

## **Issue: Support for Homeless Veterans Programs**

Resolution No. 357, 360, 362 – 2008 National Convention

### Message Points:

- The American Legion will seek and support any legislative or administrative proposal that will provide medical, rehabilitative and employment assistance to homeless veterans and their families.
- The American Legion will urge Congress to provide adequate resources to ensure the future of the Health Care for Homeless Veterans Program, the Homeless Domiciliary Program and the Compensated Work Therapy Rehabilitation Program.
- The American Legion supports funding for vouchers for the HUD-VASH program be set aside and transferred to the VA Secretary from amounts made available for rental assistance under the Housing Choice Voucher program.
- The American Legion supports the creation of a program by Congress for returning veterans similar to Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH), for housing upon return from mobilization for 180 days.

## **Issue: Support Small Business Services for America's Veteran Entrepreneurs**

Resolution No. 220,221,222,223,353,361,363 – 2008 National Convention, 31- 2008  
Fall NEC

### Message Points:

- The American Legion supports the efforts of the Small Business Administration's Office of Veterans' Business Development in its initiatives to provide enhanced outreach to veterans.
- The American Legion will seek legislation that would permit the Office of Veterans' Business Development to enter into contracts, grants, and cooperative agreements to further its goals.
- The American Legion supports the Small Business Administration's efforts to provide entrepreneurial information to all service members who are separating from the military.
- The American Legion supports funding of veteran business development assistance to assist Federal agencies in reaching their 3% veteran procurement goals.
- The American Legion seeks to develop a user-friendly veteran procurement database for use by all Federal government agencies
- The American Legion supports the Federal government and the Department of Defense in utilizing its available technology to create, fund and support a veteran procurement-spending database within the Department of Defense that would finally bring veteran-owned and service-disabled veteran-owned businesses on equal footing with all other small business special interest groups when it comes to Federal procurement opportunities.
- The American Legion encourages the Congress of the United States to require a reasonable set-aside of federal procurements and contracts for businesses owned and operated by Veterans and for those Veteran businesses affected by base closings and reduction in our military forces.
- The American Legion supports the Small Business Administration and Congress in making funding available to reinstate the Veteran's Entrepreneur Training Program grants to help those who are in need to return to productive civilian professions.

Economics (202) 263-2989  
October 2008

## **Issue: Support Transitioning Service Members and Department of Labor Veterans and Employment Training Service**

Resolution No. 31,264,276,348,349 – 2008 National Convention

### Message Points:

- The American Legion supports full funding and staffing for the Veterans' Employment and Training Service and its effective programs.
- The American Legion supports legislation that will restore language to Chapter 41, Title 38 that require that half time DVOP/LVER positions be assigned only after approval of the DVET, and that the Secretary of Labor be required to monitor all career centers that have veteran staff assigned.
- The American Legion supports legislation that restores the duties and responsibilities of the Disabled Veterans Outreach Program Specialist and Local Veterans Employment Representative to include case management, outreach to veterans and job development.
- The American Legion opposes the utilization of DVOP/LVER to work with, or process public assistance programs.
- The American Legion supports that the Congress reinforce the mandate of the program to assist veterans with their employment and training needs and whenever possible provide veterans benefit information as a part of their service to the veteran customers.
- The American Legion strongly supports the Transition Assistance Program and the Department of Defense in requiring all separating, active-duty service members, including those from Reserve and National Guard units, be given an opportunity to participate in Transition Assistance Program training not more than 180 days prior to their separation or retirement from the armed forces.
- The American Legion seeks and supports legislation to amend Title 38, United States Code, to require Veterans Employment and Training Service Regional Administrators, State Directors and Assistant State Directors and "other professional staff" under VETS to be veterans of the Armed Services.
- The American Legion seeks and supports a revision of existing Veterans' Employment and Training Service reporting requirements for measuring performance standards and for determining compliance with requirements for providing employment services to veterans.

- The American Legion supports national legislation that will require LVER and DVOP staff to be federal employees and military veterans and serve only veterans, and that the assignment of these positions to local one stop centers be based on veteran populations.
- The American Legion supports legislation that will restore language to Chapter 41, Title 38 that will require that veteran staff serve only veterans, require that half time DVOP/LVER positions be assigned only after approval of the DVET, and that the Secretary of Labor be required to monitor all career centers that have veteran staff assigned.
- The American Legion supports training of newly hired DVOP/LVER staff at NVTI within the first year of employment and that all untrained DVOP/LVER staff within 3 years of hiring at the time of enactment of new legislation must be trained within 1 year.

## **Issue: Support for Veterans Employment**

Resolution No. 9,11,261,262,263,266,267,272,274,275,350,356 – 2008 National Convention

### Message Points:

- The American Legion supports the strongest veterans preference laws possible at all levels of government and opposes any attempt to weaken such laws.
- The American Legion supports Congress establishing “Hire a Veteran Week” during the week of Veterans’ Day in the month of November each year.
- The American Legion encourages the President of the United States to issue an executive order declaring “Hire a Veteran Week” during the week of Veterans’ Day in the month of November each year.
- The American Legion opposes the outsourcing of all Federal Jobs held by veterans and disabled veterans without the protection of Reduction in Force policies and veterans preference.

## **Issue: Veterans Education Benefits**

Resolutions No. 44,352,358 – 2008 National Convention

### Message Points:

- The American Legion urges Congress to move the Montgomery GI Bill-Selected Reserve (MGIB-SR) from Title 10, the United States Code (USC) to Title 38 USC.
- The American Legion supports the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) in having administrative authority for both the MGIB and the MGIB-SR.
- The American Legion supports combining the annual appropriations for the MGIB and the MGIB-SR as one annual appropriation within the VA.
- The American Legion supports VA creating an MGIB-SR participant reimbursement rate adjusted for time spent on Federalization activation, State activation, and normal service for a period not to exceed 36 months.
- The American Legion supports a policy that if a veteran enrolled in the MGIB acquired educational loans prior to enlisting in the Armed Forces, MGIB benefits may be used to repay existing educational loans.
- The American Legion supports a monthly tax-free subsistence allowance indexed for inflation as part of the educational assistance package.
- The American Legion supports enrollment in the MGIB that shall be automatic upon enlistment, however, benefits will not be awarded unless eligibility criteria have been met.
- The American Legion supports policy that if a veteran enrolled in the MGIB becomes eligible for training and rehabilitation under Chapter 31 of Title 38, United States Code, the veteran shall not receive fewer educational benefits than otherwise eligible to receive under MGIB.
- The American Legion supports the paying of monthly benefits directly to an educational institution of all monthly benefits requested by a veteran as an accelerated payment upon meeting the criteria for eligibility for MGIB financial payments.

- The American Legion supports efforts to convince state and federal lawmakers that activated veterans should not be charged interest and penalties for students loans while serving in an activated capacity.
- The American Legion supports full compliance with the Service Members Relief Act by the Department of Education to ensure that penalties and interest do not accrue while the veteran is activated or when the veteran has returned to US and is now a disabled veteran.
- The American Legion supports policy that separating service members and veterans seeking a license or credential must be able to use MGIB educational benefits to pay for the cost of taking any written or practical test or other measuring device.
- The American Legion supports making the Montgomery GI Bill eligibility available to pay for all necessary civilian license and certification examination requirements, including necessary preparatory courses.
- The American Legion supports an effort to amend Title 38 to restore the reimbursement rate for correspondence and distance learning training to 90% of tuition.

## **Issue: Veterans Education Benefits**

Resolutions No. 351, 354, 355,359 – 2008 National Convention, 32 – Fall NEC 2007

### Message Points

- The American Legion supports the creation of a program by Congress for returning veterans that have been mobilized for 180 days.
- The American Legion supports opening eligibility of current spouses of deceased veterans to the VA Home Loan Program.
- The American Legion supports homestead privileges for veterans on a priority basis.
- The American Legion supports legislation to reinstate the Department of Veterans Affairs' Adjustable Rate Mortgage program.
- The American Legion supports the elimination of the VA Home Loan funding fee.

## **Issue: SUPPORT FOR HOMELESS VETERANS PROGRAMS**

Resolution No. 357, 360, 362 – 2008 National Convention

### Message Points:

- The American Legion will seek and support any legislative or administrative proposal that will provide medical, rehabilitative and employment assistance to homeless veterans and their families.
- The American Legion will urge Congress to provide adequate resources to insure the future of the Health Care for Homeless Veterans Program, the Homeless Domiciliary Program and the Compensated Work Therapy Rehabilitation Program.
- The American Legion supports funding for vouchers for the HUD-VASH program be set aside and transferred to the VA Secretary from amounts made available for rental assistance under the Housing Choice Voucher program.
- The American Legion supports the creation of a program by Congress for returning combat veterans similar to Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH), for housing upon return from mobilization for 180 days.

## **Issue: SUPPORT SMALL BUSINESS SERVICES FOR AMERICA'S VETERAN ENTREPRENEURS**

Resolution No. 220,221,222,223,353,361,363 – 2008 National Convention, 31- 2007 Fall NEC

### Message Points:

- The American Legion supports the efforts of the Small Business Administration's Office of Veterans' Business Development in its initiatives to provide enhanced outreach to veterans.
- The American Legion will seek legislation that would permit the Office of Veterans' Business Development to enter into contracts, grants, and cooperative agreements to further its goals.
- The American Legion supports the Small Business Administration's efforts to provide entrepreneurial information to all service members who are separating from the military.
- The American Legion That any veteran business development assistance should include funding to assist Federal agencies in reaching their 5% veteran procurement goals.
- The American Legion seeks to develop a user-friendly veteran procurement database for use by all Federal government agencies
- The American Legion supports that the Federal government and the Department of Defense utilize its available technology to create, fund and support a veteran procurement-spending database within the Department of Defense that would finally bring veteran-owned and service-disabled veteran-owned businesses on equal footing with all other small business special interest groups when it comes to Federal procurement opportunities.
- The American Legion encourages the Congress of the United States to require a reasonable set-aside of federal procurements and contracts for businesses owned and operated by Veterans and for those Veteran businesses affected by base closings and reduction in our military forces.
- The American Legion supports that the Small Business Administration and Congress make funding available to reinstate the Veteran's Entrepreneur Training Program grants to help those who are in need to return to productive civilian professions.

**Issue: SUPPORT TRANSITIONING SERVICE MEMBERS AND  
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR VETERANS AND EMPLOYMENT  
TRAINING SERVICE**

Resolution No. 31,264,276,348,349 – 2008 National Convention

Message Points:

- The American Legion supports full funding and staffing for the Veterans' Employment and Training Service and its effective programs.
- The American Legion supports legislation that will restore language to Chapter 41, Title 38 that require that half time DVOP/LVER positions be assigned only after approval of the DVET, and that the Secretary of Labor be required to monitor all career centers that have veteran staff assigned.
- The American Legion supports legislation that restores the duties and responsibilities of the Disabled Veterans Outreach Program Specialist and Local Veterans Employment Representative to include case management, outreach to veterans and job development.
- The American Legion opposes the utilization of DVOP/LVER to work with, or process public assistance programs.
- The American Legion supports that the Congress reinforce the mandate of the program to assist veterans with their employment and training needs and whenever possible provide veterans benefit information as a part of their service to the veteran customers.
- The American Legion strongly support of the Transition Assistance Program and that the Department of Defense require all separating, active-duty service members, including those from Reserve and National Guard units, be given an opportunity to participate in Transition Assistance Program training not more than 180 days prior to their separation or retirement from the armed forces.
- The American Legion seeks and support legislation to amend Title 38, United States Code, to require Veterans Employment and Training Service Regional Administrators, State Directors and Assistant State Directors and "other professional staff" under VETS to be veterans of the Armed Services.
- The American Legion seeks and supports a revision of existing Veterans' Employment and Training Service reporting requirements for measuring performance standards and for determining compliance with requirements for providing employment services to veterans

- The American Legion supports national legislation that will require LVER and DVOP To be federal employees along with staff be veterans and serve only veterans, and that the assignment of these positions to local one stop centers be based on veteran populations.
- The American Legion supports legislation that will restore language to Chapter 41, Title 38 that will require that veteran staff serve only veterans, require that half time DVOP/LVER positions be assigned only after approval of the DVET, and that the Secretary of Labor be required to monitor all career centers that have veteran staff assigned.
- The American Legion supports that newly hired DVOP/LVER must be trained at NVTI within the first year of employment and that all untrained DVOP/LVER staff within 3 years of hiring at the time of enactment of new legislation must be trained within 1 year.

## **Issue: SUPPORT FOR VETERANS EMPLOYMENT**

Resolution No. 9,11,261,262,263,266,267,272,274,275,350,356 – 2008 National Convention

### Message Points:

- The American Legion supports the strongest veterans preference laws possible at all levels of government and opposing any attempt to weaken such laws.
- The American Legion supports Congress establishing “Hire a Veteran Week” during the week of Veterans’ Day in the month of November each year.
- The American Legion supports that the President of the United States issue an executive order declaring “Hire a Veteran Week” during the week of Veterans’ Day in the month of November each year.
- The American Legion opposes the outsourcing of all Federal Jobs held by veterans and disabled veterans without the protection of Reduction in Force policies and veterans preference.

## **Issue: VETERANS EDUCATION BENEFITS**

Resolutions No. 44,352,358 – 2008 National Convention

Message Points:

The American Legion support that Congress should move Montgomery GI Bill-Selected Reserve (MGIB-SR) from Title 10, the United States Code (USC) to Title 38 USC,

- The American Legion support that Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has administrative authority for both the MGIB and the MGIB-SR,
- The American Legion supports that the annual appropriations for the MGIB and the MGIB-SR become one annual appropriation within the VA,
- The American Legion supports that VA creates an MGIB-SR participant reimbursement rate adjusted for time spent on Federalization activation, State activation, and normal service for a period not to exceed 36 months
- The American Legion supports that if a veteran enrolled in the MGIB acquired educational loans prior to enlisting in the Armed Forces, MGIB benefits may be used to repay existing educational loans,
- The American Legion supports that a monthly tax-free subsistence allowance indexed for inflation must be part of the educational assistance package,
- The American Legion supports that enrollment in the MGIB shall be automatic upon enlistment, however, benefits will not be awarded unless eligibility criteria have been met,
- The American Legion supports that if a veteran enrolled in the MGIB becomes eligible for training and rehabilitation under Chapter 31 of Title 38, United States Code, the veteran shall not receive less educational benefits than otherwise eligible to receive under MGIB,
- The American Legion supports that a veteran may request an accelerated payment of all monthly educational benefits upon meeting the criteria for eligibility for MGIB financial payments, with the payment provided directly to the educational institution,
- The American Legion supports efforts to convince state and federal lawmakers that activated veterans should not be charged interest and penalties for students loans while serving in an activated capacity,
- The American Legion supports that the Department of Education must abide by the Service Members Relief Act to include that penalties and interest do not accrue

while the veteran is activated or when the veteran has returned to US and is now a disabled veteran,

- The American Legion supports that separating service members and veterans seeking a license or credential must be able to use MGIB educational benefits to pay for the cost of taking any written or practical test or other measuring device,
- The American Legion supports making the Montgomery GI Bill eligibility available to pay for all necessary civilian license and certification examination requirements, including necessary preparatory courses,
- The American Legion supports an effort to amend Title 38 to restore the reimbursement rate for correspondence and distance learning training to 90% of tuition,

## **Issue: VETERANS EDUCATION BENEFITS**

Resolutions No. 351, 354, 355,359 – 2008 National Convention, 32 – Fall NEC 2007

### Message Points

- The American Legion supports the creation of a program by Congress for returning veterans that have been mobilized for 180 days
- The American Legion supports that current spouses of deceased veterans gain eligibility for the VA Home Loan Program
- The American Legion supports homestead privileges for veterans on a priority basis.
- The American Legion Support legislation to reinstate the Department of Veterans Affairs' Adjustable Rate Mortgage program.
- The American Legion support the elimination of the VA Home Loan funding fee.