

THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

RESOLUTION: 5-14-C

SUBMITTED BY: 4th District

SUBJECT: Eligibility for Membership in The American Legion

Rejected

RESOLUTION

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

WHEREAS, War veterans are defined as persons, whether or not current members of the United States Armed Forces, who have served in the Armed Forces during a period of war, as generally set forth in 38 U.S.C. Section 101, concerning veterans' benefits; and

WHEREAS, The definition of a veteran is a present or former member of the United States Armed Forces. IRC 7701(a)(15) defines this as including all regular and reserve components of the uniformed services, which are subject to the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Defense, the Secretary of the Army, the Secretary of the Navy, or Secretary of the Air Force. Each term also includes the Coast Guard and the National Guard; and

WHEREAS, The Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion does not designate or differentiate between veterans and war veterans; and

WHEREAS, The United States Armed Forces would not exist as an effective military force if veterans did not serve at all times of the year, and for all years, as an efficiently trained and ever-ready force, not just during war time; and

WHEREAS, The last enrollment period for The American Legion membership requirements has been open-ended for the last twenty-three (23) years, and continues to be open-ended at this time to all veterans; and

WHEREAS, The time has come to finally recognize all of our former, present, and future Armed Forces' veterans by allowing all veterans the opportunity to continue to serve through membership in The American Legion; and

WHEREAS, The subject relating to membership eligibility in The American Legion has regularly been brought before the National American Legion Convention by other states; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion, Department of Michigan, in annual Department Convention, assembled in Livonia, Michigan, June 27 - June 29, 2014, that membership in The American Legion not be limited to specific war veterans, but open to all United States Armed Services personnel who have been honorably discharged from service to their country, and, be it

FINALLY RESOLVED, That any encumbrances, legalities, or any other delays be resolved forthwith.