

THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

RESOLUTION: 8-09-C
SUBMITTED BY: 3rd District of The American Legion, Department of Michigan
SUBJECT: Second Amendment

RESOLUTION

- WHEREAS, James Madison stated in Federalist Paper #46: "Besides the advantages of being armed, which the Americans possess over the people of almost every other nation...notwithstanding, the military establishments in the several kingdoms of Europe, which are carried as far as the public resources will bear, the governments are afraid to trust the people with arms," and
- WHEREAS, Every 13 seconds one of America's 70 million gun owners uses a firearm in defense against a criminal and American women use handguns 416 times a day in defense against rapists. America has chosen to exercise the right to keep and bear arms; and
- WHEREAS, Millions of American soldiers, including the hundreds of thousands of American soldiers involved in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom in the Middle East have fought to protect those rights, including the Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms; and
- WHEREAS, The Persian Gulf War, along with efforts to disarm persons in the Baltic states and the Tiananmen Square massacre in Beijing, China, is further proof that free people everywhere, at home and abroad, must be allowed to counteract violent aggression and that the need for citizens to be able to defend themselves, their families, their country, and their freedom never dies; and
- WHEREAS, Training provided by the Department of Defense has given these American soldiers, both past and present, invaluable assistance in the performance of their duties and has even been shown to have saved their lives; and

WHEREAS, Handguns are used 645,000 times and firearms are used 1,000,000 times each year by law abiding citizens to thwart crimes; and

WHEREAS, Certain laws have assumed the guilt of all firearm owners without addressing those who misuse and criminally abuse firearms, contrary to the principles of American Jurisprudence, which assume innocence until guilt is proven; and

WHEREAS, Such proposals also disregard the overwhelming evidence that the Second Amendment guarantees for law abiding citizens an individual right to keep and bear arms; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion, Department of Michigan, in annual Department Convention, assembled in Lansing, Michigan, June 18-21, 2009, That The American Legion, Department of Michigan, reaffirms Resolution #243 to recognize that the Second Amendment to 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 while having little effect on the activities of the criminal element in our society; and, be it

FINALLY RESOLVED, That the membership of The American Legion urges our nation's lawmakers to recognize, as part of their oath of office, the Second Amendment as guaranteeing law abiding citizens the right to keep and bear arms, as do the millions of American veterans who have fought, and continue to fight, to preserve those rights.