



NEWSLETTER

THE AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF NEBRASKA
P.O. BOX 5205
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA 68505-0205
(402) 464-6338

“Working Together To Make A Difference”

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER
LYLE D. BARTELS

M A Y 2 0 1 9

DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT
DAVID W. SALAK

Published Monthly, except July

Mailed: 4/26/2019

★ **ATTENTION: Sandy Steinkamp is retiring on April 30 after more than four decades of dedicated service to the Nebraska American Legion. Sandy will stay on in a temporary part-time status until her relief is trained. The Department HQ's is looking to hire her replacement and will conduct interviews on June 14th. Persons interested in applying should forward a cover letter and resume before May 30th to Department Adjutant Salak.** ★

MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN NOT COMPLETE A review of the membership analysis indicates many posts need fewer than half a dozen to equal or exceed last year's total and to meet their assigned goal. Time is short to complete our 2019 campaign. Please review your delinquent list and make personal contact where necessary. There are eligible veterans in every community who have never been invited into membership.

AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL ENTRY DEADLINE The initial entry deadline for Post's participating in the 2019 American Legion Baseball program is May 15. Teams registering after May 15 may be imposed a \$200.00 late fee. Deadline for submitting and getting your Team Roster approved is June 15. A team that is NOT going to participate in the Area or State tournaments must submit a declination letter to the Department or there will be a \$300.00 penalty included in next season's registration.

BOYS' STATE / JUNIOR LAW CADET PARTICIPANTS Please keep in touch with your candidates for Cornhusker Boys' State and the Junior Law Cadet programs from your Post. Doing so will ensure their participation next month and put the post in a position to assist them with their transportation should the need arise. Direct questions on the Boys' State bus schedule to your District Commander. Be sure to follow the daily activities at Cornhusker Boys' State from June 2 – 8 on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln campus at www.cornhuskerboysstate.org



DIRECT DUES BILLING Information on the National direct billing program was sent to all Post Adjutants in March. You are reminded the Post Data Form was to be returned to Department Headquarters by April 15 with appropriate changes, if necessary. If you have not yet returned your form, please do so immediately. If no changes are made, or should the form not be returned, direct dues responses will be sent to the same individual, at the same address, at the same dues rate. Please be certain your dues amount is correct.

CONVENTION CALL / DELEGATE STRENGTH The official Department Convention Call and the notification of the number of delegates each Post is entitled to seat at the convention will be sent to Post Adjutants within the next few weeks. Included with the mailing will be an appropriate number of delegate and alternate cards. These cards must be taken to the convention and presented at the time of registration.

CHILDREN & YOUTH LUNCHEON The Children & Youth Luncheon will be held on Saturday, June 22 at the Kearney American Legion Post. The event will start at 11:30 a.m. and will include lunch and a guest speaker. A flyer with more information has been included in the newsletter.

MEMBERSHIP AWARDS MAY STILL BE EARNED There are various membership awards that are available through National and Department. May 10 is the receipt date in this office for the Silver Brigade, Gold Brigade and Recruiter of the Year awards. Certification forms are available from Department HQs. You are encouraged to review the many awards that are available for 2019 membership efforts. The Post Membership Achievement Award is based on the post membership as of May 31, 2019 compared to the membership of July 31, 2018.

CONSOLIDATED POST REPORT The Consolidated Post Report (CPR) form for the 2018-19 American Legion year was mailed to the Post Adjutant with the April newsletter. Please complete the CPR and return it to Headquarters absolutely **no later than June 1**. The CPR can be found on MyLegion and our website at www.nebraskalegion.net. Complete the form online and email it to dwsalak@windstream.net.

POST PUBLICATIONS CONTEST The Nebraska American Legion Press Association asks those interested in the Post Publications Contest to contact Amanda at Headquarters for more information.



CODY KERR AWARD This prestigious award is the highest award given by the Nebraska American Legion and will be presented to a deserving individual at the Department Convention in Kearney. Applications are now being accepted by Past Department Commanders Mike Reimers, Beth Linn, and Jim Costello. Send your nomination to Headquarters to be forwarded to the committee. This award is based on service to the community, state and nation; not just American Legion involvement. Please use a written narrative style of nomination on your Post letterhead. No specific form is provided.

ELECTION OF POST OFFICERS Enclosed is the 2019-20 Post Officer report form (Adjutants only). The Department Constitution and Bylaws calls for the election of officers at the Post meeting prior to the Department Convention and the installation following the convention. We request the names of the 2019-20 officers be sent to us immediately following their election. This allows HQ's to maintain a current list of post officers so that official correspondence get to the right person.

VETERANS FREEDOM MUSIC FESTIVAL Saturday, June 1 at the Railyard beneath the Cube in the Haymarket located at 350 Canopy Street, Lincoln. The festival starts at 4:00 p.m. In addition to music this is an Information Fair with VA health care and other informational booths. Visit www.vfmf.net for more information.

LEGION INSURANCE TRUST Want to sign up for Free LIT AD&D coverage? That's a \$1,000.00 (or \$5,000.00 if death occurred while on official Legion business) that will go to your beneficiary to help with those final expenses. Check out www.thelit.com for more information.

AMERICAN LEGION NIGHT W/SALT DOGS The American Legion Night at the Salt Dogs will be August 10 at 7:05 pm. If your Legion Color Guard would be interested in posting the Colors before the game - please contact the Programs Director Brent Hagel-Pitt. Hope to see you out at the ballpark!

VETERAN'S APPRECIATION DAY AT THE STATE FAIR Veterans' Appreciation Day at the State Fair will be Monday, September 2 at 1:30 p.m. More information, including parade and color guard registration can be found at <https://www.statefair.org/form/color-guard-registration>. Call 308-382-1620 for information.

Attachments:

2019-20 Post Officer report form (Adjutants only)
Resolutions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12
Department Convention Children & Youth Luncheon Flyer

THE AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF NEBRASKA
P.O. BOX 5205
LINCOLN, NE 68505-0205

2019-20 POST OFFICER REPORT FORM

RETURN THIS FORM IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING ELECTION OF POST OFFICERS FOR 2019-20 IN YOUR POST.
PLEASE NOTIFY DEPT. HEADQUARTERS EVEN IF POST OFFICERS ARE REELECTED FOR ANOTHER YEAR.

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO THE ABOVE ADDRESS OR EMAIL TO: adminastlegion@windstream.net NOT LATER THAN AUGUST 1, 2019.

COMMANDER _____
(Name) (Mailing Address-Zip)

Commander's Home Phone () Business/Cell ()

EMAIL ADDRESS _____
(Membership ID No.)

ADJUTANT _____
(Name) (Mailing Address-Zip)

Adjutant's Home Phone () Business/Cell ()

EMAIL ADDRESS _____
(Membership ID No.)

**1ST VICE
COMMANDER** _____
(Name) (Mailing Address-Zip) (Membership ID No.)

**FINANCE
OFFICER** _____
(Name) (Mailing Address-Zip) (Membership ID No.)

**MEMBERSHIP
CHAIRMAN** _____
(Name) (Mailing Address-Zip) (Membership ID No.)

Post membership dues for 2019-20 are \$ _____
On what nights of each month does your Post meet? _____
On what date were the above officers elected? _____
Was the date of election as provided by Post Bylaws? _____
Was notice given to all members as provided by Post Bylaws? _____
Has your Post a set of Post Constitution and Bylaws to govern its work? _____

SIGNATURE _____ POST NUMBER _____

DISTRICT NUMBER _____ PHYSICAL ADDRESS OF POST _____

**The American Legion
Department of Nebraska**

RESOLUTION

Resolution No. 1

Subject: National Convention Standing
Committee Appointees

Submitted by: District 2

Referred to:
(1) DEC
(2) Constitution & Bylaws CMTE

WHEREAS, Article VI of the Department of Nebraska Bylaws lists the responsibilities of delegates to the National Convention; and

WHEREAS, The delegates are active members of their respective posts and district organizations, and participation in convention committees and events will afford an opportunity to learn and grow within the organization; and

WHEREAS, Delegates currently serving in National Commission appointments and receiving a convention call-in, have separate responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, It is the responsibility of present leadership to mentor, educate, and provide opportunity for new members to grow in their knowledge and future value within The American Legion as leaders; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion, Department of Nebraska, in regular convention assembled in Kearney, Nebraska, on June 20, 21, 22, 23, 2019, That whenever possible, such department delegates appointed to serve on National Convention Committees will not be a called representative to a National Standing Commission; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, Article VI of the Bylaws of The American Legion, Department of Nebraska, be amended to read as appended.

ARTICLE VI DELEGATES TO NATIONAL CONVENTION

Section 1. The Immediate Past Department Commander, the Department Commander, and the Department Adjutant, shall each be designated by each Department Convention as one of the Department's automatic delegates to the National Convention of The American Legion following such Department Convention.

Section 2. The Immediate Past Department Commander shall act as Chairman of the Department's delegation in each National Convention, and shall be responsible for appointing the department's delegates to National Convention Committees. Whenever possible, such delegates will not be called representative to a National Standing Commission. ~~and~~ The Department Adjutant shall act as secretary of the delegation.

Section 3. The Department's delegates to the National Convention shall be chosen at the District Convention or at a District Caucus to be held at the Department Convention in the following manner: each District shall elect one delegate for each 1,000 members or major fraction thereof. In case the duly elected delegates or alternates from any District is unable to attend the National Convention, the Chairman of the Department delegation shall be empowered to appoint a delegate to fill the vacancy.

Section 4. Each delegate and alternate to a National Convention shall be required to make a deposit of \$100 with the Department when he is notified of his election as a delegate or alternate. This deposit to be a surety that such delegate or alternate will attend the convention. Reimbursement of this surety shall be made to a delegate or alternate if he notifies the Department at least two weeks prior to the National Convention that he cannot go. Otherwise, the money shall revert to the Department. Any delegate chosen to go to a National Convention who does not have both his housing questionnaire and \$100 deposit at Department Headquarters prior to the housing deadline date shall automatically be dropped from the delegate list, and an appropriate alternate shall be selected in his place.

Delegates to the National Convention shall receive \$300 each as reimbursement for expenses of attending the National Convention, except for those delegates receiving reimbursement to the National Convention from National Headquarters.

Delegates to the Convention are ~~requested~~ **responsible** to attend the Nebraska Caucus, assigned committee meetings, participate in the Convention parade, and attend general sessions of the National Convention. A delegate shall have \$25 deducted from his expense money for each meeting he fails to attend, unless excused from such meeting by the delegation chairman.

**The American Legion
Department of Nebraska**

RESOLUTION

Resolution No. 2

Subject: Candidate Endorsement

Submitted by: District 2

Referred to:
(1) DEC

WHEREAS, Jerry Landkamer, is a Navy Vietnam Veteran who served with Fighter Squadron 1 on board the USS Enterprise during the evacuation of Saigon, South Vietnam, which establishes his eligibility to be a member of The American Legion; and

WHEREAS, After joining The American Legion at the age of 19, he joined the Hartman Post 84 Honor Guard as the youngest member serving on military graveside services; and

WHEREAS, At 20 years of age was elected to the Hartman Post 84 Executive Committee and was also selected as one of two membership team captains which set an all-time high for Hartman Post 84; and

WHEREAS, His employment moved him to Lincoln, Nebraska where he transferred his membership to Post 3 and became a member of their Honor Guard from 1980 to 1984; and

WHEREAS, In 1984 his employment moved him back to Columbus where he rejoined Hartman Post 84 and served as 3rd and 2nd Vice Commander; and

WHEREAS, In 1986 his employment moved him to Norfolk where he currently resides and joined Norfolk Post 16 where he has served 4 times as Post Commander, is a Silver Brigade membership member, earned 100% Membership Honor Ribbon, Pearl Harbor Award, Department of Nebraska Category IV Membership Award, chosen as the 2003 Legionnaire of the Year and Honorary Life Member; and

WHEREAS, He has served as Madison County Commander, District 2 Vice Commander, District 2 Commander, Area B Vice Commander, and Senior Vice Commander before being elected as Department Commander in 2006; and

WHEREAS, While serving as Nebraska State Commander he led his Department to be the only Commander to accomplish 100% of Consolidated Post Reports by original deadline, led the Department to 98.34% membership year, lead Nebraska to a Top Ten Membership Position, won the Big 12 Membership competition, highest number of 100% membership posts (138), 100% goal of National Emergency Fund; and

**The American Legion
Department of Nebraska**

RESOLUTION

Resolution No. 3

Subject: Blue Water Navy Vietnam

Submitted by: District 7

Referred to:

(1) DEC

(2) Rehab & Employment Committee

WHEREAS, Approximately 21 million gallons of deadly herbicides were sprayed on Vietnam between 1962 and 1970; and

WHEREAS, United States Navy and Fleet Marine services who fought in Vietnam between 1962 and 1975 may currently suffer disabilities from the effects of dioxin, found in Agent Orange; and

WHEREAS, These service personnel are being denied all service-connected health care from VA Hospitals and disability compensation for these diseases while all other Vietnam War veterans are receiving these benefits; and

WHEREAS, Alfred Procopio, 73, who served on the USS Intrepid off the coast of Vietnam sued the Department of Veterans Affairs over Prostate Cancer and Diabetes caused from Agent Orange in The United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Court and in a 9 to 2 decision the court agreed with him; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 264 passed at the 97th National Convention of The American Legion, Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans, supports H.R. 299, which will expand the presumptions of Agent Orange exposure to any military personnel who served on any vessel during the Vietnam War that came within 12 nautical miles of the coastlines of Vietnam; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion, Department of Nebraska, in regular convention assembled in Kearney, Nebraska, on June 20, 21, 22, 23, 2019, That The American Legion, Department of Nebraska, reaffirm Resolution No. 246 Blue Water Vietnam Veterans adopted at the 97th National Convention of The American Legion; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That upon approval of this resolution at the Department Convention that this resolution be forwarded to the 101st National Convention of The American Legion in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 23 – 29, 2019, for consideration.

**The American Legion
Department of Nebraska**

RESOLUTION

Resolution No. 4

Subject: NECs made part of DEC

Submitted by: District 6

Referred to:

(1) DEC

(2) Constitution & Bylaws CMTE

WHEREAS, Article VII, Section one of the Department of Nebraska constitution and Bylaws lists members of the Department Executive as the Department Commander, the Area Vice Commanders, and the District Commanders; and

WHEREAS, The National Executive Committeeman and the Alternate National Executive Committeemen are elected by vote of the Department Convention; and

WHEREAS, The National Executive Committeeman and the Alternate National Executive Committeeman are The Departments representatives to the National Executive Committee; and

WHEREAS, The National Executive Committeeman and the Alternate National Executive Committeeman are highly respected and Very knowledgeable of the workings of both the Department of Nebraska and of the National Organization; and

WHEREAS, This knowledge and expertise could, at times, be very valuable to the DEC and to the NEC concerning actions taken by the DEC; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion, Department of Nebraska, in regular convention assembled in Kearney, Nebraska, on June 20, 21, 22, 23, 2019, That Article VII Section 1 be amended to read, 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 with voice and vote.

**The American Legion
Department of Nebraska**

RESOLUTION

Resolution No. 5

Subject: Boys State Orientation

Submitted by: District 1

Referred to:

- (1) Boys State CMTE
- (2) Americanism CMTE
- (3) DEC

WHEREAS, Each year the District holds a orientation for its Boys' State program as it is required by the Boys State Committee, and

WHEREAS, We try to keep it located in a central location, so the boys do not have to travel so far, and keep the expenses down, and the fees of the Boys' State program is getting more expensive each year, and

WHEREAS, It is a extra burden on the Posts and the Boys, that participate in the program, and

WHEREAS, If the Boys State Committee, with the help of the Department Headquarters and the Department Americanism committee, they could develop a orientation program, on a computer, disc or tape, or some other means, that the Boys could use it at their Post or at home, and this would help by doing away with the extra travel and expense for the Posts and the Boys; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion, Department of Nebraska, in regular convention assembled in Kearney, Nebraska, on June 20, 21, 22, 23, 2019, That this this resolution be sent to the DEC, the Boys State Committee, Americanism Committee and the Department Headquarters for their support of this resolution.

WHEREAS, Jerry Landkamer has served as Alternate National Executive Committeeman and while doing so served on the National Americanism Council, Homeland Security & Civil Preparedness Committee, was chosen to serve on Congressman Jeff Fortenberry's Military Academy Selection Committee; and

WHEREAS, Jerry Landkamer presently serves as National Executive Committeeman, where he is liaison to the National Legislative Commission, serves as a member of the National Subcommittee on Committees and has attended every Washington Conference since 2005; and

WHEREAS, Norfolk Post 16 and District 2 fully endorse Jerry Landkamer for the high office of National Vice Commander should that consideration ever be bestowed upon him; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion, Department of Nebraska, in regular convention assembled in Kearney, Nebraska, on June 20, 21, 22, 23, 2019, That The American Legion, Department of Nebraska, go on record as endorsing Jerry Landkamer for the high office of National Vice Commander; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That upon approval of this resolution at the Department Convention that this resolution be forwarded to the 101st National Convention of The American Legion in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 23 – 29, 2019, for consideration.

**The American Legion
Department of Nebraska**

RESOLUTION

Resolution No. 6

Subject: Highway 20 Funding

Submitted by: District 1

Referred to:
(1) Finance CMTE
(2) DEC

WHEREAS, The Department of Nebraska has a Resolution to support a Medal of Honor Hwy 20, across the state of Nebraska on Hwy 20, to Honor the Veterans of the Medal of Honor; and

WHEREAS, The initial costs of the project will be around \$3,500.00, for material and signs along the highway; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Nebraska, Finance Committee, of the American Legion, meet on December 19, 2018, and rejected the Medal of Honor Hwy resolution to help with the project, and said it should be left up to the Districts and the counties, who are on Hwy 20 to support it, instead of the Department of Nebraska, American Legion, because it would be monetary burden to the Department for perpetual funding; and

WHEREAS When they wanted the Department of Nebraska, American Legion to support the American Legion Hwy from Grand Island to Hastings, NE, and helped the VFW get their Hwy named, the American Legion of Nebraska, asked the veterans of Nebraska American Legion to help, and as a Department, we did, and they are now in place, at that time they didn't worry about the Districts or Counties, because they were supporting the Veterans of Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Nebraska, American Legion, belongs to all the Veterans of Nebraska, and not just the Veterans on Hwy 20 and their counties and we need to support the purpose of the resolution to honor all the Medal of Honor recipients in Nebraska and all the other states who have them; and

WHEREAS, The price is small portion, compared to what these Veterans have done for our country, so we should honor them and support them; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion, Department of Nebraska, in regular convention assembled in Kearney, Nebraska, on June 20, 21, 22, 23,2019, That the Department of Nebraska, American Legion support the initial costs of the Medal of Honor Hwy 20 and make it a successful venture; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the Department of Nebraska American Legion help fund this project for the Hwy 20 Medal of Honor and honor all the veterans who have received the Medal of Honor.

**The American Legion
Department of Nebraska**

RESOLUTION

Resolution No. 7

Subject: Seating NEC's at DEC Meetings

Submitted by: District 1

Referred to:

(1) DEC

(2) Constitution & Bylaws CMTE

WHEREAS, The DEC of the American Legion, Department of Nebraska, meets about two to three times a year, to discuss and approve State and National Issues; and

WHEREAS, The DEC consist of all the State Officers, District Commanders, Area Commanders and the Alt NEC-Man and the NEC-Man, to consider the business of the Nebraska American Legion; and

WHEREAS, in the last 4 meetings of the DEC, the Alt NEC-Man and the NEC-Man were not allowed to be seated at the DEC meetings; and

WHEREAS, They are elected officers of the Department of Nebraska American Legion, just like the District Commanders and Area Commanders and they should be allowed the courtesy of being seated at the DEC and have a voice and a vote on what business is being discussed; and

WHEREAS, They also give the Department of Nebraska, American Legion, information on what is coming out of the National DEC meetings and keep us informed of what issues we need to be looking at and taking care of; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion, Department of Nebraska, in regular convention assembled in Kearney, Nebraska, on June 20, 21, 22, 23, 2019, That the ALT NEC-Man and the NEC-Man be seated at all the DEC Meeting for their input to the organization; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That that this resolution be sent to the DEC of the Department of Nebraska, for their approval, and the Constitution and Bylaws Committee for their approval.

RESOLVED, That upon approval of this resolution at the Department Convention that this resolution be forwarded to the 101st National Convention of The American Legion in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 23 – 29, 2019, for consideration.

**The American Legion
Department of Nebraska**

RESOLUTION

Resolution No. 8

Subject: District 1 Tour

Submitted by: District 1

Referred to:
(1) Department HQ's

WHEREAS, District One American Legion, holds a District One tour, and it has started in the middle 70's, to have a membership tour to all the posts and units of District One; and

WHEREAS, District One has 13 posts and units, it was decided it would take about 3 days to conduct the tour, in order to have a impact on membership and the third day, would to visit the VA Hospital at Hot Springs, SD. For a Christmas party for the Veterans; and

WHEREAS, We knew at the time it would take about three days to do this, with the mileage of the District, which is the largest of the state; and

WHEREAS, When we first started we just used, the District Officers to conduct the tour, and later on we decided to invite the Department officers to attend the tour, and bring us information from the Department, since then the District tour of District One has been a great success, taking information to the Posts and units, picking up cookies and other items for the veterans they could use in the hospital, and we always have a Christmas party and program for the veterans and introduce are Department and District officers to the veterans at the party on the last day of the tour; and

WHEREAS, Department Commander Bartels, at the Department Finance meeting on December 16, 2018 commented, that the District One tour should be shorten as it takes up to much time; and

WHEREAS, The members of District One will continue to have the District One Tour and visit the VA Hospital at Hot Springs, SD. and we will continue to invite the Department Officers, if they want attend and, take the time out of their schedule to visit the veterans in District One and at the VA Hospital at Hot Springs, SD.; and

WHEREAS, This has always has been a District One Tour and it will conune as one and we have had some very good comments on our tour from other districts, Departments Hqs. and the National Organization, they have sent many National Vice commanders to go on our tour and sometimes we get a National Commander for the tour, So the District One tour will continue to be a three day event, and if you want to attend, you are more then welcome; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion, Department of Nebraska, in regular convention assembled in Kearney, Nebraska, on June 20, 21, 22, 23, 2019, That a copy of the resolution be sent to Department Hqs, for their information and comments.

**The American Legion
Department of Nebraska**

RESOLUTION

Resolution No. 9

Subject: Merchant Marines Names to be added to Vietnam Memorial

Submitted by: District 3

Referred to:
(1) DEC

WHEREAS, the U.S. Merchant Marines transport cargo and passengers during times of peace and serves as an accessory to the Navy and assist in delivering supplies and goods to military operations during times of war; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Merchant Marines served aboard ships engaged in delivering troops to various ports in South Vietnam during the period of active warfare in "The War Without a Front" and also brought home many of those whose names are inscribed on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington DC; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Merchant Marines served aboard ships engaged in delivering supplies consisting of mail, helicopters, patrol boats, ammunition, food, and medical supplies to various ports in South Vietnam during the period of active warfare in "The War Without a Front"; and

WHEREAS, fifty-six U.S. Merchant Marines lost their lives or were declared Missing In Action and presumed dead due to hostile action while engaged in delivering troops and supplies to various ports in South Vietnam during the period of active warfare; and

WHEREAS, these brave mariners paid the supreme sacrifice while serving their country; and

WHEREAS, the names of the fifty-six U.S. Merchant Marines are absent from the Vietnam Memorial located in Washington DC; and

WHEREAS, many of the fifty-six U.S. Merchant Marines had previously served as members of the U.S. Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Merchant Marines in Vietnam were subject to the Uniform Code of Military Justice effective December 1966; and

WHEREAS, the Merchant Marine Vietnam Service Medal is a decoration presented to recognize service aboard vessels that displayed the American flag while in Vietnam waters between July 4, 1965 - August 15, 1973; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion, Department of Nebraska, in regular convention assembled in Kearney, Nebraska, on June 20, 21, 22, 23, 2019, That the fifty-six U.S. Merchant Marines killed or missing in action during the Vietnam War should be recognized as veterans and their names inscribed on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC; and, be it finally

**The American Legion
Department of Nebraska**

RESOLUTION

Resolution No. 10

Subject: National Legion College Eligibility

Submitted by: District 3

Referred to:
(1) DEC

WHEREAS, Resolution 50 dated May 3 – 5, 1950, provides that the American Legion College was established in 1944 and that its establishment was the “most practical means of education for Legionnaires in the background, programs and activities of the organization which is so vitally important to the stabilization of membership”; and

WHEREAS, Resolution 6 dated October May 5 – 6, 1999, reiterates its long-standing advocacy on behalf of age discrimination and that it will continue to support programs that benefit older Americans; and

WHEREAS, Resolution 50 dated October 17 - 18, 2012, states in a whereas clause that all leaders, at every level of our organization, must be “given the opportunity, the orientation, and knowledge about American Legion programs and activities”; and

WHEREAS, Resolution 50 dated October 17 – 18, 2012, goes on to say in a resolved clause “That all levels of The American Legion leadership are urged to develop a standard for its leadership to include a knowledge about programs, activities, goals and objectives of the organization in order to do their best and be more proactive towards the needs of those they serve”; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion 21st-Century Policy on Education states, “The American Legion cannot subscribe to any system suggesting preferential training of elite education only for the classes; rather we put our faith in the widespread public education for the masses” yet, in its very own National education forum it clearly selects students based first on class (or war-era) and then on masses; and

WHEREAS, the selection into the National American Legion College should be based on the mental aptitude and technical ability of nominee, and the Department’s endorsement of their candidate, without regard to war-era served or any other limiting factor; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion, Department of Nebraska, in regular convention assembled in Kearney, Nebraska, on June 21, 22, 23, 2019, That the Department forward this resolution to National to have the rules changed on the National American Legion College application so that all veterans, no matter what war-era they participated, are provided the exact same consider for admittance into the National American Legion College; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the American Legion College application have the first line of the candidate qualification, “Veteran of Lebanon/Grenada, and/or Gulf War/Global War on Terrorism” removed; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the American Legion College application have the starred clause, “* A candidate from an earlier war era may be considered if the department has a successful applicant with service during a qualified era. Candidates from unqualified war eras will be limited by availability.” should also be stricken; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That National weigh all nominations from any given Department, regardless of war-era, since the Department has faithfully scrutinized, prioritized and endorsed each application and knows better than National who from their Department warrants the education derived from National Legion College to further the aims and goals of the Department, and thus, National.

**The American Legion
Department of Nebraska**

RESOLUTION

Resolution No. 11

Subject: Nebraska State Patrol K-9
Initiative

Submitted by: District 3

Referred to:
(1) DEC

WHEREAS, The Nebraska State Patrol has been a working partner of the Nebraska American Legion for over 50 years; and

WHEREAS, the use of highly trained K-9 teams have proven to enhance law enforcement in unique and vital ways that protect both the public and officers of the Nebraska State Patrol; and

WHEREAS, the purchase of highly trained K-9 dogs is facilitated using donations made by the public and private organizations; and

WHEREAS, the Sons of the American Legion and the American Legion Riders hold an integral position in supporting and providing for the success of Nebraska American Legion; and

WHEREAS, the Sons of the American Legion and the American Legion Riders have chosen to develop a program with the capability of providing the Nebraska State Patrol with a new dog every two years; and

WHEREAS, the success of the Sons of the American Legion and the American Legion Riders is the success of the American Legion Family; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion, Department of Nebraska, in regular convention assembled in Kearney, Nebraska, on June 20, 21, 22, 23, 2019, That all American Legion Posts shall support the Nebraska State Patrol K-9 and encourage the programs under their cognizance, namely the Sons of the American Legion and American Legion Riders, to use the Nebraska State Patrol K-9 program as their primary mission aimed at benefitting the State of Nebraska; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That this VOLUNTARY financial support directed to the Nebraska State Patrol K-9 program, in no way, precludes the Sons of the American Legion or American Legion Riders, from choosing its own charity missions, be it Nationally- or State-focused; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Finance Committee will be responsible for the accounting and administration of all donations; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That all donations made by Detachments and Chapters will be transferred to the Nebraska State Patrol on March 13th of each year as that is National K9 Veterans Day and a tally of said donations will be published in the ensuing Nebraska Legionnaire.

**The American Legion
Department of Nebraska**

RESOLUTION

Resolution No. 12

Subject: Highway 20 Support

Submitted by: District 3

Referred to:
(1) DEC

WHEREAS, Whereas the Medal of Honor is our nation's highest award for valor presented to veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States for acting above and beyond the call of duty during combat and at the risk of death to oneself; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Highway 20 would be the first such border-to-border highway in our nation honoring all of a state's recipients; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Highway 20, at 3,365 miles in length, spans our nation from Newport, Oregon, to Boston, Massachusetts, traversing 12 states, and is the longest highway in our nation; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Highway 20 as a national Medal of Honor Highway across our nation would honor 1,987 accredited recipients in 12 states, or about 57 percent of all recipients of the Medal of Honor; and

WHEREAS, Legionnaires from Oregon started a campaign to name U.S. Highway 20 the Medal of Honor Highway; and

WHEREAS, After the State of Oregon passed legislation to rename U.S. Highway 20, Legionnaires in Oregon set a lofty goal to have U.S. Highway 20, from Oregon to Massachusetts, named the Medal of Honor Highway with the support of all Departments in which Highway 20 travels through; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion, Department of Nebraska, in regular convention assembled in Kearney, Nebraska, on June 20, 21, 22, 23, 2019, That the Department go on record of supporting that portion of U.S. Highway 20 beginning at the Wyoming/Nebraska state line and ending at the Nebraska/Iowa state line as the Nebraska Medal of Honor Highway, honoring current and future Medal of Honor recipients.