efforts to build up our merchant fleet.

The privately owned, deep-draft fleet of the U.S. merchant marine totaled 444 vessels with a carrying capacity of about 20 million deadweight tons (dwt) according to the U.S. Department of Transportation's Maritime Administration. The total comprised 367 ocean-going ships and 77 Great Lakes vessels.

Compared with December 1, 1992 totals, the number of ships in the U.S. ocean-going fleet decreased by 8 vessels and the fleet's carrying capacity decreased by approximately 1,528,600 deadweight tons.

As of December 1, 1993, there was one new large commercial ship under construction.

Retaining American merchant marine independence in supplying our economy and the added demands of military sealift, spurred this Committee's support for expanding our fourth arm of defense during the past year. Our effort to inform our membership, the general public and the Congress of our views were guided by resolutions which were unanimously adopted by the 74th National Convention.

Maritime Power.—Throughout our history, maritime power has been a key element in the growth and strength of America. Moreover, the new sealift demands of the United States make the fourth arm of defense even more imperative in our strategic planning. We must rebuild our merchant marine if we are to maintain free use of the seas in the face of potential challenges presented by regional conflicts.

The changes in National Maritime Policy which were implemented by the Reagan Administration have been noted. The Merchant Marine Committee intends to monitor these policy changes as they are implemented to ensure that the United States Merchant Marine is once again pre-eminent on the seas.

In order to satisfy sealift requirements during the Persian Gulf War, the Military Sealift Command had to employ considerable foreign-flagged ships and activated some 45 older ships from the Ready Reserve Fleet. The American Legion strongly advocates the immediate development of both sealift ships and amphibious shipping so as to enhance the rapid deployment and sustainment of U.S. forces when committed abroad.

MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

NORBERT G. HARMEYER, *Iowa,* Chairman

During the year, your Military Affairs Committee has directed its major efforts toward maintaining a strong and modern United States armed forces, second to none in the world. We believe the times deserve no less. Our activities have been guided by the resolutions adopted by the 74th & 75th National Convention and subsequent National Executive Committee action. Wide dissemination was given those resolutions to Congressional, government, military and industry leaders to inform them of our mandates for supporting a strong and modern military forces to include the Reserve Components. Bound volumes of the resolutions were presented to the President, Secretary of Defense and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Maintaining a strong national defense was designated as a legislative priority by the National Commander.

Press Conference/Legislative Activities.—The staff has kept up-to-date by attending press conferences on various subjects of interest, including the press conferences sponsored by the Department of Defense, Department of Transportation (Coast Guard) and several Congressional press conferences.

Through the Legislative Division, correspondence with Members of Congress and Congressional staff was initiated and followed through in other areas as follows: Homosexuals in the Armed Forces; commissaries and military health care; military pay and allowances; and military quality of life incentives, including career stability and transitional benefits. Additionally, testimony was presented before the House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees on Defense in support of needed weapons systems and continued modernization of the Armed Forces. Emphasis was placed on maintaining the force structures of the Armed Forces in the face of proposed Congressional reductions.

Based on the drastic reduction of military manpower and our Defense industrial base, The American Legion adopted resolutions which urge the retention of viable military manpower levels and the preservation of our Defense industrial base so as to assure our rapid response capabilities to national emergencies.

Defense Appropriations Testimony, April 14, 1994

Mr. Chairman, The American Legion is pleased to appear before this Subcommittee to express its concerns about FY 1995 defense appropriations. We as a nation are undergoing the largest military downsizing since World War II and, frankly, it may take years for a clear picture of the new world to emerge. In the short run and into the 21st Century, we in The American Legion, the nation's largest organization of wartime veterans, know only too well what can happen when diplomacy and deterrence fail. We strongly urge the President and the Congress to uphold their constitutional responsibilities to provide for the "common defense" of the American people in a highly uncertain world. As our elected representatives, it is you who must ultimately decide just how adequate our national defense should be.

The universal threat posed by communism and the Soviet Union no longer exists. Instead, the United States is faced with a myriad of threats and challenges which are far more perplexing, complex and difficult to deal with than was the more predictable and unified threat posed by the former Soviet Union. Serious regional threats loom on the Far Eastern and Eurasian horizons to include that of North Korea and the People's Republic of China with their large standing Armies equipped with missiles and nuclear capabilities. A resurgent nuclear Russia is moving toward a more aggressive foreign policy; a defiant Iraq and Iran, both of which are within close proximity to vital oil reserves in the Persian Gulf will continue to be potential threats which require monitoring. Additionally, the United States faces the non-traditional threats of continuing nuclear proliferation, development of chemical and biological warfare weapons, and the challenges posed by international terrorism, fundamentalist religious and ethnic movements and drug cartels, none of which operate within the basic rules of international law.

The American Legion has always adhered to the principle that our nation's armed forces must be well-manned and equipped, not to pursue war, but to preserve and protect the hard-earned peace. The American Legion strongly believes that the current military downsizing is based more on budget targets and budget deficit reduction than on current and foreseeable threats to the national security well-being of the American people and America's vital interests. To echo your own sentiments, Mr. Chairman, we are convinced that the United States is rapidly returning to the days of the "hollow forces." As wartime veterans, we know that once Army divisions, Naval carrier battle groups, and Air Force fighter wings are cut from the force

structure, they cannot be rapidly reconstituted without the costly expenditures of time, money, and human lives. We have paid the price of being wrong before in our past. It is far cheaper in the long run, and far safer, to pay the price that readiness requires. If we err, it is far better to err on the side of preserving robust forces to protect America's interests.

The Fiscal Year 1995 Defense Budget request represents the first installment of this Administration's five-year Defense assessment known as the Bottom-Up Review. The Bottom-Up Review calls for the armed forces to be able to fight and win two major regional conflicts on the order of the Persian Gulf War, nearly simultaneously. However, it advocates accomplishing this strategy with significantly reduced manpower levels of 1.4 million and an active force structure of 10 Army divisions, 11 active aircraft carriers and one Reserve carrier, and 13 Air Force fighter wings. The proposed budgeting levels to support this strategy and force structure are seriously underfunded. The American Legion believes that this strategy is based on a number of flawed assumptions, including the availability of improved technology and enhanced military airlift and sealift capabilities which will not enter the inventory until after the year 2000.

The proposed strategy does not match its increased military missions, including operations other than combat, such as peacekeeping and humanitarian operations and others, with the required resources and the ultimate result may be counted in American lives lost unnecessarily in future conflicts. We believe that the Bottom-Up Review provides neither the forces, lift capabilities, nor budgets to fight two nearly simultaneous major regional conflicts and win.

In response to the unpredictability of the world situation, The American Legion strongly recommends that the military drawdown be placed on hold until the Bottom-Up Review has been thoroughly analyzed and America's true national defense needs are more realistically assessed. In order to maintain the credibility of the United States and the challenges it faces, the military must maintain the requisite capabilities to fight and win two major regional conflicts which, to our way of thinking, represents a reasonable objective. The two-war strategy reflects the concern that if America were to be drawn into a war with one regional aggressor, another could be tempted to attack its neighbor—especially if it were convinced that the United States and its allies were distracted, lacked the will to fight conflicts on two fronts, or did not possess the military power to deal with more than one major conflict at a time. Sizing U.S. forces for more than one major conflict provides a hedge against the possibility that a future adversary might mount a larger than expected threat. It also allows for a credible overseas presence which is essential in dealing with potential regional dangers and pursuing new opportunities to advance stability and peace. Such a strategy requires more robust force structures and increased budgeting than that provided in the Bottom-Up Review.

In order to more adequately achieve the "win-win" strategy, The American Legion recommends that active military end strengths should be maintained at the level of 1.6 million for FY 1995 and the foreseeable future, and current military force structures should be retained at FY 1994 force levels, namely, 12 active Army divisions, 12 active Navy aircraft carriers and 13 or more Air Force fighter wings as the baseline for reconstitution and surge growth in the event of future hostilities or simultaneous operations involving operations other than war.

We believe that the United States should hold the line on further military manpower, force structure and budget cuts until our defense needs have been more adequately assessed. This is particularly true with regard to the Army which has borne the brunt of downsizing and is expected to accomplish most of the numerous missions which it will be assigned. To quote General John Foss, USA (Retired), "The good news is that the United States Army is still the best Army in the world; the bad news is that it is the eighth largest in the world," and it is ranked in size behind such communist powers as Red China, Russia, North Korea and Vietnam.

The United States can, and must, afford a stronger national defense. The gap between proposed defense budgets and maintaining these minimally essential forces must be closed if we are to avoid another "hollow Army." Peacekeeping and humanitarian operations further detract from our declining combat power. We believe that funding for peacekeeping and humanitarian operations should be congressionally approved on a case-by-case basis and separately appropriated by the Congress, rather than funded by the Services from operations and maintenance accounts.

The American people, we believe, expect its civilian and military leadership to develop a reasonable and common sense national military strategy. The American people also expect that when U.S. forces are committed, under this policy, that they will be committed only when America's vital interests are threatened, and only as a last resort after all other reasonable alternatives have been explored and tried. We also expect that once the decision to commit U.S. forces has been made, our

forces—having been trained, equipped and organized to win—will be sent into combat only to win.

To achieve this objective, our nation needs a common-sense and consistent national military strategy. With the competing challenges of domestic imperatives and a desire to reduce our budget deficit, we, the people, must engage in a serious, thoughtful and wide-ranging debate on how to more adequately provide for the "common defense."

The price of maintaining a strong defense is expensive in terms of tax dollars and human lives. Our national security framework provides the umbrella that allows Americans to work and prosper without fear. A strong national defense does not inhibit a strong economy, it complements it. The Congress and the military establishment must spend tax dollars prudently and effectively, and not lavishly. The Defense Department must ensure that all aspects of its procurement and manning levels are responsible and disciplined. Undoubtedly, in order to achieve a stronger national defense such as The American Legion has proposed will require tradeoffs. We believe that our recommended manpower levels and force structures are not lavish but provide the minimum levels for our national defense.

The advent of smaller active duty forces reinforces the need for fully combat-ready National Guard and Reserve Forces which are completely integrated into the Total Force. Under the Bottom-Up Review, the Administration has proposed that there be 15 enhanced Army National Guard combat brigades that are to be trained, manned, equipped and ready to supplement active forces, and deployable within 90 days. We are all familiar with the National Guard brigades which were unprepared to deploy in the Persian Gulf War even with a six-month lead-time. The readiness of National Guard combat units to deploy to a second major regional conflict will also cost in terms of human lives unless we are completely willing to pay the price for their readiness.

Maintaining smaller active duty and Reserve component forces with increased operational missions also accentuates the need to retain the Selective Service System and its Registration Program. This cost-effective and highly successful system ensures that we have an identified manpower tool that could more rapidly augment our military manpower needs in the event of mobilization or extended warfare. Registration for the Selective Service also places the concept of service to the nation in its proper perspective with the direct involvement of all Americans. The national defense needs of our country is the business of all Americans, and $23 million to maintain the Selective Service System is a small price to pay for an insurance policy that protects all Americans.

Just as military manpower levels, force structures and defense budgets need to be stabilized, so must quality of life features for our service members and their families. This includes enhancements to compensations and incentives, to preclude seriously degrading the All-Volunteer Force. The implementation of such personnel management initiatives to drawdown the active force to include voluntary and involuntary separations, reductions-in-force, and 15-year retirements should gradually be phased out and the 20 year plus military career should be reinstitutionalized as the norm. This would stabilize our fighting capabilities, experience levels, and promised careers. Annual military pay raises and military retirement cost of living allowances (COLAs) should more closely match actual inflationary levels. Military retirement COLAs should be paid on the same schedule as federal civilian retirement COLAs and military retirees should not be unfairly penalized by having their COLAs delayed by 39 months while delaying federal retiree COLAs by only 9 months over the next five years. The American Legion strongly supported transitional assistance benefits for the active component, and it supports transition benefits for departing members of the Guard and Reserve. The budget includes $140 million for these programs which are parallel to the ones offered active duty military members. These funds will provide for the use of active duty voluntary incentives for full-time duty Reservists to include temporary early retirement authority, voluntary separation incentives and special separation benefits. Transition programs for part-time members would include:

Special separation pay for Reservists with 20 or more years of service.

Early qualification for retired pay at age 60 with 15 to 20 years of service.

Separation pay for Reservists with six to 15 years of service.

Commissary and exchange privileges for post-separation use for two years.

Montgomery GI Bill educational assistance for currently eligible members who are involuntarily separated during the drawdown period.

Priority affiliation for other Guard and Reserve units for those members involuntarily separated short of a full career.

The level of our defense strength is directly proportional to the quality of life and financial well-being of service members and their families. A strong defense depends

on strong people. Although the Administration appears committed to maintaining a strong defense and readiness posture, the actions of the Administration and the Congress in dealing with military people issues in 1993 fell far short of considering people to be the most important part of the defense equation. For instance, both present, former, and retired service members were faced with threats to pay increases and the uncertainties of voluntary and involuntary separations, commissary closings and increased commissary surcharges for military retirees, and a reformed military health care program which held the promise of making retirees and their dependents pay more for their health care needs.

If this nation is truly committed to a strong defense, then it also must be committed to meeting every obligation that accompanies it. Commitments and promises made to veterans and military retirees must be kept when their military service is over. This is the price of doing business in the defense market. We are reminded, for example, that according to the Defense Commissary Agency (DECA), military members and their families accounted for over $27 million in food stamps and over $15 million in women's, infants' and children's (WIC) redemptions in 1993. This fact is a shameful testimony and proves that all is not well in military communities.

To The American Legion, the effects of the downsizing appear to be taking a heavy toll. Military life is portrayed as a series of bewildering changes and broken promises. Service members appear to be straining to manage new missions while facing the prospects of multiple overseas deployments and experiencing the likelihood of serving under foreign or United Nations commanders at tactical and strategic levels. Combat pilots and Naval aviators are adjusting to living and working with women in combat units for the first time. Military commanders who once thought they had the know-how and legal authority to deal with homosexuals in their units continue to receive conflicting orders from the Pentagon and the federal courts. It is little wonder that the quantity and quality of recruits are beginning to show signs of decline. Lest we forget, there is absolutely no guarantee that the All-Volunteer Force will continue to be as successful in the future as it has proven to be in the past.

As a vital incentive to encourage bright young Americans to enter military service, The American Legion believes that the Montgomery GI Bill for education needs to be overhauled to make service life more attractive. Many young adults are now questioning whether eight years of their life, the rigors of military life, their $1200 contribution, and the likelihood of recurring deployments to hostile environments are worth the benefits they will likely never use. The Department of Defense's most recent survey that samples attitudes of young adults, ages 16-21, confirmed a worrisome downward trend in their propensity to enlist. The American Legion reluctantly concedes that financial contributions by participants must continue; however, the compensation levels must be expanded to make that contribution adequate to meet educational costs. The American Legion, therefore, proposes the following measures to enhance the GI Bill for education:

A participant's contribution and monthly benefit should be non-taxable.

The opportunity to make an annual contribution of $1200 for a minimum of one year and a maximum of four years. Annual contributions would be made in monthly payments of $100.

The current dollar benefit ratio for a full-time student is 1:12; a three-quarter time student is 1:9; and a half-time student is 1:6. These ratios are acceptable; however, these ratios would be adjusted annually concurrent with changes in the average tuition rates.

Benefits would be received over the same amount of time that the member contributed.

A member would have ten years to use educational benefits. After ten years, the veteran may request that the actual amount of unused contribution be refunded without interest through an IRS tax credit.

Members can contribute at anytime during their military career, but benefits will not begin until three years after their enrollment.

Benefits may be used to pay existing educational loans.

Members can receive health and child care benefits while enrolled in educational programs.

A participant's contribution will not be refunded nor benefits paid to anyone receiving a less than honorable discharge.

All members of the armed forces would be entitled to participate. Reservist and National Guard personnel would be required to make the same annual contributions in order to receive full benefits.

National Guardsmen and Reservists should also be extended National Service benefits in exchange for service during statewide disasters, riot control or catastrophes. The American Legion believes educational assistance for veterans has

consistently proven to be a winning concept. People who are trained and educated make better salaries, pay more in taxes and spend more. This proposed GI Bill would be a wise investment in America's future.

Today, there are approximately 9.5 million beneficiaries in the military health care program; and military retirees and their dependents make up more than 50 percent of that number. Access to affordable health care, regardless of age or health care status, represents the number one concern among military retirees. The sense of the congressional resolution in the FY 1993 National Defense Authorization Act reaffirms the basis of health care promised in law and tradition dating back more than 100 years. Military retirees were always led to believe that they were entitled to free lifetime health care as a major promise made in exchange for meager pay received and after having served 20 or more years in the most demanding and dangerous of professions. They are seeing this promise, and others, being broken which is not only a demoralizing factor, but one which can and will impact on recruiting and retaining a quality force.

Military retirees are the only group of federal "employees" who lose their health care benefits when they become 65 and are no longer eligible for CHAMPUS but become MEDICARE-eligible. MEDICARE covers much less than CHAMPUS, and like CHAMPUS, must be supplemented by expensive health care insurance which many of our military retirees cannot afford. The American Legion has always supported full-funding of the CHAMPUS program, and has believed that MEDICARE-eligible military retirees and their dependents should continue to have access to military treatment facilities on a space-available basis; that MEDICARE should reimburse DOD for health care received in military treatment facilities; and that all military retirees and their dependents should continue to receive free prescriptions form military medical centers.

Unquestionably, a reformed military health care system that serves to improve access, quality of care, and comprehensive care is required. The American Legion has a number of concerns, however, with the proposed DOD TRICARE Health Care System as it affects military retirees, namely, that military retirees and their dependents would be required to pay annual "registration fees" whether they used their plan or not; and questions remain concerning out-of-pocket expenses and the viability of MEDICARE reimbursement for treatment in DOD facilities. The American Legion believes that, as a minimum, the following guidelines should be incorporated or retained as part of the TRICARE package or any reform of military health care for military retirees, their dependents and military survivors:

Timely access to uniform, comprehensive and equitable health care benefits covering the full array of services ranging from preventive health care and dental treatment plans to prescription services for all military retirees, their dependents, and military survivors.

Preservation of the space-available system in military treatment centers depending on facility capabilities.

DOD military treatment facilities should be reimbursed by the Health Care Financing Administration for care provided to Medicare-eligible military beneficiaries.

There should be no registration fees or penalties for Medicare-eligible military beneficiaries who enroll in TRICARE health plans.

Pharmacy networks and mail-order pharmacy programs should be extended beyond the 40-mile radius of closing military bases and they should operate on a flat-fee basis rather than one based on percentages of costs.

CHAMPUS-equivalent entitlements as supplemental coverage to Medicare for 100 percent disabled military beneficiaries under age 65 should continue.

TRICARE health care plans should be extended to military beneficiaries residing in overseas areas.

The value of military commissaries in the quality of life equation for junior enlisted families and military retirees and others is indisputable. Military commissary usage ranks second only to medical health care in the non-pay compensation package according to surveys conducted among active duty and retired beneficiaries, as commissaries save patrons on the order of 17-25 percent in food costs. The $1 billion in subsidized congressional appropriations permits commissaries to sell items virtually at cost, and the removal of any portion of this funding could drastically raise food costs which could cause some commissaries to close. Contrary to popular belief, military commissaries are not competitive with civilian grocery chain stores as commissary sales represent only 1.7 percent of total U.S. grocery sales.

With the continued downsizing of the military and the on-going assault on military benefits, any effort to reduce or dismantle the integrity of the military commissary system would be seen as a serious breach of faith with a benefit system that serves as a mainstay for the active and Reserve components, military retirees,

military personnel involuntarily discharged or released from active duty, 100 percent service-connected disabled veterans, and others.

The American Legion urges the Congress to preserve full federal funding of the military commissary system and to retain this vital non-pay compensation benefit which is essential to the morale and readiness of the dedicated men and women who have served, and continue to serve, the national security interests of the United States. The American Legion also opposes any efforts to raise commissary surcharges above the five percent level for military retirees or other authorized commissary patrons.

The American Legion continues to support legislation to correct the inequity that prevents the concurrent receipt of military retired pay and veterans disability compensation. Unlike military retirees, civil service retirees receiving veterans disability compensation are not subject to this restriction. The American Legion recommends full payment of both military retirement pay and veterans disability compensation for disabled military retirees.

In creating involuntary separation pay, Voluntary Separation Incentives (VSI), and Special Separation Bonuses (SSB), Congress included provisions in the law requiring a forfeiture of these payments in an amount equal to any veterans disability compensation received after discharge. This is a carry-over of the unfair law which has historically prohibited the concurrent receipt of both pays. VSI, SSB and involuntary separation, or severance pay, are entirely different in scope and purpose than military retirement pay. They were designed to compensate service members for lost military career opportunities and to facilitate readjustment to civilian live. They are totally unrelated to any disability a service member may have incurred during his service. Those who were disabled in military service will face special challenges in readjustment during these difficult times. The American Legion urges the Congress not to add to these challenges by requiring disabled veterans to continue to fund their own disability compensation by an offset from their separation or military retirement pay. We also believe that the practice of recouping separation pays before the payment of veterans disability compensation should cease as the continuation of this practice will serve as a deterrent for service-connected veterans to even apply for disability compensation.

The American Legion supports amending Public Law 99–145 to eliminate the provision that calls for the automatic offset at age 62 of the military Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) with Social Security benefits. Military retirees pay into both SBP and Social Security, and their survivors pay income taxes on both. Military survivors should be rightfully entitled to receive both forms of benefit without any offset. The American Legion believes that military survivors should also be entitled to receipt of full Social Security benefits which they may have earned in their own right. It is also strongly recommended that, in the future, any SBP premium increases be assessed on the effective date, or subsequent to increases in cost of living adjustments and certainly not before the increase as was done this year.

Mr. Chairman, the report of the National Performance Review, referred to as "Reinventing the Government," has recommended that the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences (USUHS) be closed as it provided less than 10 percent of the Services' physicians at higher costs than the Health Professionals Scholarship Program (HPSP). Since the first USUHS graduation in 1980, over 1,800 physicians continue to pursue careers as physicians in the Army, Navy, Air Force and the U.S. Public Health Service. The USUHS educational process emphasizes primary care medicine and also provides special training in military medicine, combat casualty care, trauma, tropical medicine and combat stress, courses not found in civilian medical school curricula. USUHS graduates have also proven themselves willing to accept operational overseas assignments often viewed as less than desirable by civilian medical school graduates.

In the Department of Defense Program Analysis and Evaluation study which became the source of cost data contained in the National Performance Review Report, the majority of excess costs per year of service for USUHS-trained physicians was largely attributable to their projected longer service, higher salaries, and retirement benefits. The American Legion is convinced that the USUHS is an economical source of career medical leaders who serve our nation during peace, mobilization and war and provide military health care consistency and stability when compared to other sources of military physicians. The American Legion urges the Congress to retain the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences as a continued source of career military physicians for the Army, Navy, Air Force and United States Public Health Service.

Mr. Chairman, America's winning technology in the Persian Gulf War, like its victorious All-Volunteer Force, did not develop overnight, but had its genesis in the decade of the 1980's. The modernization of the Armed Forces must be a continuing

process and should not be delayed nor curtailed. Once a conflict develops, it is too late to decide whether America's defense industry has the capability to mass produce advanced technologies. The American fighting man, put in harm's way, must be equipped and armed with state-of-the-art technology. A vibrant defense industrial base will ensure that military production can surge when required.

The American Legion supports the Army's RAH–66 COMANCHE helicopter production, the retention of an absolute minimum of 12-carrier Navy battle groups, full funding of the CVN–76 aircraft carrier and DDG–51 Arleigh Burke guided missile destroyers, and production of the V–22 OSPREY aircraft for the Marine Corps. The Persian Gulf War highlighted the dire need for the Navy to immediately augment its sealift and that our Merchant Marine be rebuilt as second to none, and we applaud the planned building of more fast sealift ships. We support the Air Force's modernization program for production of the F–22 fighter, continued and accelerated production of C–17 aircraft, and production of a new military space-launch system compatible with those of the private sector. The American Legion also recommends maintaining the current inventory of intercontinental ballistic missiles and sufficient warheads as a hedge against unforseeable threats.

Despite the rapid downsizing of the active forces and increased reliance on the Guard and Reserves, the Reserve components continue to require a greater degree of modernization to improve their combat readiness postures and enhance their interoperability with active forces. We support, therefore, the upgrading of Air Defense systems of the National Guard and Reserves; upgrading all Air National Guard F–15 and F–16 aircraft to equivalent United States Air Force standards; upgrading KC–135 aircraft with warning and countermeasures equipment so as to increase wartime survivability; converting all KC–135 air wings from the KC–135E to the KC–135R so as to be fully compatible with the United States Air Force; and acceleration of essential National Guard and Reserve military construction programs. These items represent only a few of the required modernization programs for the Guard and Reserves.

The American Legion also urges the Congress to preserve America's defense industrial base by continuing to fund research, development and acquisition budgets so as to retain our technological edge in the 21st Century and to assure our military production can surge whenever U.S. military power is committed. Some of these capabilities such as tank production and shipbuilding will be retained in this budget, but far more needs to be done. Key industrial capabilities which preserve more of our defense base need to be identified. We applaud the "dual-use" partnerships proposed in the FY 1995 budget.

The American Legion opposes further termination of essential service modernization programs, diminution of defense industrial capabilities, and rejects the transfers of critical defense technologies abroad.

The American Legion firmly believes that with the continuing threat of nuclear proliferation, that America should retain its edge in nuclear capabilities as represented by the TRIAD system, and that our highest priority should be the national missile defense of the United States. Although the development and deployment of advanced theater missile defenses to protect U.S. forward-deployed forces is imperative, any dismantling of acquisition programs to defend the American people is imprudent. We believe that the United States should focus on developing and deploying an anti-ballistic missile detection and interception system that is capable of providing a highly effective defense of the United States against limited attacks of ballistic missiles. The Brilliant Eyes and Brilliant Pebbles technology for national defense should continue as acquisition programs, not only as part of the Theater High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) system, but as an inherent and essential part of the anti-ballistic missile defense of the United States.

Finally, as we face continuing action for the foreseeable future on base closures and declining defense budgets, we urge your continued support for defense conversion programs which we believe should be funded from non-defense appropriations; use of closing installations for National Guard and Reserve units for readiness purposes; and for continued DOD support of civilian marksmanship programs to inform and train American youth.

In conclusion, the true measure of whether a defense policy adequately protects our national security interests is not necessarily how much is spent on defense, but rather whether the armed forces will have the means to fight and win when conflict arises. Our national security well-being cannot be separated from our overall national well-being. The American people cannot view themselves from a position of relative weakness in the world. To lead at home, we must lead in the world arena. If we shun this role, our own future will be shaped by others. As Sir John Slessor, Marshall of the Royal Air Force, once wrote during World War II: "It is customary in democratic countries to deploy expenditures as armaments as conflicting with the

requirements of the social services. There is a tendency to forget that the most important social service that a government can do for its people is to keep them alive and free."

Mr. Chairman, this concludes The American Legion statement.

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

WILSON R. TIMMONS, Florida, *Chairman*

The American Legion over the past year has continued to support the Selective Service System by applying the following principles:

1. Maintenance of the Selective Service Registration Program as a viable preparedness measure;
2. The continuation of the Selective Service System in compliance with existing law, including Presidential induction authority;
3. Retention of the System supported by active state Selective Service headquarters with a state director who is responsible for the maintenance of military mobilization plans and operations for the state;
4. Local boards in communities to serve as decision-making bodies with respect to determining availability for service should Congress enact induction authority.
5. Training of Reserve and National Guard personnel in Selective Service Manpower Mobilization procedures with the capability to rapidly expand forms by resuming inductions should world conditions require Congress to return to the draft.
6. The President and Congress provide the necessary directions and budgetary support to the Selective Service System so the mandates of the Military Selective Service Act are enforced and the Selective Service System is able to meet the manpower requirements of the Department of Defense when called upon; and
7. Legislation be enacted requiring proof of selective service registration by any non-veteran male who applies for federal employment.

Reserve Officers Training Corps Program. The historic support for a strong and viable Reserve Officer's Training Corps (ROTC) was reaffirmed by Resolution 367–76, adopted at our 59th National Convention, Resolution 474 adopted by the 64th National Convention, and Resolutions 382 and 383 adopted at the 72nd National Convention. We resolved to staunchly support both collegiate Reserve Officers Training Corps and high school Junior ROTC programs as exemplifying strong links in the traditional role of the citizens-soldier in this country and as one of the most outstanding programs for producing military officers and future leaders of our nation. We also strongly recommend that all college and university students take advantage of the tremendous opportunity for training, leadership and achievement which the ROTC represents.

Departments having ROTC units supported ROTC programs by either awarding or encouraging Posts under their jurisdiction to award and participate in The American Legion's ROTC Medal program. Response to this program has been outstanding. During the period from July 1, 1993 to June 30, 1994, nearly 10,000 medals were awarded to deserving Senior and Junior level ROTC candidates. Presentations of medals were made to ROTC units in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, as well as the Departments of Puerto Rico and France.

Paul H. Griffith ROTC Trophy.—The National Executive Committee at their October 1975 meeting approved Resolution 21, which established the Paul H. Griffith Trophy for the ROTC program in their States during the year. The trophy honors the memory of Past National Commander Paul H. Griffith, who served as an Assistant Secretary of Defense, and throughout his lifetime maintained an active interest and participation in our nation's defense.

Criterion for judging the winner of the trophy is based on the Department giving the greatest degree to support to the ROTC programs to include the number of medals presented and Legion participation in award day ceremonies this year. This year's winners of the Paul H. Griffith Trophy are the Departments of Alaska, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Illinois, Missouri, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Tennessee, and Vermont.

NAVAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

JOHN J. WRENN, Massachusetts, *Chairman*

Guided by resolutions adopted at the 74th and 75th National Conventions, the Naval Affairs Committee has worked to strengthen the U.S. Navy during the past year. We begin with the premise that sea lanes are the life lines of America, both in peacetime and war. The United States is no longer hesitant about sending powerful signals to aggressors that we will not stand idly by and watch while they conduct violent takeovers of legitimate governments, particularly when those takeovers are contrary to the national interests of the United States. This new diplomacy requires a more mobile, more flexible and more capable armed forces; in particular, a viable and deployable United States Navy. The United States Navy and Coast Guard performed admirably during Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm.

The Secretary of Defense is faced with the decision on how best to maintain the strength of the Navy. The American Legion currently advocates the retention of 12-aircraft carrier groups as the absolute minimum required as well as the need for continued modernization of Naval Aviation and the development of the Seawolf submarine.

The United States Coast Guard has faced the same decreasing budget trends as the other services. The problem of funding has become so crucial in the Coast Guard that this service is barely able to perform its statutory missions and in some cases, has had to reduce some of its enforcement activities to stay within the funding limitations imposed by Congress. At the 74th National Convention, the delegates adopted a resolution calling for adequate funding support for the Coast Guard.

Adequate funding must be provided to the Navy for the continued development of its forces on and under the sea, and in the air, so that strong, modern, effective sea power can be effectively deployed with the forces of other services. The Naval Affairs Committee will continue to direct its efforts toward this goal.

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMISSION

THOMAS C. KOUYEAS, District of Columbia, *Chairman*

LEW WOOD, Indiana, *Director*

The Public Relations Commission of The American Legion is responsible for positioning The American Legion before the media and the public. As a service element of the National Organization everything the Public Relations Commission undertakes is ultimately designed to focus media attention on the local level and provide increased awareness of organizational concerns and dedication.

During the program year this focus realized additional benefit from two efforts: the 75th Anniversary "Diamond Jubilee" promotion of The American Legion and the World War II Data Bank.

Diamond Jubilee

A special "Diamond Jubilee" media package was prepared and distributed. The package included suggested news releases, proclamations, radio public service announcements, speeches and a six-page clip sheet with camera-ready photos and stories highlighting The American Legion's 75 years of service to God and country. The result was countless local stories focusing on the Legion's impact in hometowns large and small.

A radio public service announcement package of 30 second and 60 second announcements about the accomplishments of the organization throughout the past 75 years was sent to more than 1,400 radio stations for use through September 1994.

World War II Data Bank

The World War II Data Bank reached the peak of media interest to date in advance of the 50th anniversary of D-Day. National and local media turned to The American Legion to help them find special veterans of that historic invasion. The Data Bank of Legion members with stories to tell often helped fill the need. The extensive effort placed stories in USA Today, the Washington Post and Times, on CNN, C-SPAN and countless other news outlets.

Additional Media Focus

Also receiving heightened media attention during the program year were The American Legion positions on the health of Desert Storm veterans and their education needs; the protection of the Flag of the United States of America from physical desecration; the role of women in combat; military involvement in Somalia, Bosnia and Haiti; and flood relief efforts for the Midwest including media relations assistance to the Department of Virginia for a special toy collection campaign.

Awards

The 1994 National Commander's Public Relations Award was presented to Bill Mauldin, the cartoonist who made "Willie and Joe" World War II heroes.

The 1994 Fourth Estate Award was presented to television station KSNW–TV of Wichita, Kansas for a special feature program which followed a former Vietnam nurse from her Kansas hometown to Washington, D.C. and the multitude of events surrounding the dedication of the Vietnam Women's Memorial on Veterans Day.

The 1993 Department Media Awards were selected by the Commission for sustained coverage of Legion-interest news and events resulting from an active public relations role on the local level. Awards went to: KZEE–AM, Weatherford, Texas, Radio Station of the Year; WJW–TV, Cleveland, Ohio, Television Station of the Year; Ellwood City Ledger, Ellwood, Pennsylvania, Daily Newspaper of the Year; and Free Press-Courier, Westfield, Pennsylvania, Weekly Newspaper of the Year.

THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE COMMISSION

MILFORD A. FORRESTER, South Carolina, *Chairman*

DANIEL S. WHEELER, Virginia, *Publisher/Editor-in-Chief*

Editorial excellence equaled national influence and increasing advertising dollars in 1993.

With this formula, The American Legion Magazine brought in a record-breaking $7.53 million in advertising revenue during the 1993 operational year. With eight years of consecutive growth in advertising dollars, the magazine has outperformed nearly all of its competitors.

While many in the publishing industry succumbed to the tough economic climate of the 1990s, the magazine kept attracting multi-million dollar advertisers such as Buick, Merck Co., and Abbott Laboratories. The magazine also continued its leadership as the nation's largest direct mail market for shop-at-home items.

Buick, The American Legion and The American Legion Magazine joined in a special program that included: a multipage advertising schedule in the magazine; the raffling of a Buick motorcar at the National Convention in Pittsburgh, which contributed over $20,000 to the Legion's National Emergency Fund; a discount sales promotion for Legionnaires toward the purchase of a new Buick; a matching Buick contribution to local American Legion youth programs. More than 6,000 cars were sold in 75 days and Buick contributed $620,000 to these programs.

New advertising accounts, such as the U.S. Postal Service, the U.S. Mint and Nordic Track, were developed in 1993 as a direct result of market research. This research showed that over 77 percent of Legionnaires read every issue of the magazine, the highest figure among 250 leading national magazines. Legionnaires also spent an average of 55 minutes reading each issue, also one of the highest figures in the industry.

The magazine has been able to offset some of the postal-rate hikes through sound management decisions that have saved $1 million in production costs. While postal costs for the magazine have risen from $200,000 in 1976 to $5 million in 1994, the magazine has operated in the black since 1981.

Selling this magazine to advertisers was facilitated by the continually improving quality of its articles and graphic design. Most notable was the March 1993 article, "POW/MIAs: The Next War," by Managing Editor Miles Z. Epstein. It received the 1993 George Washington Honor Medal for Excellence in Public Communications from the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge. Said the Freedoms Foundation: "No other article has ever addressed U.S. policy on POW/MIAs looking at how it can be specifically improved in future wars. America can do a better job of protecting the men and women who are sent into battle. And the recommendations that appear in this article may actually save lives in our next war."

The American Legion Magazine also was used as a source for Cable News Network for its stories on Desert Storm's mystery illnesses. The Legion, through its

magazine, provided leadership and exclusive coverage of maladies that included extreme fatigue, bleeding gums, hair loss and immunity problems. Some 20,000 Gulf War servicemen and women have reported such symptoms.

Because of the magazine's coverage—and the work of the Legion's Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission—Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) hospitals were able to admit these veterans for treatment. While no cure or diagnosis has been found, Legionnaires can be proud of their magazine's role in bringing the Gulf War sickness to the attention of the VA and the American public.

Also during 1993, The American Legion Magazine provided continuing coverage of the 50th Anniversary of World War II with a special, multi-article section on 1943 in the December issue. In addition, numerous World War II battles were highlighted in Battle Reports published throughout the year. Most of the July issue was devoted to a special, multi-article report on the Korean War to coincide with the 40th anniversary of the armistice. A similar series of articles on the 25th anniversary of the Tet Offensive of the Vietnam War appeared in the February issue.

The magazine also published articles on the threats of "tribal" warfare around the world; neo-fascism in Europe; the meaning and impact of the U.S. military's downsizing; the spread of nuclear weapons technology; the growth of homeschooling in America; and the dangers of divisive multiculturalism.

The task of informing veterans about their benefits was aided by the magazine's exclusive interview in September with Sen. John D. "Jay" Rockefeller, chairman of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee; Rep. G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery, chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee; and VA Secretary Jesse Brown. In addition, the monthly Veterans Update column and other investigative reports ensured that Legionnaires were informed of the news that affects VA and the veterans who depend on its services.

As the only publication that goes to all 3-million Legionnaires, The American Legion Magazine must continue to keep itself financially sound and journalistically excellent. All aspects of the magazine's operation are continually scrutinized to ensure its continued success and growth.

VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION COMMISSION

Chester F. Stellar, Ohio, *Chairman*

Carroll Williams, Maryland, *Director*

The seventy-fifth Annual National Convention in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and the Fall and Spring meetings of the National Executive Committee approved programs expressed in resolutions submitted to those bodies through the Convention Committee on Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation and the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission.

The following report covers the activities of the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission and its staff during the year ending June 30, 1994. The first section of the report describes the action taken on all resolutions assigned to the Commission for consideration, and the status shown as of June 30, 1994, the date of this report.

Beginning with the 1993 National Convention, the Commission received a total of 67 resolutions for appropriate action and consideration. There follows a breakdown of these resolutions by source and type:

58 from the 1993 National Convention.
16 Approved or Approved as Amended.
15 Consolidated with Resolutions Approved.
9 Referred to Resolutions Standing Commission.
5 Rejected.
13 Received and Recorded.
9 from the National Executive Committee.
3 from the National Adjutant at the meeting of October 20–21, 1993 ("register resolutions")
6 from the National Adjutant at the meeting of May 5–6, 1994 ("register resolutions")

The status of these resolutions upon which action has been taken as of the end of the reporting period is set forth below, beginning with those covering the 1993 National Convention, followed by those presented and referred by the National Executive Committee.

1993 NATIONAL CONVENTION APPROVED RESOLUTIONS POLICY

Resolution No. 2 (ND)—Urge the Administration and Congress to adopt the recommendations of The American Legion Health Care Proposal as a measure to improve and expand the services of the Veterans Health Administration. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs was informed by the Director on September 24, 1993, of The American Legion official policy on this resolution. The National Commander testified in support of this resolution on September 21, 1993, before a joint hearing of the Senate and House Veterans Affairs Committees.

Resolution No. 3 (ND)—Urge the Congress to ensure there is a joint DoD program to provide information regarding health issues to all Persian Gulf War veterans and to provide service connection for any condition found to have been incurred in or aggravated as a result of Persian Gulf War service. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs was informed by the Director on September 24, 1993, of The American Legion official policy on this resolution. The National Commander testified in support of this resolution on September 21, 1993, before a joint hearing of the Senate and House Veterans Affairs Committees.

Resolution No. 5 (ND)—Urge the President and the Congress to reinstate all benefits eliminated by the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs was informed by the Director on September 24, 1993, of The American Legion official policy on this resolution. The National Commander testified in support of this resolution on September 21, 1993, before a joint hearing of the Senate and House Veterans Affairs Committees.

Resolution No. 41 (UT)—Support legislation which extends National Service Plan Benefits to all veterans and serving members of the Armed Forces Reserves and National Guard. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs was informed by the Director on September 21, 1993 of The American Legion official policy on this resolution. The National Commander testified in support of this resolution on September 21, 1993, before a joint hearing of the Senate and House Veterans Affairs Committees.

Resolution No. 43 (UT)—Urge The American Legion oppose any action by the Congress to require third party payment by service-connected veterans for any condition. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs was informed by the Director on September 24, 1993, of The American Legion official policy on this resolution. The National Commander testified in support of this resolution on September 21, 1993, before a joint hearing of the Senate and House Veterans Affairs Committees.

Resolution No. 137 (SD)—Oppose any legislative proposal that would tax service-connected compensation benefits. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs was informed by the Director on September 24, 1993, of The American Legion policy on this resolution. The National Commander testified in support of this resolution on September 21, 1993, before a joint hearing of the Senate and House Veterans Affairs Committees.

Resolution No. 210 (VA)—Reaffirmation of The American Legion Agent Orange Resolution Nos. 227 and 228 emanating from the 1992 National Convention. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs was informed by the Director on September 24, 1993, of The American Legion official policy on this resolution. The National Commander testified in support of this resolution on September 21, 1993, before a joint hearing of the Senate and House Veterans Affairs Committees.

Resolution No. 216 (VA)—Seek legislation to pay each World War I veteran who meets the requirements a special pension. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs was informed by the Director on September 24, 1993, of The American Legion official policy on this resolution. The National Commander testified in support of this resolution on September 21, 1993, before a joint hearing of the Senate and House Veterans Affairs Committees.

National Cemeteries

Resolution No. 95 (IL)—Requests site location for national cemetery in Illinois. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs was informed by the Director on September 24, 1993, of The American Legion official policy on this resolution. The National Commander testified in support of this resolution on September 21, 1993, before a joint hearing of the Senate and House Veterans Affairs Committees.

Claims and Ratings

Resolution No. 4 (ND)—Urge the Congress to increase the maximum monthly educational benefits for Persian Gulf veterans and eliminate the contribution requirement of the current program. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs was informed by the Director on September 24, 1993, of The American Legion official policy on this resolution. The National Commander testified in support of this resolution on

September 21, 1993, before a joint hearing of the Senate and House and Veterans Affairs Committees.

Resolution No. 9 (MA)—Urge the Department of Veterans Affairs to decide all service-connected claims on sound scientific and medical procedures. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs was informed by the Director on September 24, 1993, of The American Legion official policy on this resolution. The National Commander testified in support of this resolution on September 21, 1993, before a joint hearing of the Senate and House Veterans Affairs Committees.

Resolution No. 13 (MA)—Restore special consideration of age in pension claims by reducing disability requirement to 60 percent at age 55 and 50 percent at age 60. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs was informed by the Director on September 24, 1993, of The American Legion official policy on this resolution. The National Commander testified in support of this resolution on September 21, 1993, before a joint hearing of the Senate and House Veterans Affairs Committees.

Resolution No. 14 (MA)—Seek amendment to VA Rating Schedule to include ototoxicity from medicine known to cause tinnitus. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs was informed by the Director on September 24, 1993, of The American Legion official policy on this resolution.

Resolution No. 217 (VA)—Support legislation to improve the disability and death pension program. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs was informed by the Director on September 24, 1993, of The American Legion official policy on this resolution. The National Commander testified in support of this resolution on September 21, 1993, before a joint hearing of the Senate and Veterans Affairs Committees.

Resolution No. 218 (VA)—Support legislation to increase the monthly rates for disability compensation recipients. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs was informed by the Director on September 24, 1993, of The American Legion official policy on this resolution. The National Commander testified in support of this resolution on September 21, 1993, before a joint hearing of the Senate and Veterans Affairs Committees.

1993 National Convention Referred Resolutions

Resolution No. 7 (CANADA)—Request The American Legion provide necessary funding for Department of Canada Service Officers to attend annual training seminars for Department Service Officers.

Resolution No. 128 (TX)—Provide legislation to change Korean War dates and Vietnam Era dates for veterans benefit purposes.

Resolution No. 136 (SD)—Urge the abolishment of the DVA from requiring financial information from service-connected veterans.

Resolution No. 146 (NY)—Urge the Congress to change the date of the beginning of the Vietnam Era to December 22, 1961 for benefits purposes.

Resolution No. 147 (NY)—Sponsor and support legislation to exempt veterans and the widows of veterans from additional tax on Social Security.

Resolution No. 149 (NY)—Urge the approval of a cemetery site in Richmond County, New York.

Resolution No. 182 (KS)—Urge the termination of the expenditure of funds for Highway 54 at the Wichita VAMC.

Resolution No. 214 (PR)—Authorize the DVA to pay the Medicare deductible for hospitalization outside of the DVA medical facility.

Resolution No. 241 (FL)—Oppose legislation on any action that would alter current regulations regarding eligibility for treatment at VAMCs.

Rejected Resolutions

Resolution No. 25 (CO)—Oppose any taxation of pensions or Social Security until the government comes up with the proper spending cuts to reduce the national debt.

Resolution No. 47 (ME)—Urge that Congress enact H.R. 394, to amend title 38, USC, section 101(29), changing the dates for benefits.

Resolution No. 130 (TX)—Seek a Federal Veterans War Bonus for all veterans.

Resolution No. 175 (AK)—Seek from the Congress and upgrade the cost provisions made available to veterans equal to the Federal per diem rate for Federal employees while in travel status.

Resolution No. 220 (MX)—Seeks benefits of Medicare Program be made available to the citizens of the US living abroad.

Received and Recorded Resolutions

Resolution No. 10 (MA)—PTSD family therapy and counseling at VAMCs.

Resolution No. 11 (MA)—Amend title 38, USC to allow housebound benefits for parents receiving DIC.
Resolution No. 12 (MA)—Restore and increase burial and plot allowance.
Resolution No. 66 (AZ)—Plot allowance for all veterans.
Resolution No. 68 (AZ)—Death benefits for all veterans.
Resolution No. 78 (OH)—Telephone systems in VAMCs.
Resolution No. 93(IL)—American Legion Policy on Philippine veterans benefits.
Resolution No. 96 (PI)—Equalization of Retired Pay for Philippine Army Scouts.
Resolution No. 97 (PI)—Amend title 38, USC to provide VA benefits for Commonwealth Veterans and Philippine Scouts.
Resolution No. 129 (TX)—Ensure health care and benefits for Granada, Lebanon and Panama veterans.
Resolution No. 178 (WV)—DVA smoking and policy at VAMCs.
Resolution No. 243 (OH)—Increase medical research budget.
Resolution No. 245 (AL)—Support legislation for VA benefits under Immigration Act of 1990.

National Executive Committee Meeting October 20–21, 1993

The National Executive Committee approved the following resolutions:
Resolution No. 10 (FL)—Suppports the provision of humanitarian care and treatment of non-U.S. citizens in VAMCs only on a reimbursable basis and that no veteran of U.S. Armed Forces be denied care or have care delayed because of treatment of a non-U.S. citizen.
Resolution No. 11 (KS)—Calls for the payment to VAMC Wichita by the State of Kansas of fair market value for any property relinquished by the VAMC Wichita for the purpose of expanding U.S. Highway 54, and that construction of a new patient care facility be financed by the State of Kansas.
Resolution No. 12 (VA&R) Commission)—Expresses Legion's willingness to join in an Amicus Curiae brief in the case of IVY v. Diamond Shamrock as the case is prepared for the United States Supreme Court, that all communication concerning this resolution be signed by the National Commander, attested by the National Adjutant and signed inter alia by the National Judge Advocate. Also that this activity shall not create any extra or outside legal fees.
The National Executive Committee approved the following action as indicated:
Resolution No. 7 (CANADA)—Provide funds for inclusion of Canadian Service Officers at DSO Schools—dispose of administratively (with sponsoring Department).
Resolution No. 128 (TX)—Expand Korean and Vietnam War Era dates for benefit purposes—dispose of administratively (with sponsoring Department).
Resolution No. 146 (NY)—Expand Vietnam War Era dates for benefit purposes—dispose of administratively (with sponsoring Department).
Resolution No. 149 (NY)—Locate national cemetery in Richmond County, New York—dispose of administratively (with sponsoring Department).
Resolution No. 214 (PR)—VA payment of Medicare deductible to non-veteran facilities—dispose of administratively (with sponsoring Department).

Rejected Resolutions

Resolution No. 48 (MT)—Open a Falconry Program.
Resolution No. 147 (NY)—Exempt veterans and widows of veterans from additional Social Security.

National Executive Committee Meeting May 5–6, 1994

The National Executive Committee approved the following resolutions:
Resolution No. 2 (VA&R Commission)—American Legion proposal to improve the Veterans Affairs claims and appeals process.
Resolution No. 3 (VA&R Commission)—Department of Veterans Affairs Blue Ribbon Panel on Claims Processing.
Resolution No. 4 (VA&R Commission)—the American Legion Policy on Exposure to Ionizing Radiation.
The American Legion Executive Committee approved the following action as indicated:
Resolution No. 136 (SD)—Disclosure of financial information by service-connected veterans—dispose of administratively (with sponsoring Department).

VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION COMMISSION MEETINGS

Members of the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission held three meetings during the period September 7, 1993 through May 5, 1994, as follows:

The VA&R Commission met on September 7, 1993, in Room 6, Level 3, Lawrence Convention Center, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. A report was subsequently made to the National Executive Committee relative to the Commission's meeting.

A 15 member Subcommittee of the Executive Section of the VA&R Commission met at National Headquarters October 18–19, 1993, for the purpose of considering those matters of a current nature which had previously been referred for study, and to discuss a broad range of other matters of a current nature. A report of that meeting was presented to the National Executive Committee on October 20, 1993.

The Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission met for the 71st consecutive year in Washington, DC, on February 16, 1994, in conjunction with the 34th Annual Washington Conference. The actions taken by the Commission during this meeting were contained in the Commission's Advance Report to the National Executive Committee, May 4–5, 1994, and also appear in the proceedings of that meeting.

A five member Subcommittee of the Executive Section of the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission met on May 2–3, 1994, at National Headquarters. Chairman Chester F. Stellar (OH), chaired the Subcommittee meeting. National Commander Bruce Thiesen visited with the Subcommittee and encouraged those present to continue their efforts on behalf of the Nation's veterans. A report of this meeting was presented to the National Executive Committee on May 4, 1994.

NATIONAL LEADERSHIP WORKSHOPS

THE AMERICAN LEGION AND AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

For the fifteenth consecutive year, eight National Leadership Workshops were conducted throughout the months of September and October 1993. The meetings were held in the following cities:

Region 1—Portland, ME, September 17–19, Hotel: Holiday Inn By the Bay.
Region 2—Hampton, VA, October 1–3, Hotel: Holiday Inn, Hampton-Coliseum.
Region 3—Mobile, AL, October 1–3, Hotel: Stouffer Riverview Plaza Hotel.
Region 4—Little Rock, AR, October 8–10, Hotel: Camelot Hotel.
Region 5—Indianapolis, IN, October 29–31, Hotel: Holiday Inn North.
Region 6—Fargo, ND, September 17–19, Hotel: Radisson Hotel Fargo.
Region 7—Las Vegas, NV, October 29–31, Hotel: Las Vegas Hilton.
Region 8—Spokane, WA, October 8–10, Hotel: Sheraton-Spokane Hotel.

The American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary met jointly at each Saturday morning session to discuss mutual interests. The Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Commission attended the Conference in their respective regions. The Regional Chairmen were in attendance at all Conferences.

Staff members of the VA&R Commission were present at each Conference providing those present with overviews of various topics relative to the VA&R program. Significant changes in VA benefits and services including VA's program for homeless veterans, as well as recent legislative mandates adopted at the 1993 National Convention and other issues, were also discussed.

Representatives of VA medical centers attended the Conferences for the purpose of discussing the impact of funding shortfalls on veterans' access to medical care. A significant number of questions were posed concerning veterans' access to VA medical care and eligibility reform.

Noteworthy at all Conferences was the high percentage of first time attendees and larger number of Post Service Officers.

ANNUAL VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION CONFERENCE

The 71st National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Conference was held February 14–16, 1994 at the Sheraton Washington Hotel, Washington, DC. Participants included members of the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission, Department Service Officers and Rehabilitation Directors, County and Post Service Officers, members of the American Legion Auxiliary, and various National, Department and Post officials.

Mr. Chester F. Stellar (OH), Chairman of the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission and Vollie McCollum (TN), Vice Chairman, presided at the sessions of the Conference. Addressing the Conference were National Commander Bruce Thiesen, Mrs. Helen Holcomb, President, American Legion Auxiliary, and The Honorable Jesse Brown, Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

In addition, presentations were made by The Honorable Hershel Gober, Deputy Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs; The Honorable Charles L. Cragin, Chairman, Board of Veterans Appeals; and John Vogel, Under Secretary for Benefits, Department of Veterans Affairs.

During the Conference panel discussions were conducted that dealt with topics of vital concern to those in attendance. Questions relating to the operations of the veterans' benefits programs, medical care, memorial affairs, and other pertinent subjects were entertained.

Prior to the Conference, for the thirteenth year, the Chairman and members of the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation staff met with Department Service Officers for the Annual Department Service Officers Seminar. Topics covering the field of veterans affairs and staff operations were discussed.

CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATIONS

The members of the Recommendations Committee met February 14, 1994, in the Sheraton Washington Hotel to consider three (2) recommendations received during the Washington Conference.

Recommendation No. 1

It is recommended that VA make research on Persian Gulf illnesses a top priority and ensure the 12 survey questions regarding health problems affecting some Persian Gulf veterans developed by the Department of Alabama be included in any studies or research projects conducted by VA or any other Federal agency. The Committee recommended approval of this recommendation.

Recommendation No. 2

It is recommended that information concerning the annual Washington Conference be sent out to all Departments well in advance and that it indicate whether Congress will be in session or not. The Committee recommended approval of this recommendation.

VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES

Over the past year, the staff of the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission has been actively involved with legislative issues affecting veterans' benefits and programs administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Such activities have included the preparation and presentation of testimony at hearings scheduled before Congressional Committees, as well as drafting legislation pursuant to the mandates adopted by the National Convention and the National Executive Committee. In addition, there has been continued liaison with the staff of the Legislative Commission, officials of the Department of Veterans Affairs, staffs of the Congressional Committees, and various members of Congress.

The following is a brief summary of the Congressional hearings held since July 1, 1993, relative to the deliberation of Congress on matters pertaining to the Legion's Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission programs.

(1) On July 21, 1993, the Deputy Director for Policy, testified before the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, Committee on Veterans Affairs, U.S. House of Representatives, regarding veterans' access to VA outpatient care.

(2) On August 3, 1993, the Assistant Director for Resource Development, testified before the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee regarding VA mental health programs and the Readjustment Counseling Service.

(3) On August 4, 1993, the Director testified before the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee on the Institute of Medicine's report on the effects of herbicides on Vietnam veterans.

(4) On September 17, 1993, the Assistant Director for Resource Development, testified before the Congressional Black Caucus, Veterans' Brain Trust Committee, on health care services provided to African American veterans by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(5) On September 21, 1993, the National Commander presented the Legion's recommendations and concerns on veterans' related issues to a joint hearing of the Senate and House Congressional Veterans Affairs Committees.

(6) On September 22, 1993, the Assistant Director for Resource Development, testified before the Subcommittee on Hospitals and Health Care, Committee on Veterans Affairs, U.S. House of Representatives, on legislation to improve VA health care services provided to women veterans and Agent Orange and ionizing radiation matters.

(7) On September 23, 1993, the Chief of Insurance Activities, testified on programs for providing life insurance protection and benefits for veterans and active duty members of the United States military services and their beneficiaries.

(8) On October 13, 1993, the Assistant Director for Information Management, testified before the Subcommittee on Compensation, Pension and Insurance, Committee on Veterans Affairs, U.S. House of Representatives, on legislation to provide increased compensation benefits for service-connected disabled veterans and their survivors, to improve and clarify certain VA appellate procedures, and to increase the special pension payable to recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor.

(9) On October 27, 1993, the Deputy Director for Policy, testified before the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, Committee on Veterans Affairs, U.S. House of Representatives, concerning ambulatory care services in the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(10) On November 2, 1993, the Deputy Director for Research and Technology Assessment, testified before the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee on regulations regarding presumptive service connection based on herbicide exposure and to respond to the National Academy of Sciences Report—Veterans and Agent Orange, Health Effects of Herbicides used in Vietnam.

(11) On November 17, 1993, the Assistant Director for Information Management, testified before the Subcommittee on Compensation, Pension and Insurance, Committee on Veterans Affairs, U.S. House of Representatives, on legislation to provide certain improvements in the adjudication of veterans' claims.

(12) On November 18, 1993, the Deputy Director for Policy, appeared before the Subcommittee on Hospitals and Health Care, Committee on Veterans Affairs, U.S. House of Representatives, to express the Legion's views on veterans' health care reform proposals under Title VIII, Subtitle B of H.R. 3600—the Administration's Health Security Act.

(13) On February 10, 1994, the Director testified before the Committee on Veterans Affairs, U.S. House of Representatives, on the Administration's proposed budget for programs and operations of the Department of Veterans Affairs for Fiscal Year 1995.

(14) On February 23, 1994, the Assistant Director for Operations, appeared before the Subcommittee on Compensation, Pension and Insurance, Committee on Veterans Affairs, U.S. House of Representatives, regarding the proposed VA budget for FY 1995 and related Regional Office and Board of Veterans Appeals operations.

(15) On February 23, 1994, the Director of the Economic Division presented VA&R testimony before the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee on programs for homeless veterans operated by the Federal Government.

(16) On March 8, 1994, the Deputy Director for Policy, presented testimony before the Subcommittee on Hospitals and Health Care, Committee on Veterans Affairs, U.S. House of Representatives, on legislation to preserve VA medical work force needs and on various state health care reform initiatives.

(17) On March 9, 1994, the Assistant Director for Resource Development, testified before the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, Committee on Veterans Affairs, U.S. House of Representatives, on the delivery of women veterans health care within the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(18) On March 23, 1994, the Assistant Director for Resource Development, testified before the Subcommittee on Hospitals and Health Care, Committee on Veterans Affairs, U.S. House of Representatives, concerning the present and future direction of VA construction planning, as it relates to national health care reform.

(19) On March 24, 1994, the Assistant Director for Operations, appeared before the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee to testify on legislation affecting the Court of Veterans Appeals and the claims adjudication process.

(20) On April 20, 1994, the Assistant Director for Resource Development, testified before the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, Committee on Veterans Affairs, U.S. House of Representatives, on veterans' perception of the VA medical care system.

(21) On April 28, 1994, the Director presented testimony before the Subcommittee on Compensation, Pension and Insurance, Committee on Veterans Affairs, U.S. House of Representatives, regarding legislative proposals affecting certain veterans'

disability and death benefits and the status of members of the Board of Veterans Appeals.

(22) On May 4, 1994, the Assistant Director for Information Management, appeared before the Subcommittee on VA, HUD and Independent Agencies, Committee on Appropriations, U.S. House of Representatives, to present VA&R Fiscal Year 1995 budget recommendations for programs and operations of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(23) On May 19, 1994, the Deputy Director for Policy, testified before the Subcommittee on VA, HUD and Independent Agencies, Committee on Appropriations, United States Senate, to present VA&R Fiscal Year 1995 budget recommendations for programs and operations of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(24) On May 24, 1994, the Assistant Director for Resource Development, testified before the Subcommittee on Housing and Memorial Affairs, Committee on Veterans Affairs, U.S. House of Representatives, on the operations of the National Cemetery System and the State Grants Cemetery Program.

(25) On June 9, 1994, the Assistant Director for Information Management, testified before the Subcommittee on Compensation, Pension and Insurance, Committee on Veterans Affairs, U.S. House of Representatives, on the "Veterans' Persian Gulf War Benefits Act", H.R. 4386.

(26) On June 20, 1994, the Assistant Director for Resource Development, submitted testimony to the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, Committee on Veterans Affairs, U.S. House of Representatives, concerning the impact of national health care reform on the competitiveness and effectiveness of the VA medical care system.

INFORMATIONAL SERVICES

During the year, through its informational services, the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation staff endeavors to keep Legion officials and other parties informed of our program activities and functions. Preparation and distribution of various publications consumes considerable time and effort. Publications based on various topics are disseminated routinely.

Publications are sent to Department Service Officers, members of the Commission, and others interested in the Legion's rehabilitation program. For the Calendar Year 1993 a total of 53 Bulletins were issued. During the same time frame a total of 20 Memorandum letters were drafted and distributed. To date, 22 Bulletins and 14 Memorandum letters have been distributed for 1994.

Our booklet entitled "An American Legion Proposal to Improve Veterans Health Care" has been revised and is still widely distributed. It was sent to the President's Task Force on Health Care Reform and distributed to members of Congress and Legionnaires across the nation. This year, "An American Legion Proposal to Improve the Department of Veterans Affairs Claims and Appeals Process" was developed and will be distributed nationwide. The publication contains recommendations for improving the claims and appeals process at the service officer level, at the regional office, at the Board of Veterans Appeals and at the Court of Veterans Appeals. The publication "We Want You To Know . . . And Receive" was updated and is one of our most popular and informative requests throughout the Departments. Each week we also receive individual requests for this publication. Supplies of these and other VA&R pamphlets are maintained for distribution upon request. Our "Welcome Home! The Storm Has Passed" pamphlet providing information on VA and Department of Labor benefits and services for Persian Gulf veterans is also available upon request.

On an annual basis the staff revises The American Legion Post Service Officers Guide to reflect legislative and program changes. This publication has wide distribution. Sufficient copies are mailed to all Department Headquarters to provide one copy for each Post within the Department. The PSO Guide is an indispensable research tool for Post Service Officers in providing services to veterans and their dependents.

Additional responsibilities cover the required revision of other publications and include: The American Legion Voluntary Service Handbook and the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission Program.

The National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission and its staff endeavor to provide as much information as possible concerning our program to the various Divisions of the National Organization, Departments and individual Legionnaires and the general public.

REPORT ON THE NATIONAL CEMETERY SYSTEM

The National Cemetery System's strategic plan through the year 2000, recommends the construction of five new national cemeteries. These are: Chicago, IL; Seattle, WA; Cleveland, OH; Albany, NY; and Dallas, TX. The Fiscal Year (FY) 1995 budget proposal for VA includes funding to begin construction of a new national cemetery in the Seattle/Tacoma area. The FY 1995 budget proposal includes funds to purchase land for the construction of the remaining four priority sites. Beyond the year 2000, the next four sites recommended by VA for new national cemetery expansion include: Pittsburgh, PA; Oklahoma City, OK; Detroit, MI; and Miami, FL.

The National Cemetery System's proposed FY 1995 budget includes a much needed increase of $2.2 million and 25 full-time employees. The FY 1995 budget request of $72.5 million for cemetery operations falls short of the $78 million recommended by The American Legion. The National Cemetery System continues to incur an equipment deficit of roughly $6 million annually.

Annual interments in national cemeteries are projected to reach 70,000 during the current fiscal year, and are expected to rise over the next several years, peaking to 100,500 in the year 2010. As the demand for service increases, additional resources and burial space will be required. In addition to the utilization of national cemeteries for veteran and dependent burials, officials of the National Cemetery System are emphasizing the use of the State Grants Cemetery Program. The U.S. House of Representatives has passed legislation to increase the Federal portion of construction funding for state cemeteries from the current 50 percent share to a 65/35 percent allocation. The Senate Veterans Affairs Committee is expected to consider this legislation during the current legislative session.

Passage of H.R. 949, authorizing the increase in the Federal share of state cemetery construction is essential to meeting the growing need for veteran burials. Overall, of the 48 state cemeteries, 29 have been established through Federal grants in 18 states and Guam. Five states have grants pending for new cemeteries: New Hampshire, Wisconsin and Minnesota are in the early planning stages for grants/state cemeteries. The states of North Carolina and Virginia have approved funding for veterans cemeteries and area in the process of submitting the appropriate forms to the National Cemetery System.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL CONSULTANT

There were no significant changes in the duties and activities of the Medical Consultant in the past year. Dr. Nikita Tregubov is the Senior Medical Consultant. The position of the additional Medical Consultant has not been filled as of this time.

The primary duty assigned to the Medical Consultant is to act as a source of medical/technical knowledge to the appeals and claims representatives of The American Legion at the Board of Veterans Appeals. The case workers refer the case folders to the Medical Consultant for evaluation and advice as to the appropriate course to pursue in presenting the case. They may take place in the form of guidance, but more frequently it will involve a written memorandum to the appeals representative who refers the case. Certain cases are medically and technically difficult for a nonphysician the present and such cases are presented directly to the Board of Veterans Appeals by the Medical Consultant.

In some cases the Medical Consultant is directly contacted by American Legion Service Officers in the field asking specific questions. Department Service Officers are encouraged to refer difficult cases to the Washington office and to call or discuss them with the Medical Consultant. This year, again, there was an increase in requests for consultations from the field. It is felt that having more contact with the representatives in the field, will benefit the veterans as well as the representatives in the field. The requests were answered within days, usually requesting additional information and records. In some cases a formal request for a disability rating was subsequently initiated.

The Director of the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission uses the Medical Consultant in an advisory capacity for the work conducted by his office. This can be in the form of policy with regard to the operations of the Department of Veterans Affairs' medical care system, or it might be in an advisory capacity on legislative proposals and testimony before Congressional Committees. Each consultation is usually on an informal basis and is discussed among several key members of the VA&R division. Occasionally, perceived administrative problems within VA have been drawn to the attention of the director who calls upon the Medical Consultant for a solution to these problems. This year more requests from the various sections of VA&R have been received. Some of the requests dealt with the issue of individual and some were of a general nature. Several of those requests required additional information not available at the time of the request. Fortunately, the

availability of multiple medical libraries in the area facilitates the gathering of required information and presenting it to the requester. These requests are welcome and provide the opportunity to have input in the decision-making process of the various Departments of The American Legion.

The Medical Consultant represents the Director at the monthly meetings with the Chief Medical Director, along with other Veterans Service Organization Representatives, to gain information concerning the recent operation and direction of the Veterans Health Administration. These meetings are to express concern over the changes in the course of treatment being offered by the Veterans Health Administration.

During the past year the medical consultant has screened/evaluated 399 cases referred by staff.

GOVERNMENT LIFE INSURANCE ACTIVITIES

The United States Government, acting through the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA), directly administers four life insurance programs for veterans of the World War I, World War II and Korean War periods, as well as two special on-going program for veterans in certain service-connected disabled categories. These programs are administered under the title of United States Government Life Insurance (USGLI) for World War I era veterans, National Service Life Insurance (NSLI) for World War II era, Korean War era and Service-Disabled veterans, and Veterans Mortgage Life Insurance (VMLI) for totally disabled veterans who are approved grants for specially adapted housing purposes by the DVA. The USGLI and NSLI programs currently have over 2.94 million policies in force as of the end of May 1994, with a combined life insurance coverage of some $26 billion dollars. Dividend distributions for participating policies in these programs amount to approximately $850–$900 million dollars annually. The VMLI program insurers some 4,300 veterans with over $223 million dollars of coverage in force.

In addition to the life insurance programs directly operated by the DVA, the Department also has supervisory authority and responsibility over two other major government life insurance program issues. These are the Servicemen's Group Life Insurance (SGLI) and Veteran's Group Life Insurance (VGLI) programs. These programs have provided protection, since 1965 and 1970 respectively, to active duty and reserve military personnel (SGLI), and to separated veterans (VGLI). The SGLI and VGLI programs are administered by the Prudential Insurance Company at a center in Newark, NJ, with all administration and other program expenses being paid by the policyholders from a portion of their premiums, save for the extra hazard mortality experience of wartime periods, when general tax revenues take over. On March 31, 1994 SGLI provided over 2.95 million active duty and reserve personnel with more than $461 billion dollars in life insurance coverage, while VGLI covered some 343,000 veterans with insurance in excess of $24 billion dollars. No new major program changes have occurred in the SGLI/VGLI programs since the December 1992 addition of an optional $100,000 of coverage to the basic SGLI coverage limit of $100,000 (thereby allowing a possible total of $200,000 in life insurance per policyholder), and the conversion of VGLI coverage to one of a renewable nature, instead of the single five year period previously in effect.

In the NSLI program thousands of disabled veterans are taking advantage of the new supplemental Service-Disabled insurance also provided for in the legislative changes (P.L. 102–568) of late 1992, whereby up to an additional $20,000 of coverage may be purchased by those having a basic NSLI Service-Disabled policy and who become totally disabled before age 65. In addition, special dividends for those with Total Disability Income Provisions on their NSLI policies as separate riders will continue to be paid in 1994 as has been the case for several years.

The Department of Veterans Affairs, Insurance Centers continue an on-going effort to provide better service to their veteran policyholders in the USGLI/NSLI programs in the face of continuing personnel budget constraints by the installation of new computer processing systems utilizing Microsoft Windows programs with new in-house communications networks. Continuing in this direction, 1994 has seen the groundbreaking for a new modernized Insurance Center and Regional Office at the Philadelphia, PA site which should become available for occupancy in late 1995-early 1996. USGLI/NSLI policyholders will also soon be receiving annual statements on their policy account for the first time on or about the anniversary date of their policy, starting with the late Summer-early Fall 1994 period.

VA INSURANCE CENTERS—PHILADELPHIA, PA AND ST. PAUL, MN

The American Legion Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission staff at Philadelphia consists of a Chief of Insurance Activities, one Insurance Representa-

tive and one Secretary/Transcriber. An associated office at the St. Paul Insurance Center has one Supervisor/Insurance Representative and one Secretary/Transcriber.

The Chief of Insurance Activities and the Insurance Representatives must have a thorough knowledge of government life insurance laws, regulations and transaction and adjudication procedures, and be able to analyze and apply them correctly in order to properly represent insured veterans and their beneficiaries. The Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Director and other interested personnel are kept informed on policy matters, changes in DVA administrative procedures and all related areas to include new legislative initiatives. Staff analysis was provided on American Legion resolutions involving NSLI re-open periods for service-disabled and nonservice-disabled veterans with increased face value coverages, which continue to be an American Legion legislative mandate.

Daily operations involve a full range of insurance services to include the representation of insured veterans and their beneficiaries, the review of insurance case files and supporting evidence and claims files as required, the furnishing of status reports and account assistance to insureds, beneficiaries, accredited field representatives and DVA adjudicative and accounts personnel. We maintain a close liaison with Department Service Officers and other field personnel to ensure prompt and complete service, and the input to, review of, and where necessary the correction of DVA actions and records both on cases involving disability and death claims and on those involving any of a wide variety of insurance accounting and financial transactions that occur on both active and matured accounts. General insurance information and guidance is provided to field service officers across the United States, along with assistance in the preparation of insurance appeals and claims submittals. Coordination with DVA executive and program management personnel is conducted on both individual cases and broad policy/administrative matters.

For the period July 1, 1993 to June 30, 1994 the following activities of The American Legion's Philadelphia and St. Paul offices were reported:

Letters Received	4,428
Letters Written	5,845
Disability Insurance Claims	850
Death Insurance Claims	3,065
Insurance Folders Reviewed	6,346
In-Force Policy Accounts Reviewed	6,155
Telephone Contacts	3,592
Personal Contacts	3,543
Submittal Memorandums and Reports	2,789
DVA Case Responses Mailed	3,375
Live Claims, Evidence and Other Submittals Presented*	8,827

*Excludes death claims and includes policy transactions such as dividend, loan and premium actions, plan conversions, cash surrenders, refunds, beneficiary changes, disability claims with related medical and legal evidence, Wills, estate documents, check tracers, master record data changes, disability questionnaires processing and general inquiries.

CLAIMS SERVICE

The National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission provides assistance and representation, through a staff of 9 appeals representatives who are all Vietnam Era veterans, to veterans, their dependents, and survivors in appeals, discharge upgrade, and correction of military/naval records. An appeals representative is presenting detailed to a consortium of Veterans Service Organizations whose primary function is to assist the U.S. Court of Veterans Appeals (the Court) in a broad-based effort to review appeals to the Court and to recruit lawyers to provide representation on a pro bono basis to the many pro se appellants seeking relief through the Court.

Within the Table of Organization, the Assistant Director for Operations is responsible for the overall operation of the two units. A supervisor, six appeals representatives, two secretaries and a Senior Medical consultant are assigned to the Board of Veterans Appeals to provide representation in cases on appeal; and two representatives serve as counsel in cases coming before the Discharge Review Boards and the Boards for Correction of Military/Naval Records.

Since the D.C. Office of Veterans Affairs discontinued their operations by order of the Mayor in late December 1993, staff continues to provide assistance and limited services to those veterans and dependents residing in the jurisdiction served by the Washington, DC VA Regional Office, by advising and referring those claimants to the perspective State Veterans Service Organizations accredited to handle and prosecute American Legion claims. In addition, an appeals representative continues

to monitor overseas claims that are currently active and still pending proper resolution by the Washington, DC VA Regional Office.

BOARD OF VETERANS APPEALS

This report reflects the activities of The American Legion Board of Appeals Unit for the period July 1, 1993, through June 30, 1994. During these twelve months, the Appeals staff reviewed a total of 6,382 cases for presentation before the Board of Veterans Appeals (BVA or Board). Of these, 166 were scheduled personal hearings and 60 were Court of Veterans Appeals (CVA or Court) remands.

Assisting in the review and presentation of complex medical cases is Dr. Nikita Tregubov, Senior Medical Consultant. A total of 452 cases were referred to Dr. Tregubov for advisory opinions.

During this reporting period, the Board rendered a total of 3,563 decisions. These decisions consisted of 601 approvals (16.9%), 1,524 remands (42.8%), 1,262 denials (35.4%), and 176 others (4.9%). The last category includes administrative withdrawals, vacated cases and dismissals. The dismissal rate is beginning to increase based on Court decisions defining what constitutes well-grounded claims.

The Special Claims Service of the Unit reviewed and disposed of 67 cases involving requests by Department Service Officers of The American Legion for advisory opinions of assistance in obtaining Administrative Review by VA's Central Office, Compensation and Pension Service.

ARMED SERVICES REVIEW AND CORRECTION BOARDS

Statutory authority for existence and operation of Discharge Review and the Boards for Correction of Military and Naval Records is set forth in sections 1552, 1553 and 1554 of title 10, USC.

During the period beginning July 1, 1993 through June 30, 1994, staff representatives of this Commission, assigned to duties before the Department of Defense Boards, afforded service and representation in applications in the following types of claims: disability retirement, reserve retirement pay, discharge upgrades and other corrections of Military, Naval and Air Force service records. Of this number 298 formal hearings were scheduled.

The following is a breakdown of the actions taken by the separate Service Department Boards:

BOARDS FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY AND NAVAL RECORDS

	Presented	Pending decisions	Allowed
Department of the Air Force	38	4	10
Department of the Army	187	36	55
Department of the Navy and U.S. Coast Guard	100	10	109
Total	325	50	174

MILITARY AND NAVAL DISCHARGE REVIEW BOARDS

	Presented	Pending decisions	Allowed
Department of the Air Force	68	36	20
Department of the Army	93	23	21
Department of the Navy and U.S. Coast Guard	227	22	161
Total	388	81	202
Combined Grand Totals	713	131	376

STAFF WORKLOAD

Part of the overall activity of the various offices of the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission is reflected in the annual volume of correspondence. During this period, approximately 11,720 pieces of original correspondence were received, not including copies of correspondence from VA and Department of Defense to claimants, applicants and petitioners in cases represented by the Washington, DC Office and its field offices. Correspondence received by the Insurance Offices in

Philadelphia, PA and at St. Paul, MN was in excess of 5,688. In response, the outgoing correspondence to VA, claimants, service officers and others, exceeded 5,845.

The following combined workload reported by the offices of the Appeals Unit, DoD, and Insurance Services, exceeded 18,303, which includes cases reviewed and presented to the Board of Veterans Appeals and the Department of Defense Boards.

DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICERS SCHOOL

The National Commander continued to authorize the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission to conduct two separate three and one-half day training programs for Department Service Officers and other accredited representatives of The American Legion.

The purpose of the Department Service Officers School is to provide current technical information on a variety of issues relative to the proper development and presentation of claims to the Department of Veterans Affairs. The program of instruction includes subjects such as the range of veterans benefits, claims processing, disability evaluation, rating procedures, development of appeals and advocacy skills. Instructional material is extracted from all of VA's technical literature, manuals and program guides.

The goal of this formal training is to improve proficiency of American Legion Service Officers in counseling and representing veterans, their dependents and survivors in application for veterans benefits. Additionally, one sub-goal is to provide attendees the ability to provide training to other Service Officers in their respective Departments.

The Department Service Officers School represents a major effort by The American Legion to develop the necessary number of trained Service Officers to carry on the VA&R program. The cooperation and participation of the Departments is highly visible and well received. The benefits of this effort will be experienced by all those veterans the Legion is pledged to assist.

Each student who successfully completes this course receives a Certificate from The American Legion. All attendees, and staff agree that this effort is extremely helpful and successful, and will benefit all attendees and their constituencies for years to come.

A thirteenth session of the Department Service Officer School was held in Indianapolis, July 28–July 30, 1993. The classroom sessions were conducted at the Hilton on the Circle Hotel. This was the seventh session in Indianapolis and was well attended and well received. One hundred twenty attendees participated in the program. The school format remained the same and the basic information was updated and new areas of interest introduced. This format allows for continuing education of the more experienced Department Service Officers and allows the new Service Officers the opportunity to gain immediate benefits from the school.

The fourteenth session of the Department Service Officers School conducted in Rosslyn, Virginia, during the period February 9–12, 1994 was followed by the Annual Department Service Officers Seminar and the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Conference, held in Washington, DC.

Attendees included 116 participants from various Legion Departments and members of the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Division Claims staff. Formal instruction was again provided by Mr. Ron Abrams of the National Veterans Legal Service Project, Inc., and the staff of the VA&R Division.

FIELD SERVICE

Field Service activities are reported for the period of July 1, 1993 through June 30, 1994.

National Field Representatives are responsible to the Deputy Director for Operations, VA&R with day to day activities directed by the Senior Field Representative. There are four assigned Field Representative positions, two of which are currently vacant, and a secretary. Assigning representatives to specific regions, corresponding to the four VA Veterans Health Administration (VHA) regions, has proven successful in promoting a more consistent working relationship with both the Legion's Departments and VHA.

Site visits, the Field Service's primary mission, include visits to VA medical centers, associated satellite outpatient clinics, independent outpatient clinics, and Veterans Outreach centers. For the reporting period, the following number of VA medical centers were visited in each region:

Region 1—Eastern—18.
Region 2—Central—2.
Region 3—Southern—11.
Region 4—Western—11.

Total 42.

These visits continue to review the adequacy of each station's resources including their budget, staffing, construction and equipment needs. Particular attention is paid to the patient environment, patient satisfaction and the timeliness of services.

Health care reform continues to be a crucial issue. VAMCs are making a concerted transition towards more primary/managed care and more outpatient treatment. This involves changing the structure of the delivery of care and shifting resources into new approaches. This is being accomplished with varying degrees of success.

Site visit reports containing observations and findings are submitted to VA's Office of the Under Secretary for Health for action or comment. In general, satisfactory attention has been paid to the issues that have been raised. Several specific issues will continue to be monitored over the next several months. The foremost involves VA's efforts and needs within national health care reform.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS VOLUNTARY SERVICES

The 47th National Advisory Committee Meeting of the Department of Veterans Affairs Voluntary Services was held in San Diego, California, October 13–16, 1993.

One of the highlights of the program was the presentation of the James H. Parke Memorial Youth Scholarship Award, during a luncheon for that purpose. The recipient of the $10,000 scholarship was Corey Reece, whose volunteer efforts were carried out at the American Lake VAMC, Tacoma, Washington.

The American Legion representative on the National Advisory Committee is the Director of the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission who served as national VAVS Representative. He was represented by Harry Kelly, Assistant Director for Program Management. At the National Advisory Committee Meeting he is Vice Chairman of the Resolutions Subcommittee and James H. Parke Memorial Youth Scholarship Board.

Special workshops were held for those present. The special workshops provided valuable information about professionalism in volunteering, new and innovative volunteer assignments, youth and disabled volunteers and National VAVS and how it relates locally.

A presentation was made by Ms. Alline Norman, Associate Chief Medical Director for Administration. She indicates that due to budgetary restraints, the need for VA hospital volunteers is increasing daily to insure that the quality of care is maintained for hospitalized veterans.

The Honorable Jesse Brown, Secretary of Veterans Affairs spoke at the closing session on the dedication of veterans to their country and the need for volunteers to aid them now.

The National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission Chairman, Chester F. Stellar, continues to view The American Legion Volunteer Program as a priority issue.

The American Legion, for the ninth consecutive year, has demonstrated substantial growth in both numbers of volunteers and hours contributed.

A donation of $1,000 was made to the James H. Parke Memorial Youth Scholarship Fund.

ACCREDITED REPRESENTATIVES

In completing VA Form 21–22, Power of Attorney, the claimant appoints The American Legion as their Accredited Representative in a claim for benefits administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs. It is the duty of the organization to provide assistance, advice, and counsel to veterans, survivors and dependents so as to ensure their rights are protected and they receive all benefits to which they may be entitled under the law. The American Legion, as a Congressionally chartered organization, conducts this service program through the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission. Formal representation in claims is provided by Accredited Representatives of The American Legion. These representatives have been recommended for accreditation by their respective Departments because of their knowledge, experience, and expertise in the field of Federal benefits programs, especially those provided through the Department of Veterans Affairs.

To become an Accredited Representative of The American Legion, a formal application (VA Form 2–21) must be submitted to the Director of the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission, 1608 K Street, NW, Washington, DC 20006, with an accompanying endorsement signed by the Department Commander or Department Adjutant. The Director, as the National Certifying Officer, or the Assistant Director for Information Management, as Assistant National Certifying Officer, review the form and will forward the request to the General Counsel of the Depart-

ment of Veterans Affairs for action. This form is never sent directly to the General Counsel, as accreditation will not be granted unless the request has been certified by the organization. Upon approval of the application, the individual is recognized by VA as an Accredited Representative of The American Legion and will receive official notification of this action from the Department of Veterans Affairs. The accreditation will remain in effect until such time as the Director of the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission receives a written request from the Department Commander or Department Adjutant to cancel the individual's accreditation due to death, retirement, or resignation. The Director will then notify the General Counsel that the accreditation should be canceled.

New accreditations and cancellations are reported monthly on the VA General Counsel's List of Accredited Representatives—VA Information Bulletin IB 2–51. During the reporting period 109 requests for accreditation and 82 requests for cancellation were received from the Departments and submitted to VA for necessary action. As of June 30, 1994, there were 1,152 Accredited Representatives of The American Legion. Any questions concerning the proper procedures or regulations pertaining to accreditation of individuals or their activities should be submitted to the Director of the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission in the Washington Office.

DISTRIBUTION OF VA RELEASES

To ensure employees and service officers of the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission are kept advised and informed of changes in the laws, regulations, and policies pertaining to VA programs, the Administrative section of the Director's office receives and distributes copies of new and revised VA regulations, manual changes, and other informational publications to all VA&R staff. Special requests from the field for a particular VA publication can be submitted to the Director's office and an effort will be made to obtain the material from VA. It is, therefore, important that an initial request be made through the Publication Officer at the local VA facility. If copies of such material are completely unavailable, consideration will be given to attempting to reprint a specific VA item. However, size and number of pages will, of course, determine whether or not any such reproduction may be accomplished.

Distribution of important VA releases, circulars, and memoranda, as well as information concerning changes in VA law or policy, or other pertinent issues, are regularly transmitted to Department Service Officers and Directors of Rehabilitation, members of the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission, and other interested parties, through VR&R Bulletins and Memoranda.

PERSONNEL AND ORGANIZATION

The following changes occurred in the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Division at the Washington Office from July 1, 1993 through June 30, 1994.

John Hanson left the position of Director. He was replaced by Mr. Carroll Williams former Assistant Director for Operations. Mr. Williams was replaced by Carol Rutherford. In addition, Mr. Philip Wilkerson was promoted to the newly created position of Deputy Director for Operations. Mr. Wilkerson will oversee the staff at the Board of Veterans Appeals, the Discharge Review and Correction of Military Records Section and the Hospital Field Staff. Mr. John Naveau left his position as Field Representative.

Monica Moore and Venson came to the Legion as Secretaries to replace Melvina Metzger and Eva Bowden. Ms. Bowden retired after 22 years with the Legion. Carol Rames joined the staff as Secretary to Richard Christian.

Mr. Leonce Wilson was promoted to Supervisor at the Board of Veterans Appeals Office. Mr. Tom Holland replaced Mr. Wilson as a case screener at the Court of Veterans Appeals.

The table of organization of the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission is as follows as of June 30, 1994:

Director	1
Administrative Assistant	1
Deputy Director	1
Secretary	1
Deputy Director for Research and Technology	1
Nation Coordinator (VVFAP)	1
State Coordinators (VVFAP)	14
Secretary	1
Deputy Director for Operations	1
Field Representatives	2

Secretary	2
Assistant Director for Program Management	1
Secretary	1
Assistant Director for Information Management	1
Secretary	1
Assistant Director for Resource Development	1
Supervisor, Veterans and Dependents Claims Unit and Review and Correction Boards	1
Review Board Representatives	1
Supervisor, Board of Veterans Appeals Unit	1
Appeals Representatives	5
Case Screener, Court of Veterans Appeals	1
Secretary	1
Stenographer	1
Medical Consultant	1
Total Personnel—Washington Office	43
Insurance Field Offices:	
Philadelphia, PA:	
Chief of Insurance Activities	1
Insurance Representative	1
Secretary	1
St. Paul, MN:	
Supervisor of Insurance Activities	1
Secretary	1
Total personnel:	
Field Offices	5
Washington Office	43
VA&R Total	48

STAFF FIELD ASSIGNMENTS

The VA&R Administrative staff including the director, deputy directors and assistant director attended various Legion functions around the nation such as the National Convention, Department Conventions, Department Seminars and Service Officer's Schools, Conferences and fact-finding trips. Departments visited included: Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Kentucky, Montana, Nevada, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia, Washington, and West Virginia. These staff members also participated in eight National Leadership Workshops.

The Field Service Unit staff performed hospital surveys at Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Centers in Arizona, California, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, and Wyoming.

The entire Washington staff attended the Mid-Winter Conference in Washington, DC.

CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION

Under authority of May 1958 NEC Resolution, we have continued the program of awarding a Certificate of Appreciation to officials of the Department of Veterans Affairs, upon their retirement or resignation, "for services rendered and cooperation extended in connection with the American Legion's rehabilitation program." Under criteria established in line with the enabling resolution, nominations for the award are submitted by Department or National officials of The American Legion twice a year. The nominations are considered by a committee of the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission at meetings preceding the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Conference, and the National Convention. The Committee recommends to the Commission the names of those considered deserving of the Certificate.

Ten Certificates of Appreciation have been awarded during the period July 1, 1993 through June 30, 1994, for an overall total of 1,051 since the program was initiated.

CITATIONS FOR MERITORIOUS SERVICE

This Citation, authorized by the National Executive Committee in May 1956, seeks to recognize the long and faithful service of Post Service Officers and others. Nominations for the Citation are submitted by Department officials to the Veterans

Affairs and Rehabilitation Director at any time; the Director, acting for the Chairman and members of the Commission, issues the award.

One hundred and forty-nine Citations "for meritorious service and loyal cooperation in The American Legion's Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Program" have been presented during the period July 1, 1993–June 30, 1994. Since this type of recognition and appreciation began, 3,751 Citations for Meritorious Service have been presented.

VIETNAM VETERANS FAMILY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The American Legion's Vietnam Veterans Family Assistance Program (VVFAP) is now in its fifth year of operation. The program was initiated July 1, 1989, to develop a pilot outreach and referral network for assisting families that need family counseling for genetic and other disabling conditions and other forms of medical assistance. Since 1989, the program has expanded from 4 states to 14 states. The Departments are Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Minnesota, Missouri, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, and South Dakota.

There has been a gradual shift in program objectives since 1989. Initially, the VVFAP focused on outreach, information, and referral services for genetic and family counseling, and services for children with developmental disabilities. After 2 years, it became apparent that the needs of veterans and families extended beyond the narrow bounds of counseling. The VVFAP is now confronted with families that have financial problems, chronic health problems, and drug and alcohol abuse problems. The solution for these problems are long term and require more than information and referral. Most often, veterans have already been referred to services only to find that services are not responsive to their needs, primarily because state and community service agencies are not accustomed to dealing with veterans as a group.

To be responsive to the needs of veterans and families, state coordinators began seeking the cooperation of state health agencies that offer case management services, to ensure that problems are being dealt with in a comprehensive manner. The emphasis on case management has improved the level of services offered by the VVFAP and has caused the service agencies to be more willing to work with the program in helping veterans.

Traditionally, community service agencies did not focus their services to veterans because it assumed that veterans already had federal and state benefits appropriate to their needs. With the emphasis on case management, many state agencies began recognizing that veterans often have needs that are not being met by the federal and state programs. These programs are beginning to offer their services and accept responsibility for ensuring that veterans have access to the services they need. Linkages are beginning to develop between the VVFAP and the service agencies to provide additional benefits and assistance to veterans and their families needing medical and social services, especially those not available through the regular veteran benefit programs.

The VVFAP information and referral program has included the following elements for every individual or family referred to the program since its inception.

Outreach to identify and encourage veterans and members of their families to request help when needed.

Objective needs assessments are conducted via telephone, mail, or office/in person visits.

Prioritize needs by importance and available resources with a written plan of the organizations referred to and some general information about the problem referred for services.

Follow-up contact to monitor the usefulness and effectiveness of the information and the referrals provided.

All referrals require the coordinators to perform case management at some level to ensure that even minimum levels of service are actually provided or delivered to the family member. The quality and effectiveness of the assistance the VVFAP provided is directly related to the program's ability to assess an individual's needs in the context of the applicable family's situation and to follow the individual and family long enough to ensure that they receive the services needed and/or requested.

Since the inception of the program, the coordinators have reported a large number of cases seeking services other than health services. These cases have ranged from financial assistance to children's problems within the public school system. Other cases have involved requests for legal assistance, food, clothing, shelter, and rent assistance. Most of these referrals have been made to nontraditional veteran service programs. Many have been made to nonprofit community assistance and local and state agencies.

There have been more than 61,179 referrals since the inception of the program. More than 12,525 referrals were made during the last year. For all states, veterans account for approximately 51 percent of all referrals, while children account for 31 percent and spouses account for 18 percent. The percentage of children served has gradually increased since the program began, primarily because of the emphasis being placed on services to children and the family.

The sixth year of the program will begin October 1, 1994. Again, there will be no expansion of the VVFAP to additional Departments this year, because of the limited amount of funds available from the AOCAP. Some states are exploring the possibility of private funding to continue the program after the sixth year. The VVFAP has touched the lives of many veterans' families with services that otherwise may not have been available to them and has provided an effective avenue for the Legion's efforts as an advocate for the welfare of veterans and their families.

VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION REPORT

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

MRS. SYBLE D. DESHOTEL, Louisiana, *Chairman*

The Plan of Work began instructions by stating that "Volunteers are the key to success in the VA&R Program this year." While the actual number of volunteers in every category has not increased in large numbers, the old and new volunteers consistently and untiringly continued the goals for this program. Who benefited? The veterans did. Our volunteers have worked in couples, shared rides to VA medical centers and other facilities, made arrangements for community programs to function and sought out those areas where service could be furnished. We, of the VA&R Committee, take our hats off to you. You made it happen.

48 Department Chairman sent in reports which were coordinated from the Unit reports they received. It would be wonderful if we could let you read all of them, however since we cannot, here are some interesting items from our organization: Maine Units donated hundreds of lap robes this year. Some are so small it takes four sewed together to make one big enough for a bed. One volunteer accumulated 900 hours in putting those lap robes together for the veterans. The Sharing and Caring Holiday Meal Program provides a meal for the veteran's loved ones on a holiday if they are at the hospital to visit. Utah—There was participation at the VAMC of nine Junior Groups making cookies, tray favors, lap robes and ditty bags for wheel chairs. Minnesota Auxiliary Units, Legion Posts and SAL provided the monies for the gifts at VA facilities at Christmas. A total of 1,866 veterans received a total of 4,001 gifts. 3,013 gifts were given to relatives and 988 veterans took a gift for themselves as they had no one to give a gift to. South Dakota Home Service had 804 volunteers donate 9,123 hours to sewing, cooking, shopping and making Christmas and other holiday treats, costing the volunteers $10,050. 646 pairs of gloves and 1,383 hygiene kits were donated to the homeless or taken to shelters for the homeless. Texas—Though Auxiliary volunteers, there were 56,571 veterans in the VAMC entertained with 1,340 social events in the hosptials for every holiday including July 4th, Labor Day, Veterans Day, Christmas, New Year's Eve, Salute to Hospitalized Veterans Week, Valetine's Day, Easter, Halloween and Memorial Day. Virginia—This Department has experienced an extremely cold winter, creating hardship for some of their veterans. One Unit in the western part of the state provided fuel, groceries and transportation to some of their needy veterans. This same Unit also reported providing one veteran with a car and another with the down payment for a car. Vermont—This Department made time to think about other states when they honored their veterans at the gift shops—they sent donations from their own gift shop to the flood victims in Iowa.

Of great interest is the fact that although there was a decrease in the number of volunteers in Home Service, as well as the expenditures for Home Service, the number of service hours increased dramatically to 70,501.

An important fact we must all remember is that in VA&R, we work for the veteran 365 days per year.

The American Legion Auxiliary Units responded well to the plea of our National President Helen Holcomb to include volunteers in all the activities. This segment of our program can be increased with just a little more effort.

One lesson we learned during the past year was: continue to inform our members of the need for volunteers. Let the members know about the types of volunteering available for everyone. Friends and acquaintances may wish to be non-affiliated volunteers. Never forget the juniors and other high school and college students who

can serve as volunteers also. Provide orientation courses when needed, but make them interesting, informative, motivational and not too long. Recognize and reward your volunteers, but above all, be willing to let new people in, to "learn the ropes" in order to take over when the need arises.

Read the Dispatch and the National News in order to keep informed on legislative issues concerning our hospitalized and ailing veterans. Attend the Leadership Workshops in the Fall, share your successes and failures with those attending and have a positive attitude about our veterans and our service to them. With everyone working together as a team, we did make a difference.

FIELD SERVICE

MRS. GRACE TALBOT, Louisiana, *Director*

"Cheer baskets," "Joy Shops," "Fun Days," and "Sing-a-longs" were some of the 15,332 activities carried out by 30,249 volunteers serving 1,106,785 hours to accommodate 249,499 veterans with expenditures of $939,645.

The Valentine Program was a huge success in all Field Service facilities. The veterans in South Carolina were so impressed that they kept them on their doors all year. Miss America assisted the volunteers at a soup kitchen for the homeless. Needless to say, this brought much publicity for the American Legion Auxiliary.

Work at national and state veterans cemeteries continues to grow. Volunteers in Ohio, Indiana, Mississippi and Minneapolis served as guides, served refreshments, maintained the graves and raised and lowered flags for holidays.

Volunteers in 43 Departments worked at "stand-downs," a three day weekend of helping homeless veterans. California, with five such programs, provided eye glasses for all in need. Other Departments furnished food, clothing, toilet articles and blankets.

"Nifty Fifties" parties were held by the Idaho volunteers with dress of that period, cheeseburgers, cherry cokes, and ice cream sundaes from an old fashioned soda fountain.

Filling the food pantry for the homeless, Juniors adopting grandparents at the nursing homes, and the Sing-a-long group touring the State of Massachusetts kept the volunteers involved.

In Hawaii, the volunteers provide home cooked meals and visits to the shut-ins with gifts of fruit, clothing, and toilet articles. They also do home and car repairs, household chores, run errands, write letters, and pay bills.

The "Far From Home" project was started in Indiana to rehabilitate 10–12 homeless veterans at a time to return them to society as useful citizens. Two more homes are to open in the near future. Auxiliary volunteers furnish care packages to each veteran as he enters the program.

In Texas the veterans reminiscence, as tapes, old slides, and home movies are shared with each other. They enjoy stories of their past experiences. The volunteers supply crafts, needed supplies, hospital equipment and have recreation and refreshments.

The Wranglers and Gamblers (volunteers) of Maine have round-ups (programs) with cook-outs and "bean and doggies" suppers. The Trail Master (activity director) holds hoe-downs, singing, and line dancing while the General Store (Gift Shop) opens for Christmas shopping with saddle bags full and many happy smiles.

New York maintains a clothing bank where volunteers collect, wash, and mend clothing for the State Veterans' Home. They have purchased three wheelchairs and a dining room table for the Field Service facility. The residents are taken to ballgames, plays, concerts, boat rides and the Ice Capades.

The women veterans are not forgotten in Oregon. The volunteers hold an annual luncheon, adopt-a-vet, assist with gas for job hunting and provide necessity items. During National Volunteer Week, all community volunteers are recognized as well as the Legion family.

Fun Days are held in the Fall and Spring for the veterans of Florida with booths, fortune-telling, visits and bingo. The Legion volunteers furnished materials and built ramps for the disabled veterans at several facilities. Each day the Sunshine ladies call all veterans who live alone.

In Virginia, the volunteers are recognized at the annual VA&R Field Service Volunteers breakfast at the Department Convention in appreciation for their untiring work.

Volunteers—Busy! Veterans—Lucky! In all Departments, the veterans in nursing and state veterans' homes, hospice, homeless shelters and their own homes were fed, clothed, and loved. The greatest gift from the Field Service volunteers were

their time and interest to show they cared and remembered what veteran stood for all these years.

HOSPITAL VOLUNTEERS

MRS. BEVERLY HUSTON, Texas, *Director*

This year 39,761 volunteers, both regularly scheduled and occasional gave 1,198,933 hours at the 181 medical centers, nursing homes and day care centers. Veterans received comfort items of shampoo, razors, shaving cream, toothbrushes, toothpaste, and deodorant. Women veterans also received cologne, perfume, soap and bath powder. Patients were given writing paper, stamps, envelopes, and bus tokens.

Volunteers helped in escort service, filing, information desks, the library, Chapel decorating, and writing letters and being available wherever needed.

One hospital received 17 TVs for the wards. Another now has closed circuit TV for Chapel services to the wards. A 100-gallon aquarium is located in the Recreation Room at one hospital. Several Departments have a "Warm Hands—Warm Heart Program." They collect and give brown cotton gloves to the patients leaving the hospital. Units participated in many outings with the patients. They went to parades, on fishing trips, barbecues, ballgames, and concerts. In the hospital volunteers gave bingo parties, Valentine, birthday, ice cream and cookie parties. At Christmas the wards were decorated and an estimated 115,000 plus volunteers gave many hours to help the patients at the Gift Shops. Over $2,000,000 was donated for the 71,000 plus veterans shopping for their families. All veterans received bags of fruit or cookies, socks, combs, canteen books during their ward parties. In most hospitals, all birthdays were remembered with decorations and treats.

As always, recruitment of new volunteers is an important part of the VA&R programs. This year special emphasis was placed on the recruitment of volunteens. 322 regularly scheduled new volunteens gave 11,458 hours and 22,831 hours were given by new occasional volunteens. One California VAMC instituted a new volunteen program—a nursery staffed with volunteens. They take care of the children who are too young to visit the patients. In New Mexico, a program has been started that work with "at risk" youths having them volunteer at least 2 hours per week. Through this program they have encouraged young people to stay in school.

1,018 new regularly scheduled senior volunteers gave 5,750 hours, and 1,855 new occasional volunteers gave 15,802 hours to the hospitalized veterans.

Every Unit in one way or another, either with hours, donations of money or goods are involved in the VA&R program.

To all of you—thank you and to the hospital volunteers—God Bless You! You are special!

NATIONAL VAVS REPRESENTATIVE

MRS. MARJORIE SHANK, California, *Vice Chairman*

There's good news in the VAVS world! All goals announced in the "Plan of Work" have been met, or will be by the time you read this report to the membership.

Quarterly Minutes have been received by this representative from all except 7 of the 172 facilities where we have representation on their VAVS local committees. We are meeting the 50% attendance requirement at 158 of these facilities and none are in danger of our organization being dropped due to default on attendance. About 260 representatives and deputies will achieve 100% attendance awards, even though the weather in many parts of our country must have made this achievement most difficult.

Annual Joint Reviews were received from all but sixteen of the 172 facilities. Last year, more than 50 were missing. This representative has every hope that 100% will be achieved on reviews and quarterly minutes by the time you read this report in Minneapolis.

A certification audit between the Departments, the National office and the VAVS records has been completed, and virtually all discrepancies have been cleared. A big thank you to the cooperation given by Department Secretaries and Lisa Bibler of the National office. Our new certification form has been a great help, and we still ask that you discard all the old forms.

Volunteers once again were highlighted with Corey Reese, a 16-year-old who has volunteered since he was 9 at American Lake VAMC in Washington State, receiving the James H. Parke Scholarship in the amount of $10,000. This representative

again on behalf of the American Legion Auxiliary donated our $1,000 to this worthy scholarship. Please enter our volunteers in this contest and fulfill my dream that one of our own will soon win this award. Brochures about this scholarship were sent to each hospital representative along with their Annual Joint Review response from me.

This representative will serve as Chairman of the Executive Committee of the National Advisory Council's Annual Meeting in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. The new membership requirements for Donor Members and Service Members will go into effect at this the 48th Annual Meeting. Your attendance is encouraged if you are interested in the VAVS program..

The Department of Veterans Affairs latest recap (3/94) shows we volunteer at 184 VA facilities, and have 6,324 regularly scheduled volunteers who served over 337,000 hours in the previous six months. To the giving of canteen books and holding bingos, we have added appreciation picnics, fishing trips, beauty salon services, movie rentals, unholiday activities, pizza parties and cookies that seem to come from a bottomless pit! Thank you, all of you, for caring!

FOCUSING ON YOUTH

National President Helen Holcomb

No community in America is immune from problems with drugs, shootings, gangs, thefts and violence in the schools, on the streets and in the home. This is why I chose "Investing in Youth, Ensuring the Future" as my theme for the 1993–1994 administrative year.

With this theme in mind, the Auxiliary targeted the nation's youth for its 74th year of service. I challenged Auxiliary members to help their communities to create an alternative to the over-burdened system of justice which exists for young offenders. I introduced "Teen Court" as my special project, which offers a viable alternative to the formal judicial process. Since that introduction, seventeen Teen Courts were installed around the United States. In addition, sixty-one Teen Court's are currently in the early stages of development. Teen Court's low recidivism rate, linked with its unique approach in solving juvenile crime, has resulted in nation-wide attention. Media coverage even reached the British Broadcasting Corporation.

Americanism

The objectives of the Americanism program, to promote allegiance to the ideals and traditions of the U.S., and to educate citizens about the principles and practices essential to the American way of life, were realized "with flying colors" this year. The "Girl Scout Achievement Award" was introduced, awarding a $1,000 scholarship to an outstanding Girl Scout. Americanism was promoted in the school systems by distributing more than 100,000 flags. Other community programs included dedications of veterans memorials, get-out-and-vote campaigns, Americanism workshops and parade participation.

Children and Youth

The American Legion Auxiliary, working with The American Legion, actively voiced concern for the care, welfare and education of our nation's children and youth through a number of programs. Specific initiatives addressed include immunization, missing children, teenage suicide prevention, child safety education and drug abuse prevention. In all, more than $4 million and 950,000 hours were donated through the Children and Youth program.

Community Service

Integrating "Investing in Youth, Ensuring the Future" into Community Service programs was not a difficult task. Community Service volunteers continued doing what they do best—assisting needy areas. The wide range of programs addressed include the following: aid to homeless shelters, earthquake and fire relief assistance, toys for children, adult literacy, Habitat for Humanity and Hurricane Andrew reconstruction. As always, Auxiliary members responded generously, donating more than $2 million and 2 million service hours through community service aid.

Education

The Education program focused on youth by awarding more than two-thousand scholarships totaling $746,000. In addition, ten "National President's Scholarships," five "Spirit of Youth" scholarships, and a $1,000 Savings Bond for the "VolunTeen

of the Year" were awarded. "Better Schools Shape Better Tomorrows" was used as the American Education Week theme. Several thousand Units participated by visiting schools and providing special recognition to school administrators. Units also took advantage of educational pamphlets such as "Need A Lift?," and distributed materials to schools and libraries around the country.

Girls State/Girls Nation

As always, the rich heritage of Girls State left a positive taste of government in the mouths of 25,000 young women. From all across the country, the girls came together to learn the operations of government. Culminating the year was the gathering of 96 Girls Nation Senators on the campus of Marymount University. Strong media coverage added to the exhilarating experience. From debates on Federal Legislation, to a private meeting with The President of the United States . . . each moment of Girls Nation fulfilled the Auxiliary's purpose of ensuring the future.

Poppy

Educate, promote and publicize were the three facets of the 1993–94 Poppy program. Contributions received from poppy distribution are the sole income for veterans assistance efforts. Total income reached $1.6 million. Poppy orders from Departments totaled over 8 million, an increase of 216,230 over last year.

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation

Old and new volunteers consistently and untiringly continued the goals of the VA&R program. Who benefited? The veterans did. Volunteers shared rides to VA medical centers and other facilities, made arrangements for community programs to function and sought out those areas where service could be furnished.

Reports from Department Chairmen listed some interesting programs from various areas of the nation. In Maine, Units donated hundreds of lap robes. The Sharing and Caring Holiday Meal Program provides a meal for friends and family members visiting veterans at the hospital.

In Utah, nine Junior groups made cookies, tray favors, lap robes and ditty bags for wheelchairs.

In Minnesota, Units, Legion Posts and SAL groups provided Christmas gifts at the VA facilities. A total of 1,866 veterans received 4,001 gifts; 3,013 gifts were given to relatives and 988 veterans were given a gift for themselves.

In South Dakota, 804 Home Service volunteers donated 9,123 hours sewing, cooking, shopping and making Christmas and other holiday treats, at a cost of $10,050. The homeless were given 646 pairs of gloves and 1,383 hygiene kits.

In Texas, volunteers entertained 56,571 veterans with 1,340 social events in VA medical centers for every holiday including July 4th, Labor Day, Veterans Day, Christmas, New Years Eve, Salute to Hospitalized Veterans Week, Valentines Day, Easter, Halloween and Memorial Day.

Vermont thought of other states when they honored their veterans at the gift shops and sent donations from their own gift shop to the flood victims in Iowa.

Although there was a decrease in the number of volunteers and expenditures in Home Service, the number of service hours, 70,501, increased dramatically. In VA&R, Auxiliary volunteers worked for the veteran 365 days a year.

During the past year, the Auxiliary informed its members of the need for volunteers and of the types of volunteer work needed. Friends and acquaintances became non-affiliated volunteers. Juniors, along with other high school and college students, also served as volunteers. Orientation courses were offered and volunteers were rewarded.

The *Dispatch* and the *National News* informed our members on legislative issues concerning our hospitalized and ailing veterans. Members attended the Leadership Workshops in the fall, and shared their successes and failures with those attending.

VA&R—Hospital Volunteers

This year, 39,761 volunteers, both regularly scheduled and occasional, served 1,198,933 hours at 181 VA medical centers, nursing homes, and day care centers. Veterans received shampoo, razors, shaving cream, toothbrushes, toothpaste, and deodorant. Women veterans also received cologne, perfumes, soap and bath powder. Patients were given writing paper, stamps, envelopes, and bus tokens.

One hospital received 17 televisions for the wards, and another has closed-circuit TV for chapel services. A 100-gallon aquarium was donated to the recreation room at one hospital. Several Departments have "Warm Hands, Warm Heart" programs.

They collect and give brown cotton gloves to the patients leaving the hospital. Units participated in parades, fishing trips, barbecues, ball games, and concerts. In the hospital, volunteers hosted bingo parties, Valentine, Birthday, and ice cream and cookie parties. At Christmas, wards were decorated and an estimated 115,000 volunteers worked over 2,000,000 hours to help 71,000 veterans shop for their families at the Gift Shops. Veterans received bags of fruit or cookies, socks, combs, and canteen books during ward parties. In most hospitals, birthdays are remembered with decorations and treats.

Recruitment of new hospital volunteers is an important part of the VA&R program. This year, recruitment of VolunTeens was emphasized. A total of 32 regularly scheduled VolunTeens gave 11,458 hours and 22,831 hours were given by occasional VolunTeens. One California VA instituted a new VolunTeen Program, a nursery staffed with VolunTeens. They care for children who are too young to visit the patients. In New Mexico, a program began for "at risk" youths, allowing them to volunteer at least two hours per week. Through this program, young people are encouraged to stay in school.

1,016 regularly scheduled Senior volunteers worked 5,750 hours, and 1,855 occasional volunteers worked 16,802 hours for hospitalized veterans. All Units are involved in the VA&R program.

VA&R—Field Service

Cheer baskets, "joy" shops, fun days, and sing-a-longs were some of the 15,332 activities carried out by 30,249 Field Service volunteers serving 1,106,785 hours to assist 249,499 veterans at a cost of $939,645.

The Valentine program was a huge success in all VA medical centers. The veterans in South Carolina was so impressed that they kept their valentines on their doors all year. Miss America assisted the volunteers at a soup kitchen operated by the American Legion Auxiliary for the homeless. Needless to say, this brought much positive publicly for the kitchen and for our organization.

Work at national and state veterans cemeteries continues to grow. Volunteers in Ohio, Indiana, Mississippi and Minnesota acted as guides, served refreshments, maintained graves and raised and lowered flags on holidays.

Volunteers in 43 Departments worked at "stand downs," a three-day weekend gathering to help homeless veterans, where volunteers furnished food, clothing, toiletries and blankets. In California, where there are five such programs, eye glasses and other needed items were provided.

Massachusetts volunteers filled food pantries at homeless shelters. Junior volunteers toured nursing homes as a sing-a-long group, and others "adopted" patients at nursing homes.

In Hawaii, volunteers provided home cooked meals and visited shut-ins, bringing them fruit baskets, clothing and toiletries. They also did home and car repairs and other household chores, ran errands, wrote letters, and paid bills.

The Far From Home project got underway in Indiana. A group home was established to house 10–12 veterans and help them become useful citizens. Auxiliary members furnished care packages to each veterans who joined the program.

New York maintained a clothing bank where volunteers collected, washed and mended clothing for the state veterans home. They purchased three wheelchairs and a dining room table for the VA medical center. The residents were taken to ball games, plays, concerts, boat rides and the Ice Capades.

Women veterans are not forgotten by Auxiliary volunteers. They host an annual luncheon, adopt-a-vet, assist with job hunting and help in other significant ways.

During National Volunteer Week, all community volunteers and volunteers within the Legion "family" were recognized for their dedicated service.

"Fun Days" were conducted the fall and spring for Florida veterans where volunteers manned fortune-telling booths, conducted bingo games and made individual visits. Legion volunteers furnished materials and built wheelchair ramps at several facilities. Each day, the "Sunshine ladies" telephoned veterans who live alone.

In all Departments, veterans in nursing homes, state veterans facilities, hospices, homeless shelters and their own homes were fed, clothed and loved. The greatest gift Field Service volunteers gave was their time and interest and the knowledge that Auxiliary volunteers did not forget the veterans and their sacrifice.

National VAVS Representative

There's good news in the VAVS world! All goals announced in the Plan of Work were met, or will be by the time of the National Convention.

Quarterly minutes were received from all but seven of the 172 facilities where we have representation on their VAVS local committees. We are meeting the 50% at-

tendance requirement at 158 of these facilities and our organization will not be dropped from any due to default on attendance. Despite severe weather conditions in many parts of the country, about 260 representatives and deputies will achieve 100% attendance awards.

Annual Joint Reviews were received from all but 16 of the 172 facilities. Last year, more than 50 were missing. It is expected that 100% will be achieved on reviews and quarterly minutes by the time of National convention in Minneapolis.

A certification audit of records of the Departments, the National office and the VAVS was completed; and virtually all discrepancies were cleared. A big thank you for cooperation given by Department Secretaries and Lisa Bibler of the National office! Our new certification form was a great help and we again remind you to discard all the old forms.

VolunTeens once again were spotlighted. Corey Reese, 16, has volunteered since he was nine years old at American Lake VA Medical Center in Washington State. He was awarded the $10,000 James H. Parke Scholarship. On behalf of the American Legion Auxiliary, $1,000 was donated to this scholarship fund. I urge all members to enter our VolunTeens in this contest and fulfill my dream that one of our own will next year win this award. Brochures about this scholarship were sent to each hospital representative along with their Annual Joint Review response.

I will serve as Chairman of the Executive Committee of the National Advisory Council's Annual Meeting in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., at Pier 66, October 19–23, 1994. The new membership requirements for donor members and service members will go into effect at the 48th Annual Meeting. Your attendance is encouraged if you are interested in the VAVS program.

The Department of Veterans Affairs' latest recap as of March, 1994, shows that we volunteered at 184 VA facilities, had 6,324 regularly scheduled volunteers who served more than 337,000 hours in the six months preceding the report. In addition to providing canteen books and holding bingo games, we added appreciation picnics, fishing trips, beauty salon services, movie rentals, pizza parties and dozens of cookies. Thank you, volunteers, for this outpouring of caring for our veterans.

Independent Auditor's Report

GEO. S. OLIVE & CO. LLC
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Mr. Bruce Thiesen, National Commander
The American Legion National Headquarters
Indianapolis, Indiana

We have audited the accompanying balance sheet of The American Legion National Headquarters as of December 31, 1993 and 1992, and the related statements of revenue, expenses and changes in fund balances and cash flows for the year ended December 31, 1993. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Legion's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audits in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of The American Legion National Headquarters as of December 31, 1993 and 1992, and the results of its operations, changes in its fund balances and cash flows for the year ended December 31, 1993, in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

Our audits were made for the purpose of forming an opinion on the basic financial statements taken as a whole. The reconciliation of audited financial statements to internal financial statements is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audits of the basic financial statements and, in our opinion, is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

Geo. S. Olive & Co. LLC

Indianapolis, Indiana
March 25, 1994

700 CAPITAL CENTER SOUTH, 201 NORTH ILLINOIS STREET, INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-1924 (317) 636-4200 FAX: (317) 636-4200
OFFICES LOCATED IN INDIANA AND ILLINOIS MEMBER OF MORRIS ROWLAND INTERNATIONAL

THE AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

[redacted]

	DECEMBER 31	
Current Fund	1993	1992
Cash	$ 388,524	$ ------
Restricted cash	29,982	377,031
Agent Orange program	40,806	131,355
Accounts receivable:		
Emblem Division	123,676	83,197
Publications Division	1,799,439	1,256,125
Other	1,778,730	1,296,258
Accrued interest on investments	136,486	197,855
Inventories:		
Emblem Division	1,293,121	1,194,437
Publications Division	272,366	167,642
Prepaid expenses and supplies	448,211	360,305
Prepaid pension expense	5,501,160	4,677,761
Deferred membership expense	198,012	210,164
Deferred direct membership solicitation expense	3,048,886	2,625,679
Postal deposits	55,000	55,000
	16,922,960	12,774,807
Investments:		
Segregated for Designated Funds	11,670,000	11,028,056
Segregated for Washington, D. C. building	857,885	412,080
Other	14,016,829	15,148,757
Investment in subsidiary	51,000	456
	27,115,714	26,589,349
Property and equipment:		
Land—Indianapolis parking lot	236,359	236,359
Washington, D. C. real estate:		
Land	80,000	80,000
Building	4,116,940	4,116,940
Furniture, fixtures, and equipment in:		
National Headquarters building, Indianapolis, Indiana	7,816,866	7,824,750
Washington, D. C. building	1,352,925	1,233,958
	13,603,770	13,491,907
Accumulated depreciation and amortization	(5,185,759)	(4,291,723)
	8,417,911	9,200,184
	52,456,585	48,564,340
Nonexpendable Funds:		
Overseas Graves Decoration Fund:		
Cash	41,976	57,261
Accrued interest on investments	14,388	18,927
Investments	888,516	820,430
	944,880	896,638
Paid-Up-For-Life Membership Fund:		
Cash	5,000	5,000
Accrued interest on investments	129,099	120,453
Investments	17,681,773	16,422,749
	17,815,883	16,548,202
	$70,717,378	$65,381,980

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	DECEMBER 31	
Current Fund	1993	1992
Liabilities		
Accounts payable	$ 2,815,693	$ 2,709,298
Cash overdraft	------	129,289
Agent orange program	40,806	131,355
Restricted grant	------	348,942
Deposits on Emblem merchandise sales	136,284	197,366
Deferred advertising income	113,315	48,346
Deferred dues income	14,088,287	13,396,291
Deferred income—direct membership solicitation	977,849	569,813
Accrued vacation benefits	540,896	539,058
Provision for health insurance liability	44,896	45,000
Other liabilities	861,824	726,829
Due to The Restricted Fund	1,975,899	1,975,000
Due to other restricted funds	135,896	-------
Total liabilities	23,886,870	20,810,287
Fund balances		
Restricted funds		
Oratorical Contest Fund	234,896	250,925
Other restricted funds	5,997,396	1,952,975
Designated funds		
The Restricted Fund	9,482,725	8,804,915
The Reserve Fund	2,218,875	2,224,148
	17,932,764	13,232,963
Appropriated funds	1,897,199	1,586,864
Unappropriated	11,533,379	13,247,234
Total fund balances	30,700,314	28,046,953
	52,588,884	48,857,080
Nonexpendable Funds		
Overseas Graves Decoration Fund		
Fund balance	944,880	896,638
Paid-Up-For-Life Membership Fund		
Fund balance	17,815,883	16,548,202
	$70,717,378	$65,381,980

See notes to financial statements.

THE AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

STATEMENT OF REVENUE, EXPENSES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES: Current Fund, Year Ended December 31, 1993

EXHIBIT B, SHEET 1

	Unappropriated	Appropriated Funds	Designated and Restricted Funds	1993 Total Current Fund	1992 Total Current Fund
REVENUE					
National dues	$16,644,736			$16,644,736	$16,503,949
Sales of Emblem items	6,243,759			6,243,759	6,284,055
Advertising revenue	7,431,341			7,431,341	7,173,446
Investment income	907,358		$ 938,601	1,845,957	1,978,399
Direct membership solicitation	1,617,808			1,617,808	2,230,969
Revenue enhancement	709,758			709,758	1,482,506
American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation income	544,071			544,071	547,487
Amounts withdrawn from The American Legion Life Insurance Plan	974,055		138,000	1,112,055	1,184,454
Other restricted income	236,360	$ 524	741,198	978,112	848,634
Other income	6,466,926		1,587,365	8,054,290	6,230,335
	41,776,170	524	3,405,164	45,181,857	44,483,924
EXPENSES					
Salaries	8,307,102			8,307,102	7,798,082
Employee benefits	939,106			939,106	555,638
Cost of sales	4,890,437			4,890,437	4,848,631
Direct publication expenses	12,326,028			12,326,028	11,971,933
Executive and staff travel	877,145			877,145	784,221
Commission and committee	1,114,565			1,114,565	1,107,831
Operational	5,849,385			5,849,385	6,295,273
Office and postage expenses	3,984,910			3,984,910	4,042,439
Occupancy	2,248,687			2,248,687	1,973,426
Special projects and programs	3,095,293		3,421,347	6,516,640	4,347,717
	43,410,856	0	3,421,347	46,832,005	43,723,391
Excess (Deficiency) of Operating Revenue Over Expenses	(1,634,459)	524	(16,183)	(1,650,118)	709,933
Equity in Income (Loss) of Wholly Owned Subsidiary	20,595			20,595	(107,515)
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenue Over Expenses	(1,613,864)	524	(16,183)	(1,629,523)	602,418
Fund Balances, Beginning of Year	13,247,234	1,566,664	13,232,955	28,046,853	27,444,435
Transfer of funds from The American Legion Life Insurance Plan			4,285,984	4,285,984	
Fund Balances, End of Year	$11,633,370	$1,567,188	$17,502,756	$30,703,314	$28,046,853

See notes to financial statements.

THE AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

Year Ended December 31	1993 Designated Funds: The Restricted Fund	1993 Designated Funds: The Reserve Fund	1993 Restricted Funds: Oratorical Contest Fund	1993 Restricted Funds: Other Restricted Funds	Total Designated & Restricted Funds
		(continued)			
REVENUE					
Investment income	$ 647,810			$ 290,791	$ 938,601
Amounts withdrawn from The American Legion Life Insurance Plan			$138,000		138,000
Restricted contributions				741,198	741,198
Other income				1,587,365	1,587,365
	647,810	0	138,000	2,619,354	3,405,164
EXPENSE					
Sundry expense		$ 6,065			6,065
Special projects and programs			154,359	3,260,923	3,415,282
	0	6,065	154,359	3,260,923	3,421,347
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenue Over Expenses	647,810	(6,065)	(16,359)	(641,569)	(16,183)
Fund Balances, Beginning of Year	8,804,915	2,224,140	250,925	1,952,975	13,232,955
Transfer of funds from The American Legion Life Insurance Plan				4,285,984	4,285,984
Fund Balances, End of Year	$9,452,725	$2,218,075	$234,566	$5,597,390	$17,502,756

See notes to financial statements.

THE AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

[redacted]

	Current Fund	Overseas Graves Decoration Trust	Paid-Up-For-Life Membership Fees	1993 Total	1992 Total
OPERATING ACTIVITIES					
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	$(1,529,523)	$ 53,051	$1,467,601	$(108,871)	$3,333,784
Depreciation charged to operations not requiring cash	1,299,163			1,299,163	1,237,705
Equity in (income) loss of subsidiary	(20,594)			(20,594)	107,515
Loss from sale of fixed assets	24,835			24,835	21,877
Certain working capital transactions					
Restricted cash	350,949			350,949	386,950
Accounts receivable	(1,053,157)			(1,053,157)	(113,712)
Accrued interest on investments	50,250	4,529	(8,577)	54,202	228,851
Inventories	(203,347)			(203,347)	104,912
Prepaid expenses and supplies	(1,032,303)			(1,032,303)	(1,370,524)
Deferred expenses	(650,834)			(650,834)	825,157
Postal deposits					(5,000)
Accounts payable	108,395			108,395	458,772
Restricted grant	(348,942)			(348,942)	(140,029)
Deposits on emblem merchandise sales	(62,162)			(62,162)	31,873
Deferred advertising	64,999			64,999	49,346
Funds in transit to American Legion Life Insurance Plan	(2,523)			(2,523)	(247,427)
Deferred income	978,043			978,043	(278,999)
Accrued vacation	950			950	(13,625)
Other liabilities	70,392			70,392	143,825
Total provided by operations	(2,049,239)	57,580	1,459,024	(532,635)	4,758,261
INVESTING ACTIVITIES					
Additions to property and equipment	(254,159)			(254,159)	(647,061)
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets	1,329			1,329	1,457
Transfer of funds from the American Legion Life Insurance Plan	4,285,984			4,285,984	
Net increase in investments	(555,122)	(72,886)	(1,459,024)	(2,087,032)	(2,458,207)
	3,478,032	(72,886)	(1,459,024)	1,946,122	(3,104,811)
FINANCING ACTIVITIES					
Principal payments under capital lease obligation					(2,589)
Proceeds (payments) under restricted fund note	(900,000)			(900,000)	(1,775,000)
Cash overdrafts	(129,209)			(129,209)	129,209
	(1,029,209)	0	0	(1,029,209)	(1,648,380)
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH	399,584	(15,306)	0	384,278	5,070
CASH, BEGINNING OF YEAR		57,281	5,000	62,281	57,211
CASH, END OF YEAR	$ 399,584	$ 41,975	$ 5,000	$ 446,559	$ 62,281

See notes to financial statements.

SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

General

The American Legion National Headquarters (the Legion) is a national veterans organization which was declared to be a corporate body by an Act of the United States Congress on September 16, 1919.

According to the Original Act and Subsequent Amendments, the purpose of the Organization is: "To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to promote peace and goodwill among the peoples of the United States and all the nations of the earth; to preserve the memories and incidents of the two World Wars and the other great hostilities fought to uphold democracy; to cement the ties and comradeship born of service; and to consecrate the efforts of its members to mutual helpfulness and service to their country."

Basis of Presentation

The Legion generally reports for financial statement purposes on the accrual method of accounting, recognizing income when earned and expenses when incurred.

The Legion maintains its accounts on a fund accounting basis wherein the accountability for certain segments of its operations are presented in specific designated and restricted fund balances. Further, the Legion has designated certain amounts for future projects or purposes, which amounts are presented as appropriated funds in the accompanying financial statements.

The revenue and expenses of nonexpendable funds are not included in the Statement of Revenue, Expenses and Changes in Fund Balances—Current Fund. Instead, they are recorded directly to the nonexpendable funds involved as set forth in the footnotes to the financial statements.

The amounts shown for 1992 in the accompanying Statement of Revenue, Expenses and Changes in Fund Balances—Current Fund and Statement of Cash Flows are included only to provide a basis for comparison with 1993 amounts.

Accounts Receivable

The direct charge-off method is used to account for losses in collection of accounts receivable. An allowance for uncollectible accounts receivable is considered unnecessary by the Legion because all significant accounts expected to be uncollectible have been written off.

Inventories

Inventories, which consist of Emblem items held for sale and magazine paper and publication rights, are valued at the lower of cost or market. Supplies which are not intended for sale are expensed when purchased.

Investments

Investments are recorded at cost. Premiums or discounts on investments are generally recognized at the time of disposal or maturity.

Investment in Subsidiary

The Legion accounts for the investment in common stock of its wholly owned subsidiary, Haynes and Pittenger Direct, Inc. on the equity method.

Property and Equipment

Furniture, fixtures and equipment are carried at cost and are depreciated beginning in the month of acquisition on the straight-line method based on the estimated useful lives of the assets involved. Leasehold improvements and repairs are expensed when incurred.

Depreciation on the Washington, D. C. building is computed on the straight-line method using a thirty-year life.

Depreciation expense amounted to $1,299,163 in 1993 and $1,237,705 in 1992.

Income

Dues are recognized as income in the applicable membership period which is on a calendar-year basis.

In addition to other methods of obtaining new members, the Legion uses direct mail and other direct marketing approaches. The income generated from the direct membership solicitation is recognized in the applicable membership period (calendar year) and the expenses incurred to obtain these memberships are deferred and written off in the period in which the income is recognized.

The Legion is involved in various revenue enhancement programs. The revenue and expenses related to the programs are recognized in the periods to which they apply.

Income from The American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation and the American Legion Life Insurance Plan is recorded when received. These receipts are for projects and programs conducted in the year of receipt.

Pension Plan

The Legion has a defined-benefit pension plan covering substantially all of its employees, as well as those of certain affiliated and subordinated groups. The plan was established in 1944 by vote of the Legion's National Convention. Contributions to the plan are made by the Legion and other participating groups on the basis of annual actuarial valuations.

Federal Income Tax

The Legion is exempt from federal income tax (except on unrelated business income) under Section 501 of the Internal Revenue Code.

INVESTMENT IN SUBSIDIARY

On September 28, 1990 the Legion purchased all of the outstanding shares of Haynes and Pittenger Direct, Inc., a corporation engaged in the creation and management of direct response advertising and marketing strategies. The Legion has chosen to account for this investment on the equity method since consolidation would not necessarily result in meaningful information and since the reporting differences are immaterial. Details of the Legion's investment in subsidiary are as follows:

	1993	1992
Investment in subsidiary		
Original investment	$101,000	$101,000
Loss (9/28/90-12/31/90)	(8,271)	(8,271)
Income (1/1/91-12/31/91)	15,242	15,242
Loss (1/1/92-12/31/92)	(107,515)	(107,515)
Income (1/1/93-12/31/93)	[illegible]	[illegible]
	$ [illegible]	$ 458

Key significant balance sheet and income statement information of Haynes and Pittenger Direct, Inc. is as follows:

Year Ended December 31	1993	1992
Balance sheet information		
Accounts receivable—The American Legion	$282,991	$276,323
Furniture and fixtures—net	188,510	208,681
Other assets	248,331	229,407
Total assets	$[illegible]	$712,411
Notes payable—The American Legion	$367,254	$382,932
Other liabilities	566,990	622,395
Stockholder's (deficit)	(232,321)	(292,916)
Total liabilities and stockholder's deficit	$[illegible]	$712,411
Income statement information		
Sales (including sales to The American Legion of $4,147,764 and $3,499,955)	$4,741,128	$3,925,150
Income from operations	$ [illegible]	$ 11,506
Net income (loss)	$ [illegible]	$ (107,515)

Accounts receivable—other on the Legion's balance sheet includes $367,254 due on a note receivable, from Haynes and Pittenger Direct, Inc., bearing interest at 9%. Beginning August, 1991, Haynes and Pittenger Direct, Inc. began to repay the note, with an original balance of $400,000, in 120 equal monthly installments of $5,000.

The Legion has a sublease agreement with Haynes and Pittenger Direct, Inc. for office space. The lease is a ten-year operating lease which expires in November, 2000.

The following is a schedule of future minimum rental payments required under this lease.

Years Ending December 31	
1994	$130,000
1995	130,000
1996	130,000
1997	130,000
1998	130,000
Thereafter	260,000

The Legion is an unconditional guarantor of a $500,000 promissory note that Haynes and Pittenger Direct, Inc. carries with a bank.

[redacted]

INVESTMENTS (CURRENT FUND)

The cost and market value of Current Fund investments are as follows:

December 31	1993 Cost	1993 Market Value	1992 Cost	1992 Market Value
Segregated for Designated Fund				
U. S. Government obligations	$ 9,707,993	$10,230,306	$ 8,538,426	$ 8,868,672
Accrued interest—restricted	127,000	127,000	109,543	109,543
Money market accounts	788,000	788,000	405,176	405,176
Uninvested cash	297	297	909	909
Due from General Fund	1,975,000	1,075,000	1,975,000	1,975,000
	11,076,000	12,282,863	11,029,056	11,376,300
Segregated for Wash., D.C. building				
U. S. Government obligations	557,000	568,002	412,000	428,347
Other				
U. S. Government obligations	7,057,793	7,502,143	8,378,725	8,298,084
Repurchase agreements	1,500,000	1,531,950	1,400,000	1,400,000
Money market accounts	5,623,536	5,623,536	4,356,032	4,356,032
Corporate notes			1,014,000	1,002,500
Due from General Fund	135,000	135,000		
	14,916,529	14,793,619	15,148,757	15,056,616
Investment in subsidiary	21,950	21,950	456	456
Total investments	$27,186,995	$27,504,534	$26,590,269	$26,864,719

OPERATING LEASES

The Legion rents computer equipment, copiers, and cash registers under operating leases. Total rental expense on these operating leases was $469,201 in 1993 and $261,957 in 1992.

In addition, the Legion has a lease with the State of Indiana for rental of the National Headquarters building in Indianapolis through November, 1997. According to the terms of the lease, in lieu of rental payments the Legion is required to maintain the interior of the building, as well as provide adequate insurance on the building. The cost of maintenance approximated $348,000 in 1993 and $333,000 in 1992. Insurance coverage is included in the Legion's general insurance policy.

RESTRICTED AND DESIGNATED FUNDS

Receipts which are restricted by the donor are credited to the appropriate restricted fund, against which all expenditures for the related project or program are charged. Periodically, the Legion may add to restricted funds through allocations from unappropriated funds for specific future purposes and projects.

The Restricted Fund, a designated fund, is restricted as to use by action of the National Finance Commission and National Executive Committee. Earnings of the Fund, as well as principal, can be expended only on the recommendation of the National Finance Committee and a two-thirds affirmative vote of the National Executive Committee at two successive meetings. It is the policy of The American Legion to transfer 10% of the prior year's defined net income to the Restricted Fund. There were no transfers in 1993 or 1992 to the Restricted Fund due to net losses.

During 1991, the Restricted Fund loaned $4,100,000 to the General Fund for the financing of the new membership computer system. The loan bears interest at 9.5% and is payable in monthly installments of principal and interest. Total interest paid to the Restricted Fund amounted to $148,437 and $310,136 in 1993 and 1992. Total principal payments made were $900,000 and $1,775,000 in 1993 and 1992. The following is a schedule of principal payments required under this loan.

Years Ending December 31	
1994	$ 925,000
1995	150,000
	$1,075,000

The Reserve Fund, a designated fund, also is restricted as to use by action of the National Finance Commission and National Executive Committee. Earnings of the Fund may be used for the general operations of the Legion, but the principal can be expended only:

(a) By action of the Legion at its national convention, or

(b) By two-thirds affirmative vote of the National Executive Committee in two successive meetings not less than sixty days apart.

APPROPRIATED FUNDS AND INTERFUND TRANSFERS

There were no interfund transfers during 1993 between unappropriated and appropriated funds. The balances of appropriated funds were as follows:

	December 31 1993	1992
Computer Reserve	$ 900,000	$ 500,000
Real Estate Reserve	841,977	841,977
Convention Reserve	100,000	100,000
Employee Insurance Premium Stabilization Reserve	100,000	100,000
Convention Stabilization Fund	25,211	24,687
Totals	$1,967,188	$1,566,664

NONEXPENDABLE FUNDS

The earnings of the Overseas Graves Decoration Fund are being used to honor, preserve and decorate the graves of those who served in the United States armed forces who are buried overseas. The Fund is to continue at the will of the National Convention of the Legion or the National Executive Committee. The Fund's trust agreement may be amended, changed or succeeded at the will of the National Executive Committee, provided that the purpose for which the Fund was created is retained.

In October, 1974, the National Executive Committee approved the establishment of a life membership plan available to any member of a participating department. In accordance with the plan, the assets of the Paid-Up-For-Life Membership Fund are segregated in a trust account from which funds equal to the annual dues of life members are withdrawn for current operations each year. The trust agreement provides that the Legion has the right to withdraw part or all of the assets of the trust account and to, modify or terminate the trust agreement at its discretion.

Changes in Nonexpendable Funds are as follows:

	Year Ended December 31, 1993 Overseas Graves Decoration Fund	Paid-Up-For-Life Membership Fund
Revenue		
Paid-Up-For-Life membership dues collected	$ 2,921,676	
Investment income	89,778	480,105
	89,778	3,401,781
Expenses		
Membership dues withdrawn		1,500,052
Decoration of graves	16,727	
Administrative expense		287,693
Trust fees		56,437
	16,727	1,934,182
Excess of revenue over expenses	53,051	1,467,601
Fund balances, January 1, 1993	895,636	16,548,202
Fund balances, December 31, 1993	$948,687	$18,015,803

The cost and market value of investments in the Nonexpendable Funds are as follows:

	1993		1992	
	December 31			
	Cost	Market Value	Cost	Market Value
Overseas Graves Decoration Fund				
U.S. Government obligations	$ 883,316	$ 926,646	$ 809,436	$ 841,258
Paid-Up-For-Life Membership Fund				
U. S. Government obligations	5,443,576	5,669,071	6,462,941	6,639,675
Money market accounts	2,000,000	2,000,000	1,299,407	1,299,407
Common and preferred stocks	6,992,864	4,335,000	6,999,117	8,307,786
Nongovernment obligations	2,445,000	2,830,000	1,999,294	1,982,565
	17,881,776	15,834,000	16,472,749	17,929,433
Total investments	$18,765,092	$16,761,072	$17,282,179	$18,770,691

AMERICAN LEGION ENDOWMENT FUND CORPORATION

The American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation (the Endowment Fund) was incorporated in 1925 as a not-for-profit corporation with perpetual existence to act as trustee for the American Legion Endowment Fund, which was created to provide permanent funding for rehabilitation of American veterans and assistance to orphans of veterans. In August, 1946, the Legion transferred securities having a market value of $2,001,000 to the Endowment Fund. The assets transferred have been held segregated by the Endowment Fund and the principal related to the 1946 transfer, which had a market value of $2,160,129 at December 31, 1993, may be withdrawn by the Legion, if needed, for rehabilitation of veterans or assistance to orphans of veterans.

Income earned on the investments of the Endowment Fund, net of administrative expenses, is payable to the Legion to support its programs for the above-mentioned purposes. Income from the Endowment Fund amounted to $544,071 in 1993 and $547,467 in 1992.

LIFE INSURANCE PLAN

In connection with The American Legion's Life Insurance Plan, the Legion had created a Trust to which the First National Bank of Kansas City, Missouri, as Trustee, held legal title. During October, 1992, the National Executive Committee approved a resolution to terminate the Life Insurance Trust. This dissolution occurred during April, 1993. On the date of dissolution, funds remaining in the Plan totalling $4,285,984 were transferred to a non-trust sub-account (The American Legion Life Insurance Plan) under control of the Legion for the use of youth programs. The American Legion Life Insurance Plan is included with the restricted funds in the accompanying financial statements. The trust funds, prior to the dissolution, were available for the following purposes:

(a) To increase the Trust fund.
(b) To reduce or pay in full the life insurance premiums thereafter due from participants.
(c) To provide additional life insurance benefits for the participants.
(d) To make refunds to the participants.
(e) To make distributions to the Legion in support of its activities and programs serving the interest of the Legion and its members, provided that such distributions are not disapproved in writing by a majority of the participants.

Subsequent to the dissolution of the Trust, the funds of The American Legion Life Insurance Plan are used primarily for youth programs. The Legion's National Executive Committee has approved partial funding of the oratorical contest, Boys' Nation, American Legion Baseball, and other programs of the Legion. At December 31, 1993, $1,116,268 in funds had been approved for use in designated programs during 1994.

PENSION PLAN

The funded status of the pension plan at the end of the year was:

December 31	1993	1992
Actuarial present value of plan benefits		
Vested	$(14,378,971)	$(14,595,909)
Nonvested	(491,826)	(528,663)
Accumulated benefit obligation	$(14,870,797)	$(15,124,572)
Projected benefit obligation	$(16,249,877)	$(16,560,792)
Plans assets at fair value, primarily listed stocks, bonds, and U. S. securities	29,836,817	28,049,512
Excess of plan assets over projected benefit obligation	13,586,940	11,488,720
Unrecognized net gain	(8,435,976)	(5,025,092)
Prior service cost not yet recognized in net periodic pension cost	669,229	767,931
Unrecognized net asset at end of year	(2,261,036)	(2,553,798)
Prepaid pension expense	$ 5,561,158	$ 4,677,761

Net pension income included the following components:

	1993	1992
Service cost—benefits earned during the year	$ 681,761	$ 543,712
Interest cost on projected benefit obligation	1,041,944	1,014,708
Actual return on assets	(2,986,636)	(1,779,685)
Net amortization and deferral	212,622	(556,667)
Net pension expense (credit)	$(982,321)	$(777,932)

The discount rate and rate of increase in future compensation levels used in determining the actuarial present value of the projected benefit obligation were 7 and 3%, respectively, for 1993 and 6.5 and 3%, respectively, for 1992. The assumed rate of return on plan assets was 6% for 1993 and 1992.

LITIGATION

The Legion is currently involved in and/or has been mentioned as a defendant or co-defendant in several legal actions. It is the opinion of the National Judge Advocate that these claims are without merit and any ultimate liability of the Legion with respect to these actions will not materially affect the financial position of the Legion.

THE AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

Year Ended December 31	1993 Total Current Fund
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenue Over Expenses—Internal Financial Statements	$(1,613,864)
Excess of revenue over expenses for certain designated and restricted funds not included in internal financials	(16,183)
Excess of revenue over expenses for certain appropriated funds not included in internal financials	524
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenue Over Expenses—Audited Financial Statements	$(1,629,523)

AMERICAN LEGION ENDOWMENT FUND CORPORATION

Foreseeing the necessity of a recurring income source for funding its war veterans rehabilitation and child welfare programs, The American Legion conducted a national campaign in 1925 which raised approximately $5 million for this purpose. The funds contributed were entrusted to the custody of the American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation.

The Corporation was incorporated under the laws of the State of Delaware in 1925 and a trust agreement between The American Legion and the Corporation was signed in accordance with which the funds are administered by the Corporation with the annual net investment income being paid to The American Legion for use in the two programs involved.

The operations and financial condition of the American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation for each of the last five years are summarized below (taken from the annual audit reports prepared by Geo. S. Olive & Co. LLC, Indianapolis, Indiana).

December 31	1993	1992	1991	1990	1989
Total assets	$7,887,425	$7,802,473	$7,714,042	$7,495,544	$7,513,872
Investments at cost	$7,665,491	$7,595,545	$7,590,564	$7,374,020	$7,400,529
Interest income	$568,759	$652,342	$710,453	$627,284	$673,095
Expenses	26,594	32,304	33,103	53,173	27,180
Excess income over expens	$542,165	$620,038	$677,350	$574,111	$645,915
Funds transferred to The American Legion	$544,071	$547,467	$595,268	$549,378	$605,956
Average yield on book value of investments	7.37%	7.76%	7.58%	8.43%	8.58%