

## THE AMERICAN LEGION'S LEGISLATIVE OBJECTIVES FOR 2007

The following list of 235 short-titled resolutions from the 2006 National Convention and the Fall NEC Meeting (indicated with the suffix F) comprise The American Legion's legislative program for the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress.

### AMERICANISM

- 2 Support the Pledge of Allegiance
- 48F Amend the Flag Code
- 326 Eliminate Damages and Attorney Fees in Establishment Clause Lawsuits
- 336 Fully Fund Internal Security of the United States
- 337 Declare English be as the Official Language
- 338 Return Patriotic Holidays to Traditional Dates
- 339 Require English Language be used in Naturalization Ceremonies
- 340 Combating Illegal Aliens
- 341 Support for Immigration Reform
- 342 Support for Injured or Disabled Non-Citizen Veterans Applying for Naturalization
- 343 Support School Prayer
- 344 Support Constitutional Amendment to Protect the US Flag
- 345 Oppose Foreign Manufacture of Flags of the US
- 346 Oppose Conscientious Objectors Tax Diversion
- 347 Oppose Changes to "Title V of the Immigration and Nationality Act"
- 348 Oppose Amnesty for Illegal Immigrants
- 349 Oppose Financial Aid for Illegal Alien Students
- 350 Support Reform of the Student Visa System
- 351 Immigration Policy for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century
- 352 Amend the "Temporary Protected Status" Portion of the Immigration Act of 1990
- 353 Tracking Arrival and Departure of Foreign Visitors
- 354 Support Fairness for Immigrant Spouses
- 355 Support Reform of the Non-Immigrant Visa Program
- 356 Oppose Changes to Oath of Renunciation and Allegiance
- 357 Prohibit use of Foreign-Issued Forms of Identification
- 358 Oppose Dual Allegiance; Enforce Citizenship Oath
- 359 Call for Action on Illegal Immigration Issue
- 360 Urge DoD to Reverse its Current Policy on The Boy Scouts of America
- 362 A Plan to Reduce the Illegal Population in the US

### CHILDREN & YOUTH

- 44F Legion Policy Statement on Family
  - 317 Improve Foster Care Funding for Children
  - 318 Provide Equal Admission of Children of US Citizens
  - 319 Support Financial Assistance for Children with Catastrophic Illness
  - 320 Provide Adequate Child Care Services
  - 321 Legion Policy on Ending Child Maltreatment
- ### CHILDREN & YOUTH – CONT'D
- 322 Promote and Fund Adequate Child Safety Programs

- 323 Increase Penalties for using Children in Pornographic Literature
- 324 Provide Comprehensive Health Care for Children and Youth
- 325 Adequate Funding to Stop Drug Trafficking
- 327 Support Adequate Funding for NCMEC and other Missing Children Programs
- 328 Establish "National Family Week"
- 329 Maintain Current Penalties for Production, Sale and Distribution of Obscene Literature
- 330 Protect Children from the Unrestricted Media
- 331 Reaffirm Immunization Program
- 332 Support School Nutrition Program
- 333 Support Legislation that Prevents Investigates, and Prosecutes Child Sexual Exploitation
- 334 Support Legislation that Reduces or Prevents Teen Pregnancy
- 335 Support for the Rights of People with Intellectual Disabilities

### ECONOMICS

- 10 Support Reinstating Veterans Entrepreneur Training Program
- 15 Support Reinstatement of Funding for Veterans Upward Bound
- 16 Support Expanding Work Opportunity Tax Credit
- 17 Allow Military Retirees to Apply for Positions in Federal Law Enforcement after Age 37
- 20 Oppose DVOP/LVER Personnel to Work on Public Assistance Related Programs
- 23 Support for the Transition Assistance Program (TAP)
- 24 Support for Service Members Occupational Conversion and Training Act (SMOCTA)
- 38F Delimiting Date for Using the Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB)
- 39F Support Major Enhancements MGIB
- 39 Support Exemption of Federal Tax on Saving Bonds for Wartime Veterans
- 40F Support Major Enhancements to the MGIB
- 40 Support Extension of the President's National Hire Veterans Committee
- 41 Support Providing Payment of Death Benefit if MGIB is not used
- 42 Support Legislation for Activated Reservists
- 43 Support Adding Active Reservists to those Eligible for certain Job Training Services
- 45 Declare "Hire a Veteran Week" during Veterans' Day

### **ECONOMICS – CONT'D**

- 47 Support Job Protection for Service-Connected Disabled Veterans Requiring Visits at VA Facilities
- 127 Reaffirm Support of the Small Business Administration's Office of Veterans' Business Development
- 129 Support the Small Business Loan Program in VA
- 158 Support Increasing Small Business Opportunities for Veterans
- 161 Federal Procurements and Contracts for Veteran Owned Businesses
- 200 Support Priority of Service for Veterans in all State Employment
- 203 Require Veterans Employment and Training Service (VETS) to Hire Veterans
- 204 Support Improvements of VETS Performance Standards
- 206 Oppose the Transfer of VETS to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)
- 207 Oppose Consolidation of Employment Service Program and Veterans Employment Program into the WIA Programs
- 209 Oppose any Weakening of DVOP and LVER Programs
- 210 Restore Oversight of VETS Programs
- 212 Support the National Veterans' Training Institute (NVTI)
- 213 Urge State Employment Security Agencies to Report Veterans' Wages at Placement
- 231 Support Adequate Funding for the LVER and DVOP
- 232 Oppose the Job Loss of Veterans with the Proposed Outsourcing of Federal Jobs in the Federal Government
- 233 Request Employment and Training Administration to Develop a Data Collection System to Monitor Veterans' Priority of Service
- 234 Support Veterans' Preference in Public Employment
- 241 Raise Ceiling on VA Home Loans for Two Legally Married Eligible Veterans
- 246 Support allowing Veterans to Pay Existing Education Loans with MGIB Benefits
- 293 Support Staffing LVERS, as required by Law
- 368 Support Employment of Veterans in Government Workforce
- 369 Support Reimbursement for Correspondence and Distance Learning Courses
- 370 Amend Supporting Internal Revenue Code for Qualified Veterans Definition
- 371 Support Housing Preference for Low-Income Veterans in the HUD
- 372 Support Major Enhancements for the MGIB
- 373 Support Licensure and Certification of Active-Duty Service Personnel

### **ECONOMICS – CONT'D**

- 374 Support Funding for Homeless Programs

- 375 Support Homestead Privilege for Veterans
- 376 Support Veterans Hiring Preference from Employers with Federal Contracts or Grants
- 377 Support the Development of Veterans Opportunities
- 378 Support Tax Credits for Certain Employers
- 379 Reaffirm Support for the Home Loan Guaranty Program
- 380 Support Recognition of Military Service and Pay when Calculating Starting Federal Civilian Salaries
- 381 Credit Service of Military Retirees towards Federal Employment Benefits

### **FOREIGN RELATIONS**

- 3 Legion Policy Regarding the Republic of Korea
- 5 Legion Policy for Taiwan
- 26 Legion Policy for DPMO Interagency Coordination
- 27 Legion Policy for Vietnam Underwater Recovery
- 28 Legion Policy Regarding Vietnam POW/MIA Objectives
- 29 Support to Increase Funding for the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command
- 34 Support Middle East/Gulf States Foreign Policies
- 35 Legion Priorities in POW/MIA Policies
- 36 Legion Policy on United Nations
- 37 Support Vietnam Human Rights
- 41 Support for Foreign Exchange Education Programs
- 42 Support Global Trade Policies
- 120 Legion Policy on Africa
- 121 Legion Foreign Policy Objectives
- 122 Support Taiwan Defense Arm Sales
- 123 Support Enhanced Funding for USAID
- 124 Support for US-Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIAs
- 185 Legion Policy on Cuban
- 187 Legion Policy on Latin American Drug Interdiction
- 188 Support Promotion on Central America's Democracy
- 191 Support Social Security Benefits for Non-Resident Alien Spouse and Dependents

### **INTERNAL AFFAIRS**

- 6 Support the National Moment of Remembrance

### **NATIONAL SECURITY**

- 9 Legion Policy on Domestic Energy and Production
- 11 Legion Policy on Recycling Spent Nuclear Fuel Rods
- 13 Legion Policy on Alternative Energy Sources
- 18 Support Energy Conservation
- 19 Legion Policy on Nuclear Energy and Nuclear Waste
- 70 Support for the US Air Force
- 71 Support Funding for National Aeronautics and Space Administration Budgets

## NATIONAL SECURITY – CONT'D

- 72 Support The National Space Program
- 73 Support Aeronautical and Space Exploration
- 78 Support Policy on Total Force
- 79 Support Funding for the Military Commissaries
- 81 Legion's National Security Principles
- 82 Support the Second Amendment
- 83 Oppose Foreign Investments in American Defense Industries
- 84 Support for Rebuilding America's Defense Industrial Base
- 85 Support Adequate Funding for the American Battle Monuments Commission
- 86 Support Combating Cyberspace Threats
- 87 Support Ensuring a Strong National Defense
- 88 Support The Uniformed Services University of the Health Services
- 89 Support Buying American Goods
- 90 Support National Missile Defense System
- 91 Support The Armed Forces Retirement Homes
- 92 Support Transformation of the Armed Forces
- 93 Support and Appreciation for the Armed Forces and their Families
- 94 Support Funding Homeland Security
- 95 Support for Homeland Security and the War on Terrorism
- 96 Support for the Non-Federal Roles of the National Guard
- 97 Legion Policy in Homeland Security
- 98 Support The Citizen Corps
- 99 Support Financial Anti-Terrorism Law Enforcement
- 100 Support Combating Crime in America
- 102 Support for the Jones Maritime Act and Related Cabotage Law
- 103 Support Commercial Shipbuilding for Defense
- 104 Support Full Funding for Department of Defense Healthcare for Military Beneficiaries
- 105 Support Listing of Veterans Service Organizations for Discharging Service Members
- 106 Support Military Funeral Honors
- 107 Support Reducing the Reserve Retirement Age
- 108 Support Military Quality of Life
- 109 Legion's Position on the Department of Defense Force Health Protection Program
- 112 Support for the Selective Service System Registration Program
- 113 Support Tricare Eligibility for Members of the Reserve Components
- 114 Support Reforming the Military Absentee Voting System
- 115 Support Codifying Burial Eligibility for Arlington National Cemetery
- 116 Support Status of Forces Agreements
- 117 Support Concurrent Receipt of Military Retired Pay and Severance Pays and Disability Compensation for Disabled Retirees

## NATIONAL SECURITY – CONT'D

- 118 Support Fully Funding the US Navy and Marine Corps
- 119 Support the US Coast Guard in Homeland Security
- 153 Requesting Military Funeral Honors
- 169 Support for the War on Terrorism
- 229 Oppose Proposed Tricare Fee Increases
- 367 Support Boots on the Ground – The US Army

## VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION

- 1F Oppose any changes in Scheduling of the National Commander's Annual Congressional Testimony
- 4F Support Legislation to Grant Filipino WW II Veterans Equal VA Benefits
- 5F Support Including Pension and Death Pension as Exclusions to the Minimum Active Duty Statute
- 6F Support for the Commission on Future for America's Veterans
- 7F Legion Policy on VA Information Technology Management
- 30 Support the Automatic Waiver of Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) Debts of \$250 or Less
- 51F Legion Position on Attorney Representation Before the VA
- 62 Request Congress provide the VA Adequate Funding for Medical and Prosthetic Research
- 63 Oppose any Reduction of Eligibility Criteria for VA Per Diem Payments to State Veterans Homes
- 64 Support Presumption of Service Connection for Hepatitis C
- 65 Legion Policy on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses
- 66 Improve the Disability and Death Pension Program
- 67 Legion Policy Regarding Community-Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCS)
- 130 Recognize Operations in Lebanon (1958), Grenada (1983) and Panama (1989-1990) as Periods of War for Department of VA Pension Purposes
- 131 Support Clarification of "Service in the Republic of Vietnam" for the Purpose of Agent Orange Presumption
- 132 Legion Policy on Radiation
- 133 Support Providing Full Funding for the VA Construction Program
- 134 Legion Policy on Prostate Cancer Research and Treatment
- 135 Support Medicare Reimbursement for the VA
- 136 Support Revision of Work-Rate Standards for VA Adjudicators
- 138 Support Legislation to Place Mariner Medal Recipients in Priority Group 3 for VA Health Care
- 139 Legion Policy on VA Nursing Home Capacity
- 141 Support Enactment of The GI Bill of Health
- 142 Amend the Eligibility Requirements and Extend the Eligibility Time Period for Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance
- 143 Legion Policy on the State Veterans Home Program

**VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION –**

**CONT'D**

- 145 Policy on VA National Service Life Insurance
- 146 Legion Policy on VA Pharmacy Benefits
- 147 Support Open-Ended Presumptive Period for Undiagnosed Illnesses for Gulf War Veterans
- 148 Legion Policy on VA Mental Health Services
- 149 Legion Position on Attorney Representation before the VA
- 150 Policy on Opening the Federal Supply Schedule for Pharmaceuticals to Medicare and Medicaid
- 214 Support Including WW II Veterans in Priority Group 6 for VA Health Care
- 218 Support the Establishment of Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) as a Gulf War Presumptive Disease
- 219 Legion Policy on the Correction of Military Records
- 221 Support Granting all Veterans “Wartime” Benefits for Active Military Service between February 28, 1961, and August 5, 1964
- 238 Support Exempting Certain Income from VA Pension Rate Determination
- 239 Support Exempting Enrolled Purple Heart Recipients from VA Prescription Co-Payment
- 240 Support Increasing the Maximum Coverage under the Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance Program
- 242 Support Removing the Specific Date to Award Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) Benefits to Surviving Spouses of Former Prisoners of War
- 243 Support allowing Beneficiaries to Retain \$90 of their Benefits while in Medicaid-Covered Nursing Homes
- 244 Support Reducing the Number of YearS of One-Hundred Percent (100%) Service Connection required for DIC Purposes
- 245 Support Amending Title 38, United States Code, to increase the Special Monthly Compensation (K) Award
- 252 Support Extending the Filing Period of an Appeal Notice to the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims
- 253 Support VA Role in National Emergency Preparedness
- 254 Legion Policy on Assured Funding for VA Medical Care
- 255 Legion Policy on VA Compensation
- 256 Support Presumptive Medical Care for Persian Gulf War Veterans
- 257 Legion Policy on Former Prisoners of War (POW)
- 262 Legion Policy on Agent Orange
- 265 Oppose Legislation Authorizing Legion-Accredited Representatives to Develop Claims for VA
- 270 Support Exempting VA Benefits and Services from Pay-Go Provisions
- 272 Oppose Increased Co-payments and an Enrollment Fee for Priority Group 7 and 8 Veterans to Receive VA Health Care
- 274 Legion Policy on Tobacco-Related Disabilities
- 299 Oppose Lump-Sum Payments of VA Disability Compensation
- 310 Support Protecting Disability Rating after Ten Years
- 311 Support Extending Presumptive Period for ALS to Seven Years
- 312 Support VA Involvement in the Homeland Security
- 313 Legion Policy on the National Cemetery Administration
- 314 Support Restoring and Increasing Burial and Plot Allowance
- 363 Prevent Veterans Disability Benefits Commission from Subjecting Veterans’ Benefits to Social Security System
- 364 Support VA Compliance with Existing Information Security
- 365 Support Effort of Indiana-Ohio Center for Traumatic Amputation Rehabilitation

**VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION –**

**CONT'D**