

**NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA
OCTOBER 12-13, 2016**

Resolution No. 10: Veterans Memorial Identification Project
Origin: Internal Affairs Commission
Submitted By: Internal Affairs Commission

WHEREAS, One of the tenets of The American Legion, as expressed in the Preamble to the organization's constitution, is "... To preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the Great Wars ..."; and

WHEREAS, Many communities across America, and the United States government itself, have established veterans monuments and memorials to honor those who have served and sacrificed in the U.S. Armed Forces, and The American Legion has traditionally assisted in the establishment, maintenance, care, or defense of those veterans monuments; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion supports the Pritzker Military Library & Museum and the U.S. National WWI Centennial Commission in the promotion and execution of a nationwide grant-availability campaign, which ends July 15, 2017, to restore World War I monuments and build public awareness of the WWI Centennial by the "100 Cities/100 Memorials" (NEC Resolution No. 19, May 2016); and

WHEREAS, There are several databases in states and local communities which contain information on veterans memorials, but there is not one central location to identify all these memorials; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion via its national website has been collecting some of this information on its Honor & Remembrance platform; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion is uniquely positioned to collect and document memorial information through its vast grassroots organization, with dedicated members and posts around the world; and

WHEREAS, The entire American Legion Family and community groups connected to it can be engaged in providing detailed information on memorials and monuments of all wars and military experiences; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion through its department leadership can communicate with counties, districts and posts to promote a project to identify and document military and veterans memorials and monuments throughout the United States and beyond; and

WHEREAS, Members of The American Legion, Sons of The American Legion, American Legion Riders and American Legion Auxiliary can effectively reach out to their local communities through scouting, athletics, education, government and local media; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion's 100th Anniversary serves as an excellent opportunity to conduct a major initiative to identify, develop a database and promote the care, maintenance and if necessary, restoration of military and veterans memorials and monuments; and

WHEREAS, This database would become the premier nationwide source of information on veterans memorials and monuments of all eras; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion has a historical relationship with Alliance Defense Fund and Liberty Legal Institute (NEC Resolution No. 11, October 2006) both of which provide legal assistance to communities in their defense of veteran memorials with symbols of America's

religious history and heritage such as the Mojave Desert WWI veterans memorial and the Bladensburg Cross in Maryland to name a couple; and

WHEREAS, This database could be used to access information in order to adequately support and defend veteran and military memorials located on private land or land owned by federal, state or local governments against efforts to substantially change, destroy or remove these memorials; and

WHEREAS, This resolution has been reviewed and approved by The American Legion Media & Communications Commission, which will be tasked with developing the digital infrastructure to support the database and promote the restoration program; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 12-13, 2016, That departments, districts, counties, posts, Sons of The American Legion detachments/squadrons, The American Legion Riders chapters and American Legion Auxiliary departments/units are encouraged to engage in this American Legion-wide project to identify veterans memorials in communities across the nation and beyond in order to expand the organization's existing memorials database maintained at National Headquarters; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That this memorial identification project be promoted in all media channels deemed appropriate and any resources needed for this project at National Headquarters be handled through the normal budgeting process.