

THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

**RESOLUTION:** 17-4-W  
**SUBMITTED BY:** 16<sup>th</sup> District  
**SUBJECT:** Nominate Sgt. Thomas Sheppard for the Medal of Honor

**RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS,** The American Legion is committed to advocating patriotism and honor; and

**WHEREAS,** One of the most remarkable, and longest overlooked, sustained acts of patriotism and honor in U.S. military history is credited to Sgt. Thomas Henry Sheppard of Almont, Michigan, during his service as flag bearer for Company E First Michigan Cavalry in the Civil War; and

**WHEREAS,** Sgt. Sheppard's actions have been documented by the Dearborn (Michigan) Historical Museum's quarterly publication, The Dearborn Historian, in its issue of Summer 2016; and

**WHEREAS,** These actions include riding with his oversize personal flag in multiple engagements with Confederate troops in Stonewall Jackson's Shenandoah Valley Campaign of 1862 and in the Battle of Gettysburg of 1863; and

**WHEREAS,** These actions also include secreting his flag on his person after being wounded in the Battle of Gettysburg and, subsequently, keeping his flag safely hidden during 505 days as a prisoner of war in Andersonville and other Confederate camps; and

**WHEREAS,** The Sheppard flag, restored and preserved on permanent display at the Dearborn Historical Museum after being punctured by 72 bullet holes, was personally observed by the Commander of Ford Motor Co. Post 173 of Dearborn, Michigan; and

**WHEREAS,** Sgt. Sheppard never received official recognition for his sustained act of patriotism and honor; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** By The American Legion, Department of Michigan, in annual Department Winter Meeting assembled in Flint, Michigan, March 11-12, 2017, That The American Legion, Department of Michigan supports the posthumous nomination of Sgt. Thomas Henry Sheppard for the Medal of Honor.