Resolution Number:  #10-2019

Submitted By:  3rd 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 67th 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.