

PREPRINTED 2023 MEMBERSHIP CARDS

For new members to have a pre-printed 2023 membership card and be listed on the Post Roster, their 2022 dues must be received at Department by April 1, 2022. Additionally, any current member not paid by April 1, 2022, will not have their continuous years pre-printed on their 2023 membership card. Wednesday, April 14 is a cut-off date for the final renewal notice and dues must be to Department by April 12.

2023 ANNUAL POST DATA REPORT

Post Adjutants received the 2023 Annual Post Data Report in March. Read the information carefully before completing the form. Please double check to ensure the mailing address is correct to which the membership returns are to be mailed – which includes the three-line address and correct ZIP code. Above all, make sure the dues amount is correct. Remember it is necessary to transmit \$35 per card when making a membership transmittal to Headquarters. The due date at Department Headquarters is April 15.

RECRUITER / GOLD & SILVER BRIGADE

Post Adjutants are asked to review their Adjutant’s Manual for the Recruiter, Gold & Silver Brigade, and other membership awards available to post members. Most forms must be received at Department Headquarters by May 10.

APRIL IS CHILDREN & YOUTH MONTH



“Children...Our Most Precious Natural Resource” is the national theme for Children

& Youth month. Use this theme in the promotion of all our Children & Youth programs.

DEPARTMENT CONVENTION PROGRAM

The Department is offering the opportunity for individuals and businesses to advertise in the 2022 Department Convention program. See the attached flyer for more information.

Enclosures:

- 1) Consolidated Post Report form (Adjutant Only)
- 2) Department Convention program ads
- 3) Resolutions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8



The American Legion Department of Nebraska
P.O. Box 5205
Lincoln, NE, 68505-0205
402-464-6338

NEWSLETTER

April 2022

Published monthly, except July

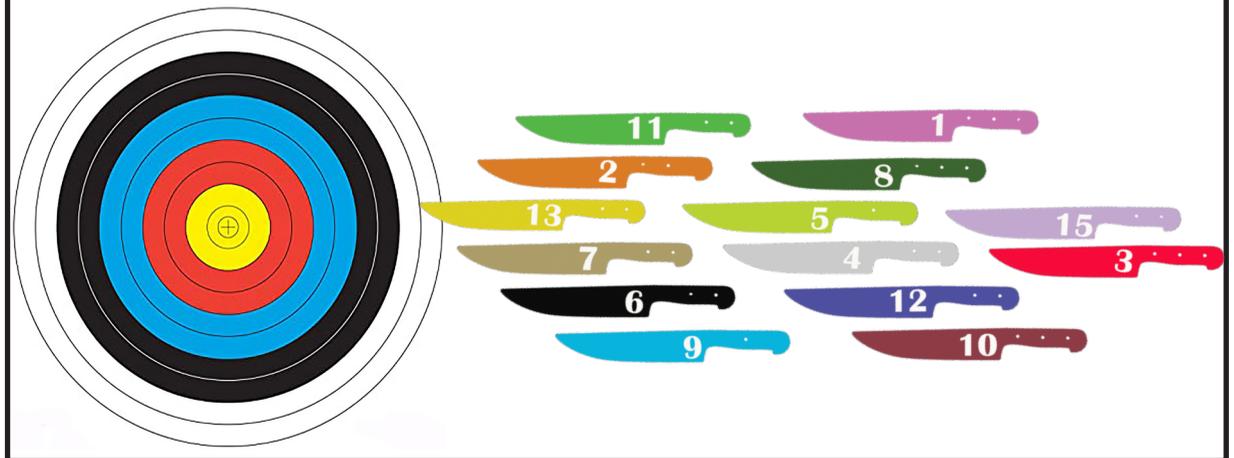
Department Commander
Dan Benes

Department Adjutant
David W. Salak

100% FOR TARGET

2022 MEMBERSHIP GOAL: 26,097 MARCH 10TH TOTAL: 22,497 – 86.21%

DISTRICT 13 - 89.05%	DISTRICT 7 - 88.35%	DISTRICT 2 - 87.84%	DISTRICT 6 - 87.71%
DISTRICT 11 - 86.16%	DISTRICT 9 - 86.11%	DISTRICT 5 - 86.03%	DISTRICT 4 - 85.75%
DISTRICT 8 - 85.23%	DISTRICT 12 - 85.20%	DISTRICT 1 - 85.11%	DISTRICT 10 - 85.05%
DISTRICT 15 - 84.38%	DISTRICT 3 - 80.34%		



**CONVENTION CREWS SAY
'THANKS' DISTRICT CONVENTIONS**

Department officers and committee members who traveled the annual district convention circuit extend their appreciation for the courtesies extended while attending the conventions. The remaining District Conventions are District 1 – Saturday, April 9 at 10:00 a.m. and District 4 – Saturday, April 2 at 10:00 a.m. in Morrill. Your District Commander has more information.

CONSOLIDATED POST REPORT

Enclosed (Adjutant only) is the Consolidated Post Report (CPR) form for the 2021-2022 American Legion year. Please complete this form and return it to Department Headquarters ABSOLUTELY NO LATER THAN JUNE 1, 2022. The CPR can now be found on our website and MyLegion.

**PROPOSED DEPARTMENT
CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS
CHANGES**

There have been several C&BL's resolutions passed at District Conventions for consideration thus far. We still have two conventions to go so others may be coming. Resolutions passed at District Conventions will be sent to all Post Commanders and Post Adjutants in the next newsletter so they can be read at Post meetings.

CORNHUSKER BOYS' STATE

More than 210 young men were accepted as participants in the 2022 session of Cornhusker Boys' State. Acceptance notices were sent to Post sponsors on March 25. If your Post/sponsor has not received confirmation, please contact HQ for verification. It is possible we did not receive the application. If you have any additional delegates or would like to sponsor one of our remaining six alternates, please contact Adjutant Dave Salak at HQ ASAP.



DEPARTMENT CONVENTION PLANS

It is time to begin planning for attendance at Department Convention in Columbus at the Columbus Ramada. DEC will meet on June 23 and the Convention will meet June 24 - 26. Business sessions of the American Legion, Auxiliary, SAL, and ALR will all be held in the Columbus Ramada. Phone 402-564-1492 for reservations. Rooms are \$99.95. The Convention Registration fee is \$10.

MEMBERSHIP TRANSFERS

Before any membership transfer occurs, there must be a Member Data Form provided to Department Headquarters, signed by a member, or certified by a post commander or adjutant where a member has given oral permission to be transferred. This form can be found at nebraskalegion.net/about/forms.html

2022 BASEBALL SEASON IS SET

Be sure your Post does not miss the entry deadline for registering your American Legion Baseball teams. Sponsorship of the program begins anew each year with your Post. The deadline is May 15. Late entries will be accepted with an additional \$200 per team late fee up to May 31. Entry fees are non-refundable. Visit our website at www.nelegionbaseball.net



IRS 990-N REMINDER

The deadline for filing Form 990-N for all Nebraska American Legion Posts is May 15. Form 990-N must be filed every year, or the post could lose its tax-exempt status.

**DELAYED MEMBERSHIP
TRANSMITTALS**

Memberships not transmitted in a timely manner can prove costly. If a Legionnaire is not current in their membership and tragedy strikes – it is possible they would not be entitled to the benefits and programs of The American Legion since you must be a member in good standing to apply for National Emergency Funds and collect on the Legionnaire Insurance Trust (just to name a couple). Don't put the Post, Legionnaire, or the family into that predicament. Make it a point to turn in memberships every two weeks.

HIGH SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS

Did you know many High Schools require students to complete so many volunteer hours before graduation? Has your Post ever considered reaching out to a local High School and partnering with them to start a volunteer program? These students could help the Post in administrative duties like online activities, mailings, and other tasks. This mutual relationship is a win for both the Post and the volunteer. For the volunteer, having those hours on their resume would help them with future jobs and college applications. In turn, Post Commanders or Adjutants would have more time to help support their communities. Strike up a conversation with your local High School officials to see if it is something worth considering.

TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Please remember the Department "Teacher of the Year Award" has an entry deadline of May 2. This award will honor an educator whose accomplishments and activities in the field of education are more than what is normally expected and who also promotes American Legion youth programs in their school. Contact Program Director Brent Hagel-Pitt for complete information.



It's time to start putting together our Convention Program and the Department is selling space in the program for individuals or businesses to advertise. The prices are very reasonable. Please distribute around your community businesses to garner support. All ads and payments must be received before June 10, 2022. The program is 8.5 x 5.5 in size. Contact Kylea at Headquarters for more information.

\$10.00 Page split into eight sections
\$20.00 Page split into four sections
\$30.00 Page split into two sections
\$60.00 Full page

Example of what a page might look like

 <p>Wishing (name here) you a Happy Birthday.</p>	<p>WANTED: One good-hearted woman to forgive imperfection in the man that she loves.</p> <p>Dear (name): Sorry I messed up.</p>
 <p>THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF NEBRASKA</p> <p>DAVID W. SALAK DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT</p> <p>5600 P STREET PHONE: (402) 464-6338 P.O. Box 5205 CELL: (402) 450-9092 LINCOLN, NE 68505-0205 EMAIL: DWSALAK@WINDSTREAM.NET</p> <p>NOT FOR SELF BUT FOR COUNTRY</p>	

Please Join the Nebraska American Legion

<p>The American Legion Membership Application</p> <p>_____ (Name) _____ (Phone)</p> <p>_____ (Mailing Address) _____ (Date)</p> <p>_____ (City) _____ (State) _____ (Zip) _____ (Post #)</p> <p>_____ (Membership ID# former member) _____ (Email Address) _____ (Dues)</p> <p>Please check appropriate eligibility dates and branch of service below</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Aug 2, 1990 – Present</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Army</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 20, 1989 – Jan. 31, 1990</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Navy</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Aug. 24, 1982 – July 31, 1984</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Air Force</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 28, 1961 – May 7, 1975</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Marines</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> June 25, 1950 – Jan. 31, 1955</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Coast Guard</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 7, 1941 – Dec. 31, 1946</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Merchant Marines 12/7/41 – 12/31/46 (only eligibility)</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> April 6, 1917 – Nov 11, 1918</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>I certify that I served at least one day of active military duty during the dates marked above and was honorably discharged or am still serving honorably.</p> <p>_____ Signature of applicant Name of recruiter</p> <p>30-009 (2011)</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Aug 2, 1990 – Present	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Army	<input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 20, 1989 – Jan. 31, 1990	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Navy	<input type="checkbox"/> Aug. 24, 1982 – July 31, 1984	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Air Force	<input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 28, 1961 – May 7, 1975	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Marines	<input type="checkbox"/> June 25, 1950 – Jan. 31, 1955	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Coast Guard	<input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 7, 1941 – Dec. 31, 1946	<input type="checkbox"/> Merchant Marines 12/7/41 – 12/31/46 (only eligibility)	<input type="checkbox"/> April 6, 1917 – Nov 11, 1918		<p>Receipt of Dues (Please Print)</p> <p>From _____ for 20____ Post # _____</p> <p>\$ _____</p> <p>Recruiter's Name _____</p> <p>Recruiter's Signature _____</p> <p>Recruiter's Phone # _____</p> 
<input type="checkbox"/> Aug 2, 1990 – Present	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Army														
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**The American Legion
Department of Nebraska**

RESOLUTION

Resolution No. 122

Subject: Bequests

Submitted by: Finance Committee, D3, D9, D11

Referred to:
(1) DEC

WHEREAS, The American Legion, Department of Nebraska, Bylaws state in Article XII, "Section 1. The American Legion, Department of Nebraska, is empowered to accept and receive gifts, devises or bequests of funds, chattels, money or real estate, or the income there from.

Section 2. The property shall be administered by trustees hereinafter designated as hereinafter provided. All funds received by the said trustees shall be held in trust for The American Legion, Department of Nebraska, and all moneys, securities, or other chattel property shall be deposited by the Department Finance Officer of The American Legion, Department of Nebraska, in a suitable and responsible depository; and the bond of said Department Finance Officer shall cover said trust fund deposits.

Section 3. The trustees shall use due diligence to invest promptly and keep invested any and all moneys belonging to the principal of said trust in interest bearing bonds or obligations of the United States of America, or of a state or any political subdivision thereof; or in first mortgages on improved Nebraska real estate, in an amount not over 40% of the appraised value thereof.

Section 4. The trustees shall make an annual report to the Department Convention of The American Legion each year of the receipts and expenditures of all sums and items of property; and shall, at the request of the Department Executive Committee of The American Legion, Department of Nebraska, make such special reports to said committee as it shall request.

Section 5. In instances where the donor or donors of any gifts, devises or bequests shall expressly direct the purpose for which the same shall be used, or the manner of the use thereof, such directions shall be followed by the trustees. In all other instances the Department Executive Committee of The American Legion, Department of Nebraska, shall by resolution provide for the use of such moneys.

Section 6. The trustees shall be the Department Finance Committee as now existing and their successors in office.

Section 7. The title of all property of the trust hereby created shall be vested in said trustees or their successors, and in case of property, real or personal, the trustees shall have the power to sell, lease, transfer or exchange all or any part of said property; and to execute as trustees, good and sufficient deeds of conveyance thereof, unless alienation of said property is restricted by the original gift or devise.

Section 8. The trustees shall serve without compensation and only the necessary expense of administering said trust shall be deducted therefrom.”; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion, Department of Nebraska, in regular convention assembled in Columbus, Nebraska, on June 23, 24, 25, 26, 2022, That the Bylaws Article XII be changed effective June 26, 2022, to read:

“Section 1. The American Legion, Department of Nebraska, is empowered to accept and receive gifts, devises or bequests of funds, chattels, money or real estate, or the income there from.

Section 2. The property shall be administered by trustees ~~the Department Finance Committee (DFC) hereinafter designated as hereinafter provided and their successors in office.~~ All funds received by the said trustees ~~DFC~~ shall be held in trust for The American Legion, Department of Nebraska, and all moneys, securities, or other chattel property shall be deposited by the Department Finance Officer of ~~The American Legion, Department of Nebraska,~~ in a suitable and responsible depository; ~~and the bond of said Department Finance Officer shall cover said trust fund deposits.~~

Section 3. The trustees ~~DFC~~ shall use due diligence to invest promptly and keep invested any and all moneys belonging to the principal of said trust in interest bearing bonds or obligations of the United States of America, or of a state or any political subdivision thereof; or in first mortgages on improved Nebraska real estate, in an amount not over 40% of the appraised value thereof ~~all bequests including renewing, extending, surrendering or reinvesting as the DFC shall direct.~~

Section 4. The trustees ~~DFC~~ shall make an annual report to the Department Convention of The American Legion each year of the receipts and expenditures of all sums and items of property; and shall, at the request of the Department Executive Committee of The American Legion, Department of Nebraska, make such special reports to said committee as it shall request.

Section 5. In instances where the donor or donors of any gifts, devises or bequests shall expressly direct the purpose for which the same shall be used, or the manner of the use thereof, such directions shall be followed by the trustees

DFC. In all other instances the Department Executive Committee of The American Legion, Department of Nebraska, shall by resolution **majority vote**, provide for the use of such moneys.

~~Section 6. The trustees shall be the Department Finance Committee as now existing and their successors in office.~~

~~Section 7. The title of all property of the trust hereby created shall be vested in said trustees or their successors, and in case of property, real or personal, the trustees shall have the power to sell, lease, transfer or exchange all or any part of said property; and to execute as trustees, good and sufficient deeds of conveyance thereof, unless alienation of said property is restricted by the original gift or devise.~~

~~Section 8-6. The trustees **DFC** shall serve without compensation and only the necessary expense of administering said trust **Bequest Fund(s)** shall be deducted therefrom.”~~

**The American Legion
Department of Nebraska**

RESOLUTION

Resolution No. 222

Subject: NEC/ANEC on DEC

Submitted by: D6, D7, D9, D11

Referred to:

- (1) Constitution & Bylaws CMTE
- (2) DEC

WHEREAS, The National Executive Committeeman and the Alternate National Executive Committeeman are an important link between the National Executive Committee and the Department Executive Committee; and

WHEREAS, There had always been an agreement that the National Executive Committeeman and the Alternate National Executive Committeeman were seated at Department Executive Committee meetings with voice and no vote; and

WHEREAS, For some reason that agreement was broken; and

WHEREAS, At the Department Executive Committee on January 8, 2020 in Kearney, NE a motion was made seconded and passed to seat the National Executive Committeeman and Alternate National Executive Committeeman at Department Executive Committee Meetings with voice and no vote; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion, Department of Nebraska, in regular convention assembled in Columbus, Nebraska, on June 23, 24, 25, 26, 2022, That the National Executive Committeeman and Alternate National Executive Committeeman shall have voice but no vote on the Department Executive Committee; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That Article VII Section 1 of the Department Constitution read “The executive and administrative authority of the Department shall be vested in the Department Executive Committee as herein otherwise provided. The Department Executive Committee shall be composed of the Department Commander, the three immediate Past Department Commanders, the Department Senior Vice Commander, the Area Vice Commanders, the District Commanders, the National Executive Committeeman, and the Alternate National Executive Committeeman. All the aforementioned shall have voice and vote except the National Executive Committeeman and Alternate National Executive Committeeman who shall have voice only.”; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the last sentence of Article III Section 1 of the Department Bylaws be changed to read “With the exception of the Legislative Committee, the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, and the Distinguished Guest Committee, no member of the Department Executive Committee shall serve on a standing committee.”

**The American Legion
Department of Nebraska**

RESOLUTION

Resolution No. 322

Subject: Virtual Department Meetings

Submitted by: D3, D6, D9, D11

Referred to:

(1) Constitution & Bylaws CMTE

(2) DEC

WHEREAS, Article VII, Section 2, of the Department Constitution says, "Meetings of the Department Executive Committee shall be governed by the Department Bylaws."; and

WHEREAS, Article II, Section 1, of the Department Bylaws; state when the meetings are to held but doesn't elaborate on the "how"; and

WHEREAS, COVID Virus demonstrated that there are rare occasions when the DEC is unable to meet face-to-face and that alternative means of conducting business must be addressed for future occurrences that may prevent face-to-face meetings; and

WHEREAS, Many avenues exist to conduct formal meetings electronically using an array of webhosting platforms; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion, Department of Nebraska, in regular convention assembled in Columbus, Nebraska, on June 23, 24, 25, 26, 2022, That Article II, Section 1, of the Department Bylaws be expanded from, "The Department Executive Committee shall meet immediately upon adjournment of the Department Convention; a second meeting shall be held prior to March 1, and a third meeting immediately prior to the annual Department Convention." to read, "The Department Executive Committee shall meet immediately upon adjournment of the Department Convention; a second meeting shall be held prior to March 1, and a third meeting immediately prior to the annual Department Convention. **In most cases, meetings will be conducted in-person but on those rare occasions when uncontrollable, catastrophic circumstances prevent in-person meetings, the Department Commander is authorized to conduct the DEC meeting, or any other committee meeting, electronically and all business of the Nebraska American Legion can be administered provided the necessary quorum is present."**

**The American Legion
Department of Nebraska**

RESOLUTION

Resolution No. 422

Subject: Veteran Suicide Awareness
and Prevention Training

Submitted by: D3, D9, D12

Referred to:
(1) VR&R CMTE
(2)

WHEREAS, One of the basic purposes of The American Legion is “our devotion to mutual helpfulness”; and

WHEREAS, Part of the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission’s purpose is to ensure that veterans and their families receive the highest quality of care for their injuries and illnesses incurred from their military service; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion motto is “Veterans Strengthening America”; and
WHEREAS, As members of The American Legion, we have a sacred obligation to leave no veteran behind; ensuring that our veterans are cared for; and

WHEREAS, Current veteran suicides average 22 per day and the 2021 Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) National Suicide Prevention Report indicated that in 2019, the adjusted rate for veterans was 52.3% greater than non-Veteran U.S. adults; and

WHEREAS, The 2021 VA National Suicide Prevention Report stated that 45,861 U.S. adults committed suicide and 6,261 of these were veterans; and

WHEREAS, The White House released a national strategy on November 3, 2021, for preventing veteran suicide, purporting that it would harness the full breadth of the federal government to tackle the issue; this strategy aims to limit barriers to mental health care; and

WHEREAS, The VA has a gatekeeper training program provided by VA suicide prevention coordinators to veterans and those who serve veterans; and

WHEREAS, Other organizations have developed very successful and valuable suicide awareness and prevention training programs; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion is developing an action oriented campaign to change the narrative of veteran suicide; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion encourages suicide prevention training; Resolution No. 58(NEC, May 7-8, 2003), Subject: "Youth Suicide Prevention Education" resolves to increase youth suicide awareness by encouraging schools to implement youth suicide prevention programs; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 238 (NEC, August 30-31, September 1, 2016), Subject: "Suicide Prevention for American Veterans Act" urged the U.S. Congress to pass and the President to sign into law an Act to expand and improve care provided to veterans at risk for suicide; and

WHEREAS, There is an urgent need for trained Legionnaires at the post level to intervene in veteran suicide situations in their community; and

WHEREAS, This will enhance awareness and increase the likelihood of recognizing signs of veterans and community members at risk of suicide; and

WHEREAS, Posts can be empowered to prevent as many veteran suicides as possible while working with national and local agencies to return veterans to their community with a sense of belonging and purpose for a safe and productive life; and

WHEREAS, Legionnaires and members of the American Legion Family have the desire and the ability to save lives; they need to be given the appropriate tools so they can make a difference in saving a life; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion, Department of Nebraska, in regular convention assembled in Columbus, Nebraska, on June 23, 24, 25, 26, 2022, that Department of Nebraska strongly encourages suicide awareness and prevention training at the post level; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That posts are strongly encouraged to seek out qualified trainers and invite them to provide training for their Legionnaires and members of the American Legion Family.

**The American Legion
Department of Nebraska**

RESOLUTION

Resolution No. 522

Subject: Honoring World War II
Veterans

Submitted by: D3, D9, D12

Referred to:
(1) DEC

WHEREAS, There were 16 million World War II American Veterans, but as of September 30, 2021, only 240,329 remain, with 234 dying each day; and

WHEREAS, Projections show that by September 30, 2025, there will be 400 remaining WWII Veterans; by September 30, 2030, there will be 50; and by September 30, 2035, only 4 WWII Veterans will remain nationally..

WHEREAS, Those surviving men and women of the Greatest Generation are now in their 90s or older; and

WHEREAS, As of September 30, 2021, there were 1,729 World War II Veterans living in Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, Each and every day, first-person memories of World War II – its sights, sounds, terrors, and triumphs are disappearing; and

WHEREAS, It is our duty and responsibility as Americans and fellow veterans to honor and preserve the memories of these veterans of the Greatest Generation many of whom are our parents and grandparents; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion, Department of Nebraska, in regular convention assembled in Lincoln, Nebraska, on June 23, 24, 25, 26, 2022, that every Post in Nebraska should attempt to identify all remaining World War II veterans in their communities, reach out to them, and publicly honor them for their service and sacrifice in a manner agreed upon by the local Post; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That each year at the Department Convention Joint Session, beginning in 2023, all remaining World War II Veteran Legion members in the state identified through Legion.org and from input by Posts will be honored by having their name and Post location read (*read when <100 names*) and also listed in the Convention Program.

**The American Legion
Department of Nebraska**

RESOLUTION

Resolution No. 622

Subject: Parliamentary Procedures

Submitted by: D9

Referred to:

(1) Constitution and By-Laws

(2) DEC

WHEREAS, The American Legion is a Veterans' organization chartered by Congress in which all members are equals; and

WHEREAS, The National American Legion, The Department of Nebraska, and all Posts operate using their Constitution and By-Laws; and

WHEREAS, Decisions made at all of The American Legion meetings are by vote after presentation and discussion by members present; and

WHEREAS, While The American Legion, Department of Nebraska, usually use Roberts Rules of Order for Parliamentary Procedures, it is not referred to in the Department Constitution and By-Laws; and

WHEREAS, Many Posts and Districts do not refer to a set of rules for Parliamentary procedures; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion, Department of Nebraska, in regular convention assembled in Columbus, Nebraska, on June 23, 24, 25, 26, 2022, That the Constitution and By-Laws of The American Legion, Department of Nebraska be amended by adding Article V, Section 6 "Roberts Rules of Order, as amended, will be used for parliamentary procedures at all Department, Area, and District meetings except when superseded by the current Department Constitution and By-Laws"; and, be it

Resolved, That all Districts within the Department of Nebraska will also amend their Constitution and By-Laws, if necessary, to include "Roberts Rules of Order, as amended, will be used for parliamentary procedures at all District meetings except when superseded by current District Constitution and By-Laws"; and, be it further

Resolved, That all Posts within the Department of Nebraska be encouraged to amend their Constitution and By-Laws, if necessary, to include "Roberts Rules of Order, as amended, will be used for parliamentary procedures at all District meetings except when superseded by current District Constitution and By-Laws".

**The American Legion
Department of Nebraska**

RESOLUTION

Resolution No. 722

Subject: Hot Springs VA Hospital

Submitted by: D3, D7, D9

Referred to:
(1) DEC

WHEREAS, The Black Hills Health Care System has proposed to close the current VA Hospital and Domiciliary in Hot Springs, SD and move it to Rapid City, SD; and

WHEREAS, The VA has proposed to build a new outpatient clinic in Hot Springs, SD and move all the specialty clinics, the rehabilitation facilities, and the domiciliary to Rapid City, SD; and

WHEREAS, The VA also has stated, they would like to contract with the local hospitals and other care facilities, for care of the veterans, but most of the local facilities do not have the knowledge of veterans benefits and not to handle the VA system; and

WHEREAS, The move of the hospital and specialty clinic's, and rehabilitation clinic would add between 60 and 150 miles for the veterans of Western Nebraska, to receive health care, if they had to go to Rapid City, SD or Ft. Meade, hospital in Sturgis, SD for these appointments, and also add an extra expense and a burden, on the veterans' health care; and

WHEREAS, The loss of the VA facility in Hot Springs, SD will cause many Nebraska veterans and their families to incur lodging costs beyond their means for early scheduled appointments and multi-day hospital stay events; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion Department of Nebraska speaks in one voice the will of 26,000 members when advocating for the health and welfare of Nebraska's veterans; and

WHEREAS, The veterans are now being taken care of at the VA facilities at Hot Springs, SD and the facilities at the Hot Springs, SD are adequate to take care of the needs of the veterans, with some repair needed; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion, Department of Nebraska, in regular convention assembled in Columbus, Nebraska, on June 23, 24, 25, 26, 2022, That the Department go on record of supporting the saving of the Hot Springs VA Hospital in Hot Springs, SD and keeping it in Hot Springs, SD; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the Department of Nebraska, supports all efforts in keeping the facilities open, for the veterans of Western Nebraska and that this resolution be sent to our Senators and Representatives of Nebraska, for their support, of keeping the facilities in Hot Springs, SD for the veterans of Western Nebraska.

**The American Legion
Department of Nebraska**

RESOLUTION

Resolution No. 822

Subject: Medal of Honor Highway

Submitted by: D3

Referred to:
(1) DEC

WHEREAS, The Medal of Honor award was signed into law by President Abraham Lincoln in 1861 and 1862, and

WHEREAS, 3,511 members of the Armed Forces of the United States have been awarded the Medal of Honor, our nation's highest award for valor for acting with conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty at the risk of one's life during wars against enemies of the United States, and

WHEREAS, During 2017-2018, the nonprofit Bend Heroes Foundation managed creation of the 451-mile border to border Oregon Medal of Honor Highway across Oregon on US Highway 20 honoring all of Oregon's 29 Medal of Honor recipients of all wars and was the first state in our nation to do such, and

WHEREAS, During the 5-year period 2018-2022, Bend Heroes Foundation managed creation of the Medal of Honor Highway Across America through 12-states located along the 3,565-mile coast to coast U.S. Highway 20, the longest highway in our nation, and

WHEREAS, Numerous American Legion Posts and Departments across our nation have supported or led designations of the 12-state Medal of Honor Highways which complement one of the purposes stated in The American Legion's Preamble: "To preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in all wars", and

WHEREAS, Each of the 12-state Medal of Honor Highways honors the state's Medal of Honor recipients and recipients from any state who travel on it, and

WHEREAS, The 12-state Medal of Honor Highways along U.S. Highway 20 collectively honor about two – thirds of our nation's 3,511 Medal of Honor recipients with the remaining thirty-eight states accounting for about one- third of all awardees, and

WHEREAS, The United States Congress designated the coast-to-coast Lincoln and Eisenhower Highways honoring two former Commanders-in-Chief who either created or presented Medal of Honor awards during war, and

WHEREAS, Not a single highway across the United States has been designated by the United States Congress to honor all of our nation's Medal of Honor recipients since the Medal of Honor award was created 161 years ago; now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion, Department of Nebraska, in regular convention assembled in Columbus, Nebraska, on June 23, 24, 25, 26, 2022, That The American Legion, Department of Nebraska, supports this resolution and requests The American Legion national organization to support and encourage the United States Congress to designate the coast to coast U.S. Highway 20 as the "National Medal of Honor Highway" and require appropriate highway signage including display of the three versions of the Medal of Honor medal on all signs, and, be it further

RESOLVED, A National Medal of Honor Highway will raise public awareness of the Medal of Honor award and the bravery of our nation's war heroes – an objective of the Congressional Medal of Honor Society chartered by Congress, and, be it finally

RESOLVED, Designating the Newport, Oregon to Boston, Massachusetts coast-to-coast U.S. Highway 20 as the National Medal of Honor Highway by the United States Congress would honor all of our nation's current and future Medal of Honor recipients and promote education of the traveling public on the "bravest of the brave" American war veterans.