

**Resolution Number:**        #10-2019

**Submitted By:**                3<sup>rd</sup> District Association of Michigan

**Subject:**                        **Update ceremony wording of the POW/MIA Empty Chair**

**WHEREAS,** The American Legion is the nation's largest Veterans Service Organization, which firmly believes that no comrade should be left behind, which is why it is important for The American Legion to remember our POW/MIAs; and

**WHEREAS,** The American Legion performs the POW/MIA Empty Chair Ceremony at all official meetings as a reminder to spare no effort to secure the release of any American prisoners from captivity, the repatriation of the remains of those who died bravely in defense of liberty, and a full accounting of those missing; and

**WHEREAS,** Resolution No. 288, titled "Support "Empty Chair" Program (POW/MIA)", calls for the implementation of the POW/MIA Empty Chair Ceremony at all official meetings of The American Legion; and

**WHEREAS,** Resolution No. 288 was adopted 33 years ago at The American Legion's 67<sup>th</sup> National Convention; and

**WHEREAS,** The POW/MIA Empty Chair Ceremony currently reads, "...the thousands of American POW/MIAs still unaccounted for..."; and

**WHEREAS,** Due to fluctuations which may increase or decrease the actual number of American POW/MIAs still unaccounted for, from all conflicts with the United States of America; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** By, The American Legion, Department of Michigan, in Annual Department Winter Meeting assembled in Flint Michigan February 15-17 2019, That in the POW/MIA Empty Chair Ceremony, the phrase "...the thousands of American POW/MIAs still unaccounted for..." be changed to read "...the many American POW/MIAs still unaccounted for..."; and, be it further

**RESOLVED,** That this resolution be forwarded to the Department and National Organizations of The American Legion; and, be it finally

**RESOLVED,** That any and all American Legion publications that contain the POW/MIA Empty Chair Ceremony be updated to reflect this change.