



**SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
DETACHMENT OF LOUISIANA**

DETACHMENT CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE TO THE DETACHMENT OF LOUISIANA CONSTITUTION

PROUD POSSESSORS OF A PRICELESS HERITAGE, WE MALE DESCENDANTS OF VETERANS OF THE GREAT WARS, ASSOCIATE OURSELVES TOGETHER FOR THE FOLLOWING PURPOSES:

TO UPHOLD AND DEFEND THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA; TO MAINTAIN LAW AND ORDER; TO FOSTER AND PERPETUATE A TRUE SPIRIT OF AMERICANISM; TO PRESERVE THE MEMORIES OF OUR MEMBERS AND THE ASSOCIATIONS OF OUR MEMBERS AND OUR FOREFATHERS IN THE GREAT WARS; TO INCULCATE A SENSE OF INDIVIDUAL OBLIGATION TO THE COMMUNITY, STATE AND NATION; TO COMBAT THE AUTOOCRACY OF BOTH THE CLASSES AND THE MASSES; TO MAKE RIGHT THE MASTER OF MIGHT; TO PROMOTE PEACE AND GOOD WILL ON EARTH; TO SAFEGUARD AND TRANSMIT TO POSTERITY THE PRINCIPLES OF JUSTICE, FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY; TO CONSECRATE AND SANCTIFY OUR FRIENDSHIP BY OUR DEVOTION TO MUTUAL HELPFULNESS; TO ADOPT IN LETTER AND SPIRIT ALL OF THE GREAT PRINCIPLES FOR WHICH THE AMERICAN LEGION STANDS; AND TO ASSIST IN CARRYING ON FOR GOD AND COUNTRY.

ARTICLE I: (NAME)

SECTION 1: THE NAME OF THE ORGANIZATION SHALL BE THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION, DETACHMENT OF LOUISIANA.

SECTION 2: THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION, DETACHMENT OF LOUISIANA SHALL BE ATTACHED TO THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF LOUISIANA.

ARTICLE II: (NATURE)

SECTION 1: THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION, DETACHMENT OF LOUISIANA IS A CIVILIAN ORGANIZATION WHOSE MEMBERSHIP THEREIN DOES NOT AFFECT NOR INCREASE LIABILITY FOR MILITARY OR POLICE SERVICE.

Unanimously approved at the 31st Detachment Convention, June 11, 2005; Sentence structure 1 change Article VIII June 12, 2010; Quorum change approved June 3013; DC 2014-01 Eligibility documentation July 27, 2014; DC 2015-02 Dues changed to \$8, approved June 2015. Approved by The American Legion's DEC, July 2015.

SECTION 2: THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION, DETACHMENT OF LOUISIANA SHALL BE ABSOLUTELY NON-POLITICAL AND SHALL NOT BE USED FOR THE DISSEMINATION OF PARTISAN PRINCIPLES NOR FOR THE PROMOTION OF THE CANDIDACY OF ANY PERSON OR GROUP SEEKING PUBLIC OFFICE OR PREFERMENT.

SECTION 3: THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION, DETACHMENT OF LOUISIANA AND ALL DISTRICTS IN THE DETACHMENT OF LOUISIANA AND ALL SQUADRONS IN THE DETACHMENT OF LOUISIANA SHALL BE ABSOLUTELY NON-SECTARIAN.

SECTION 4: EACH MEMBER SHALL PERFORM HIS FULL DUTY AS A CITIZEN ACCORDING TO HIS OWN CONSCIENCE AND UNDERSTANDING IN ACCORD WITH THE LAW.

ARTICLE III: (ORGANIZATION)

SECTION 1: THE LOCAL UNIT OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION, DETACHMENT OF LOUISIANA IS THE SQUADRON LOCATED IN A DISTRICT, AS DEFINED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF LOUISIANA. THE DETACHMENT OF LOUISIANA SHALL HAVE JURISDICTION OVER ALL DISTRICTS AND SQUADRONS IN THE GEOGRAPHICAL AREA OF LOUISIANA SUBJECT TO SUCH LIMITATIONS AS MAY BE PRESCRIBED BY THE DETACHMENT OF LOUISIANA.

SECTION 2: SQUADRONS OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION, DETACHMENT OF LOUISIANA SHALL BE ORGANIZED UNDER THE JURISDICTION AND SPONSORSHIP OF A LOCAL POST IN THE DEPARTMENT OF LOUISIANA AND SHALL BEAR THE NAME AND NUMBER OF SUCH SPONSORING POST. THE SQUADRON SHALL MAINTAIN ITS HEADQUARTERS IN THE SAME LOCATION AS THAT OF THE SPONSORING POST.

SECTION 3: THE LEGISLATIVE BODY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION IN THE DETACHMENT OF LOUISIANA SHALL BE ORGANIZED UNDER THE JURISDICTION AND SPONSORSHIP OF THE LOCAL AMERICAN LEGION DISTRICTS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF LOUISIANA AND SHALL BEAR THE NAME AND NUMBER OF SUCH SPONSORING AMERICAN LEGION DISTRICTS.

SECTION 4: THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION, DETACHMENT OF LOUISIANA SHALL BE GOVERNED BY SUCH RULES AND REGULATIONS AS MAY BE PRESCRIBED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LOUISIANA AND NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

ARTICLE IV: (ELIGIBILITY)

SECTION 1: ELIGIBILITY FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION, DETACHMENT OF LOUISIANA SHALL BE GOVERNED BY THE

Unanimously approved at the 31st Detachment Convention, June 11, 2005; Sentence structure 2 change Article VIII June 12, 2010; Quorum change approved June 3013; DC 2014-01 Eligibility documentation July 27, 2014; DC 2015-02 Dues changed to \$8, approved June 2015. Approved by The American Legion's DEC, July 2015.

PROVISIONS OF THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION OF SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION.

SECTION 2: THERE SHALL BE NO FORM OF MEMBERSHIP EXCEPT ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP.

ARTICLE V: (LEGISLATIVE BODY)

SECTION 1: THE LEGISLATIVE BODY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION, DETACHMENT OF LOUISIANA SHALL BE THE DETACHMENT CONVENTION TO BE HELD ANNUALLY IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF LOUISIANA CONVENTION. ALL ACTS OF THE DETACHMENT CONVENTION ARE SUBJECT TO RATIFICATION BY THE DEPARTMENT OF LOUISIANA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

SECTION 2: THE DETACHMENT ADJUTANT OF THE DETACHMENT OF LOUISIANA SHALL ISSUE A CALL TO THE DETACHMENT CONVENTION TO EACH SQUADRON, PAST DETACHMENT COMMANDER AND CURRENT DETACHMENT OFFICERS NOT LESS THAN FORTY (40) DAYS PRIOR TO THE OPENING DAY OF THE DETACHMENT CONVENTION.

SECTION 3: IN THE DETACHMENT CONVENTION EACH SQUADRON SHALL BE ENTITLED TO ONE (1) DELEGATE FOR CHARTER AND ONE (1) ADDITIONAL DELEGATE FOR EACH 10 MEMBERS OR MAJOR FRACTION THEREOF, WHOSE CURRENT DUES HAVE BEEN RECEIVED BY THE DEPARTMENT FINANCE OFFICER THIRTY (30) DAYS PRIOR TO THE DETACHMENT CONVENTION AND ONE (1) PER DELEGATE.

SECTION 4: EACH DULY REGISTERED DELEGATE SHALL BE ENTITLED TO ONE (1) VOTE. THE VOTE OF ANY REGISTERED DELEGATE ABSENT AND NOT REPRESENTED BY AN ALTERNATE SHALL BE CAST BY THE MAJORITY OF THE DELEGATES PRESENT FROM HIS SQUADRON. ALTERNATES FOR REGISTERED DELEGATES SHALL HAVE THE PRIVILEGES OF REGISTERED DELEGATES EXCEPT THAT OF VOTING. A REGISTERED DELEGATE IS ONE WHO HAS RECEIVED HIS CREDENTIALS AND HAS PAID SUCH REGISTRATION FEE AS MAY BE REQUIRED.

SECTION 5: DELEGATES FROM TWENTY PERCENT (20%) OF THE SQUADRONS IN THE DETACHMENT SHOWING MEMBERSHIP (30) THIRTY DAYS PRIOR TO THE DETACHMENT CONVENTION, BESIDES A PRESIDING OFFICER SHALL CONSTITUTE A QUORUM.

SECTION 6: THE DETACHMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SHALL PROVIDE A UNIFORM CODE OF PROCEDURE FOR THE ORDERLY ORGANIZATION AND OPERATION OF THE DETACHMENT CONVENTION WITH CONTINUING POWER OF THE REVISION AND SAID CODE SHALL BE APPLICABLE AT ALL DETACHMENT CONVENTIONS UNLESS IT IS AMENDED, SUSPENDED OR REPEALED BY (2/3) TWO-

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THIRDS VOTE OF THE REGISTERED DELEGATES AT A DETACHMENT CONVENTION.

SECTION 7: THERE WILL BE A REGISTRATION FEE FOR ALL DETACHMENT DELEGATES, ALTERNATES AND GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE AT THE CONVENTION EQUAL TO THAT AMOUNT SET BY THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT CONVENTION COMMITTEE, EQUAL TO THAT AMOUNT CHARGED FOR ALL LEGIONNAIRE'S AND AUXILIARE'S.

SECTION 8: ALL PAST DETACHMENT COMMANDERS AND ALL ELECTED OFFICERS SHALL BE EXOFFICIO DELEGATES TO THE DETACHMENT CONVENTION WITH HIS VOTE TO BE EXERCISED WITH HIS SQUADRON PROVIDED HE IS ON THE FLOOR. THE DETACHMENT ADVISOR SHALL BE AN EXOFFICIO DELEGATE TO THE DETACHMENT CONVENTION WITH HIS VOTE TO BE EXERCISED WITH HIS SQUADRON PROVIDED THAT HE IS A MEMBER OF A SQUADRON IN THE DETACHMENT OF LOUISIANA. A DETACHMENT ADVISOR NOT A MEMBER OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION SHALL HAVE A VOICE BUT NO VOTE.

ARTICLE VI: (DETACHMENT OFFICERS)

SECTION 1: THE DETACHMENT CONVENTION SHALL ELECT A DETACHMENT COMMANDER, (2) TWO DETACHMENT VICE COMMANDERS, NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN, ALTERNATE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN, DETACHMENT CHAPLAIN, DETACHMENT SGT-AT-ARMS, AND (2) TWO DETACHMENT COLOR BEARERS. NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN AND THE ALTERNATE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN SHALL SERVE FROM THE CLOSING OF THE NEXT NATIONAL CONVENTION FOLLOWING THEIR ELECTION UNTIL THE CLOSE OF THE FOLLOWING NATIONAL COVENTION. ALL REMAINING OFFICERS SHALL SERVE UNTIL THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE NEXT SUCCEEDING DETACHMENT CONVENTION FOLLOWING THEIR ELECTION AND THEREAFTER UNTIL THEIR SUCCESSORS ARE CHOSEN. VACANCIES IN THESE OFFICERS OCCURING BETWEEN DETACHMENT CONVENTIONS SHALL BE FILLED BY ELECTION BY THE DETACHMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND FOR THIS PURPOSE A MAIL BALLOT MAY BE TAKEN. ANY MEMBER IN THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION FROM DETACHMENT OF LOUISIANA, IN GOOD STANDING, SHALL BE ELIGIBLE FOR ELECTION TO SUCH VACANCY.

SECTION 2: OFFICES ELECTED TO SERVE AS COMMANDER, VICE-COMMANDER, NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN AND ALTERNATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN MUST PROVIDE DOCUMENTATION TO PROVE THEIR ELIGIBILITY WITHIN 30 DAYS OF ELECTION.

SECTION 3: THE DETACHMENT COMMANDER BY AND WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE DETACHMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, SHALL APPOINT A DETACHMENT

Unanimously approved at the 31st Detachment Convention, June 11, 2005; Sentence structure 4 change Article VIII June 12, 2010; Quorum change approved June 3013; DC 2014-01 Eligibility documentation July 27, 2014; DC 2015-02 Dues changed to \$8, approved June 2015. Approved by The American Legion's DEC, July 2015.

ADJUTANT WHO SHALL ALSO SERVE AS DETACHMENT FINANCE OFFICER, ASSISTANT DETACHMENT ADJUTANT, DETACHMENT JUDGE ADVOCATE, DETACHMENT HISTORIAN, AIDE TO THE COMMANDER AS ARE DEEMED NECESSARY AND/OR DESIRABLE. SUCH OFFICERS SHALL SERVE AT THE PLEASURE OF THE APPOINTING POWER.

SECTION 4: THE DETACHMENT OF LOUISIANA SHALL RECOGNIZE AN INDIVIDUAL OR INDIVIDUALS DESIGNATED BY THE DEPARTMENT COMMANDER AS DETACHMENT ADVISOR OR ADVISORS. THE DETACHMENT ADVISOR OR ADVISORS MUST BE A MEMBER OF AN AMERICAN LEGION POST IN THE DEPARTMENT OF LOUISIANA AND, IF POSSIBLE A MEMBER OF A SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION SQUADRON IN THE DETACHMENT OF LOUISIANA. THE DETACHMENT ADVISOR OR ADVISORS SHALL BE EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS OF ALL COMMITTEES OR COMMISSIONS OF THE DETACHMENT OF LOUISIANA.

SECTION 5: THE DEPARTMENT COMMANDER AND THE DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LOUISIANA AND STAFF MEMBERS AT THE DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ROUTINE ADMINISTRATIVE WORK FOR THE DETACHMENT OF LOUISIANA. THE DEPARTMENT COMMANDER AND THE DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT SHALL BE RECOGNIZED AS EXOFFICIO ADVISORS OF THE DETACHMENT OF LOUISIANA.

SECTION 6: IN FULFILLING THEIR DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES THE DETACHMENT OFFICERS SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE TO THE DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OR TO A SUBORDINATE BODY DESIGNATED BY THE DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

ARTICLE VII: (MID-WINTER CONFERENCE)

SECTION 1: DETACHMENT OF LOUISIANA SHALL CONDUCT AN ANNUAL MID-WINTER CONFERENCE WHICH SHALL TAKE PLACE AT THE SAME LOCATION AND SAME TIME AS THE LOUISIANA AMERICAN LEGION MID-WINTER CONFERENCE.

SECTION 2: THE DETACHMENT ADJUTANT OF THE DETACHMENT OF LOUISIANA SHALL ISSUE A CALL TO THE MID-WINTER CONFERENCE TO EACH SQUADRON, PAST DETACHMENT COMMANDER AND CURRENT DETACHMENT OFFICERS NOT LESS THAN FORTY (40) DAYS PRIOR TO THE OPENING DAY OF THE MID-WINTER CONFERENCE.

SECTION 3: MEMBERS FROM TWENTY PERCENT (20%) OF THE SQUADRONS IN THE DETACHMENT WHO HAVE ACTIVELY REPORTED MEMBERSHIP FOR THE PRESENT CALENDAR YEAR, BESIDES A QUALIFIED PRESIDING OFFICER SHALL CONSTITUTE A QUORUM.

Unanimously approved at the 31st Detachment Convention, June 11, 2005; Sentence structure 5 change Article VIII June 12, 2010; Quorum change approved June 3013; DC 2014-01 Eligibility documentation July 27, 2014; DC 2015-02 Dues changed to \$8, approved June 2015. Approved by The American Legion's DEC, July 2015.

SECTION 4: THE DETACHMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SHALL PROVIDE A UNIFORM CODE OF PROCEDURE FOR THE ORDERLY ORGANIZATION OF THE MID-WINTER CONFERENCE WITH CONTINUING POWER AND SAID CODE SHALL BE APPLICABLE AT ALL MID-WINTER CONFERENCES UNLESS IT IS AMENDED, SUSPENDED OR REPEALED BY A (2/3) TWO-THIRDS VOTE OF THE DETACHMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

SECTION 5: THERE WILL BE A REGISTRATION FEE EQUAL TO THAT AMOUNT SET BY THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT CONVENTION COMMITTEE, EQUAL TO THAT AMOUNT CHARGED ALL LEGIONNAIRE'S AND AUXILIARE'S.

ARTICLE VIII: (DETACHMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE)

SECTION 1: THE DETACHMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SHALL MEET IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THE DETACHMENT MID WINTER CONFERENCE AND CONVENTION TO DEAL WITH ANY MATTERS PERTINENT TO THAT CONVENTION/CONFERENCE. THE DETACHMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SHALL MEET AFTER THE CONVENTION WITH THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO APPROVE THE BUDGET FOR NEXT FISCAL YEAR, APPROVE COMMITTEE AND COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS AND ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT MAY COME BEFORE IT. BETWEEN DETACHMENT CONVENTIONS THE ADMINISTRATIVE POWERS SHALL BE VESTED IN THE DETACHMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, THE MEMBERSHIP OF WHICH SHALL BE COMPOSED OF THE JUNIOR PAST COMMANDER, THE ELECTED DETACHMENT OFFICERS, ALL SQUADRON COMMANDERS OF THE DETACHMENT OF LOUISIANA AND THE DETACHMENT ADVISOR, PROVIDER THE ADVISOR IS A MEMBER OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION. ALL PAST DETACHMENT COMMANDERS AND ALL APPOINTED OFFICERS WILL BE NON-VOTING MEMBERS OF THE DETACHMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

SECTION 2: (7) SEVEN VOTING MEMBERS, BESIDES A PRESIDING OFFICER SHALL CONSTITUTE A QUORUM AT ANY DETACHMENT EXECUTIVE MEETING.

SECTION 3: THE DETACHMENT EXECUTIVE WITHOUT MEETING MAY TRANSACT BUSINESS BY MAIL OR BY TELEPHONE ON MATTERS OF URGENCY NOT INVOLVING NEW POLICY AND ON WHICH ACTION CANNOT BE DELAYED UNTIL THE REGULAR MEETING. THE DETACHMENT ADJUTANT SHALL NOTIFY THE DETACHMENT COMMANDER AND THE DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT OF THE RESULTS OF THE VOTE TAKEN. THE DETACHMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MAY ALSO MEET ON THE CALL OF THE DETACHMENT COMMANDER OR ON THE WRITTEN REQUEST OF AT LEAST (5) FIVE MEMBERS OF THE DETACHMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AT ANY TIME DURING THE YEAR FOR SUFFICIENT REASON TO IT APPEARING.

ARTICLE IX: (SQUADRON ORGANIZATION)

Unanimously approved at the 31st Detachment Convention, June 11, 2005; Sentence structure 6 change Article VIII June 12, 2010; Quorum change approved June 3013; DC 2014-01 Eligibility documentation July 27, 2014; DC 2015-02 Dues changed to \$8, approved June 2015. Approved by The American Legion's DEC, July 2015.

SECTION 1: SQUADRONS IN THE DETACHMENT OF LOUISIANA SHALL BE ORGANIZED ACCORDING TO THE APPROPRIATE ARTICLE IN THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION.

ARTICLE X: (DISTRICT ORGANIZATION)

DISTRICTS IN THE DETACHMENT OF LOUISIANA SHALL BE ORGANIZED ACCORDING TO THE APPROPRIATE ARTICLE IN THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION.

ARTICLE XI: (FINANCES)

SECTION 1: THE REVENUE OF THE DETACHMENT OF LOUISIANA SHALL BE DERIVED FROM ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES AND FROM SUCH OTHER SOURCES AS MAY BE APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE AMERICAN LEGION.

SECTION 2: THE AMOUNT OF SUCH ANNUAL DUES SHALL BE \$8.00 (1/1/16), WHICH SHALL INCLUDE THE ANNUAL DUES OF THE NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION AND THAT \$1.00 OF THIS INCREASE BE USED IN THE OPERATING BUDGET AND \$1.00 OF THIS AMOUNT BE BANKED IN THE INVESTMENT ACCOUNT UNTIL IT IS EITHER USED TO ADDRESS AN INCREASE IN PER CAPITA DUES FROM NATIONAL OR VOTED UPON BY THE DETACHMENT CONVENTION TO ALLOCATE USE OF THIS \$1.00 TO SOME OTHER AREA.

SECTION 3: DETACHMENT AND NATIONAL DUES SHALL BE TRANSMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT FINANCE OFFICER OF THE AMERICAN LEGION WHO WILL TRANSMIT THE NATIONAL DUES TO THE NATIONAL TREASURER OF THE AMERICAN LEGION. DETACHMENT DUES AND ALL OTHER DETACHMENT FUNDS SHALL REMAIN IN THE CUSTODY OF THE DEPARTMENT FINANCE OFFICER AND SHALL BE ACCOUNTED FOR SEPARATELY FROM OTHER FUNDS OF THE DEPARTMENT.

ARTICLE XII: (AMENDMENTS)

SECTION 1: THIS CONSTITUTION IS ADOPTED, SUBJECT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION OF WHICH THIS DETACHMENT IS A SUBORDINATE MEMBER. ANY AMENDMENT TO THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION, WHICH IS IN CONFLICT WITH ANY PROVISION HEREOF, SHALL BE REGARDED AS AUTOMATICALLY REPEALING OR MODIFYING THE PROVISIONS OF THIS CONSTITUTION, TO THE EXTENT OF SUCH CONFLICT.

SECTION 2: THIS CONSTITUTION MAY BE AMENDED AT ANY DETACHMENT CONVENTION BY AFFIRMATIVE VOTE OF (2/3) TWO-THIRDS OF THE REGISTERED

Unanimously approved at the 31st Detachment Convention, June 11, 2005; Sentence structure 7 change Article VIII June 12, 2010; Quorum change approved June 3013; DC 2014-01 Eligibility documentation July 27, 2014; DC 2015-02 Dues changed to \$8, approved June 2015. Approved by The American Legion's DEC, July 2015.

DELEGATES PRESENT, PROVIDED, THAT THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT SHALL HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED IN WRITING AND DISTRIBUTED AT LEAST (12) TWELVE HOURS PRECEDING THE VOTING, SUBJECT TO THE RATIFICATION OF THE DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE AMERICAN LEGION.

FORREST TRAVIRCA
DEPARTMENT JUDGE ADVOCATE 2015-2016

DANNY T. McARTHUR
DETACHMENT COMMANDER 2014-2015

JOHN C. LAWRENCE
DETACHMENT COMMANDER 2015-2016

CAMILLE A. LeJEUNE JR.
DETACHMENT ADJUTANT 2014-2015, 2015-2016

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- ORIGINAL COPY FOR DETACHMENT RECORDS
- ORIGINAL COPY FOR NATIONAL S.A.L. RECORDS

Unanimously approved at the 31st Detachment Convention, June 11, 2005; Sentence structure 8 change Article VIII June 12, 2010; Quorum change approved June 3013; DC 2014-01 Eligibility documentation July 27, 2014; DC 2015-02 Dues changed to \$8, approved June 2015. Approved by The American Legion's DEC, July 2015.