THE AMERICAN LEGION

DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

RESOLUTION: **26 - 05**

SUBJECT: Establishment of District Veteran Scholarships Funded by a One Dollar $1.00 Department Dues Increase

SUBMITTED BY: Education & Scholarship Committee

WHEREAS, The American Legion, Department of Michigan, is governed by its Constitution and Bylaws and is committed to the purposes and principles set forth therein; and

WHEREAS, Education is one of the Four Pillars of The American Legion, and the Department of Michigan is dedicated to advancing educational opportunities that empower veterans to improve their skills, employability, and long-term economic stability; and

WHEREAS, Many veterans within the Department of Michigan pursue higher education, vocational training, technical certification, and professional development as a means of successful transition to civilian life; and

WHEREAS, The establishment of a structured, sustainable, and equitable scholarship program directly supports the Education Pillar of The American Legion by investing in the academic and professional advancement of Michigan veterans; and

WHEREAS, Providing scholarships on a district basis promotes geographic equity while allowing flexibility to meet demonstrated need; and

WHEREAS, A nominal increase in Department annual membership dues represents a responsible and reasonable method to fund such a program without placing an undue financial burden on individual members; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Michigan Education and Scholarship Committee is authorized under the Department Constitution and Bylaws to administer

Rejected

scholarship programs and ensure proper oversight and accountability; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, by the Department of Michigan, The American Legion, in Winter Conference assembled, that there is hereby established an annual veteran scholarship program providing up to two (2) scholarships per district, to be awarded to eligible veterans; and BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that if a district does not have qualified applicants, any scholarships not awarded within that district may be reallocated by the Department of Michigan Education and Scholarship Committee to other districts that have more than two (2) qualified applicants, provided sufficient funds are available; and BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that each scholarship awarded under this program shall be in the minimum amount of One Thousand Dollars ($1,000.00); and BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that eligibility for said scholarships shall be limited to veterans who are members in good standing of The American Legion, Department of Michigan, at the time of application and award, and who meet any additional eligibility requirements established by the Department of Michigan Education and Scholarship Committee; and BE IT FURTHER,

RESOLVED, that funding for this scholarship program shall be generated through a One Dollar ($1.00) increase in Department annual membership dues, effective with the 2027 membership year, subject to approval in accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Department of Michigan; and BE IT FURTHER,

RESOLVED, that the awarding of scholarships under this program shall commence with the 2028 membership year, allowing sufficient time for the accumulation of designated scholarship funds; and BE IT FURTHER,

RESOLVED, that all monies collected for this program shall be designated as restricted scholarship funds, maintained separately within the Department of Michigan accounts, and expended solely for veteran scholarship purposes; and BE IT FURTHER

Rejected

RESOLVED, that the Department of Michigan Education and Scholarship Committee shall administer the program, establish written rules and procedures, review applications, determine eligibility, select recipients, and authorize the disbursement of scholarship funds in accordance with Department policy and available funding; and BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that the Department Treasurer shall maintain accurate and complete financial records of all scholarship funds received and disbursed, and that such funds shall be subject to annual audit in accordance with Department of Michigan financial controls and bylaws; and BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that the Chairman of the Department of Michigan Education and Scholarship Committee shall submit a written annual report and present said written report at the Annual Summer Convention, detailing scholarship awards, fund balances, and program activity; said report shall become part of the official Convention record; and BE IT FINALLY,

RESOLVED, that this resolution shall remain in full force and effect unless amended or rescinded in accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws of The American Legion, Department of Michigan.

Rejected