

THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

RESOLUTION: 9-9-F
SUBMITTED BY: The American Legion, Department of Michigan
SUBJECT: Supporting "Voices of a Never Ending Dawn", a film that strongly forwards purposes of The American Legion

RESOLUTION

- WHEREAS, The American Legion has as two of its most basic purposes *to foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism; and to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the Great Wars; and*
- WHEREAS, An emotionally powerful and heroic documentary film called **Voices of a Never Ending Dawn** has been created by award-winning PBS documentary filmmaker Pamela Peak (granddaughter of WWI soldier Guy Campus); and
- WHEREAS, The film documents one of the most heroic missions of any soldiers ever undertaken in American history - the North Russian Expedition of 1918/1919 in which 5,500 American soldiers were sent to fight the first Communists in Northern Russia, fighting for the principles of freedom, justice and democracy in sixty degree below zero weather *eight long months after all other American soldiers had returned home from WWI;* and
- WHEREAS, The American Polar Bear soldiers of WWI were stripped of everything American once arriving in Northern Russia, placed under strict British command, yet together survived by *"maintaining their one hundred percent Americanism"* and becoming one of the most decorated units in all of WWI; and
- WHEREAS, The film will air around Veteran's Day, Memorial Day and many other times on PBS stations for four years to remind a new generation of Americans and school children from 5th grade to college age of the great sacrifices our veterans make to preserve the freedoms they enjoy; and
- WHEREAS, **The Homer Wing Post of Rochester, Michigan**, is named after **Polar Bear soldier Homer Wing** who gave his life in the North Russian Expedition of 1918/1919 and this post has already financially supported **Voices of a Never Ending Dawn** since its early production phase, as have many other American Legion Posts, District 18 of Michigan and The American Legion Department of Michigan (who made a \$2,000 contribution towards the early production phase of the film); and

WHEREAS, Filmmaker Pamela Peak is a seasoned documentary filmmaker whose work is known and respected by PBS programmers across the country who select films to air on their individual stations and Pamela's earlier film *Colorblind* (see: www.Colorblind/Documentary.com) was broadcast to over 56 million households (85% of all PBS stations); and

WHEREAS, **Voices of a Never Ending Dawn**, the patriotic film about the WWI Polar Bears will follow the same distribution path as Pamela's earlier film *Colorblind*; and

WHEREAS, **Voices of a Never Ending Dawn** is seeking a \$5,000 contribution to be made directly to its **local PBS Station Detroit Public Television**, which is designated as a 501(c)(3) organization, specifically to the following address and payee:

Mailed to: Jeff Forster
Vice President of Production and Station Enterprises
Detroit Public Television
1 Clover Court
Wixom, MI 48393

Payable to: "Detroit Public TV"; and

WHEREAS, The \$5,000 contribution will be utilized to technically prepare **Voices of a Never Ending Dawn** for *national* broadcast and cover promotional expenses to all PBS stations so that millions of viewers will see and experience this moving and patriotic film; and

WHEREAS, In response to the contribution, The American Legion will be acknowledged at the opening and closing of each broadcast of the film and be seen by millions of viewers as a contributor, as well as in all DVD versions of the film that will be produced and released; and

WHEREAS, In response to the contribution, Pamela Peak Productions will provide two copies of the broadcast DVD when released to each of the National offices; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion, Department of Michigan, in annual Fall Conference assembled in Roseville, Michigan, September 18-19, 2009, That The American Legion, Department of Michigan, forward a request to National Headquarters for a \$5,000 contribution supporting the program "**Voices of a Never Ending Dawn**".