

**RESOLUTION**  
**National Headquarters, The American Legion**  
**One-Hundred and Sixth Annual National Convention, Tampa, Florida**  
**August 26, 27, 28, 2025**

RESOLUTION NO. 12

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF BENEFITS ELIGIBILITY OF DESCENDANTS RESULTING FROM THE CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION

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WHEREAS, US Navy sailors were unjustly punished in the 1940s because they were Black, at a time when institutional racism was worse, segregation was the norm, and Blacks were disproportionately disciplined for infractions that arguably did not rise to the severity of their treatment or their punishment; and

WHEREAS, the two famous courts-martial of Black sailors were the “Port Chicago Fifty” for protesting unsafe ammunition handling practices after the deaths of 320 servicemen and the “Philadelphia Fifteen” for writing a letter to a newspaper describing shipboard abuse and discrimination; and

WHEREAS, in 2022, the The American Legion Department of California adopted the resolution titled, “2022-015: Exonerate The “Port Chicago Fifty” and “Philadelphia Fifteen;” and

WHEREAS, it was announced on June 16, 2023, that “The Department of the Navy Announces Correction to Records of the ‘Philadelphia 15” and on 17 July 2024, that “the Secretary of the Navy Exonerates 256 Defendants from 1944 Port Chicago General and Summary Courts-martial.”; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Tampa, Florida, August 26, 27, 28, 2025, That the Secretary of the Veterans Affairs shall contact all the descendants of the exonerated Sailors and to insure that those descendants get any available benefits that they may be currently entitled.**

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This is to certify that this resolution was adopted by our department but with national action substituted for local resolving clause.

Adjutant Sam Flores

Department California

Other authorized source:

(To be used when resolution is submitted from another authorized source or to comply with Resolution 21, May 4-5, 2016)

**BELOW THIS LINE FOR NATIONAL CONVENTION COMMITTEE USE ONLY**

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Approved      Approved with Amendment      Rejected      Received and Recorded      Consolidated with  
Referred to Standing Commission or Committee on  
Other Action  
Signature of Chairman or Secretary \_\_\_\_\_

## REGULATIONS

Based on the Uniform Code of Procedure for the Organization of National Conventions of The American Legion, adopted by the National Executive Committee at its October 1956 meeting, the following regulations have been established for the procedure of Convention Resolutions:

1. Each must emanate from a department after favorable action or from the National Executive Committee, or from any convention standing or special committee. Resolutions submitted in advance of the convention by departments and the National Executive Committee shall be filed with the national adjutant, who shall refer them to the National Convention Resolutions Assignment Committee.
2. The national adjutant shall maintain a convention register of all resolutions received, assigned and processed which shall identify each resolution by number, indicating the committee to which the resolution was referred and the originating source.

In submitting resolutions, the following points should be carefully observed:

- a. A resolution shall deal with only one subject. Do not attempt to deal with more than one subject in the RESOLVING clauses.
- b. All local RESOLVING clauses are to be omitted, substituting therein a clause resolving national action, i.e. the resolution as submitted should be worded for the National Convention as follows:

**RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Tampa, Florida, August 26, 27, 28, 2025, That —**

If the resolving clause is not stated as above (using convention business session dates) it necessitates having to re-write the resolution to show the proper resolving clause.

- c. Each resolution is to be worded in full, including all WHEREAS clauses as well as the RESOLVING clauses.
  - d. Each resolution is to be signed in black ink and the originating source clearly typewritten or indicated, unless it is submitted as a computer file. Then the originating source is to be placed in the footer of the form.
3. In accordance with Resolution No. 21, adopted by the National Executive Committee in regular meeting assembled on May 4-5, 2016, each resolution should be supported by the identification of the individual or group originating the resolution, and also by a written statement or brief containing the supporting arguments in favor of the action sought, and clearly establishing the material relevance of the subject to the purpose for which The American Legion was formed.
  4. In accordance with Resolution No. 50, adopted by the National Executive Committee in regular meeting assembled on May 5-6, 1965, resolutions adopted by departments and destined for consideration by the National Convention shall be forwarded to the national adjutant, to be in his hands fourteen (14) days prior to the opening session of the National Convention. The only exception to this provision shall be in instances where Department Conventions are held at such time that it becomes physically impossible to comply with this provision, in which instances, the resolutions shall be forwarded to the national adjutant immediately upon the adjournment of the Department Convention.
  5. The National Convention Resolutions Assignment Committee may return through and with the consent of the secretary of the National Convention to the source, inappropriate or non-germane resolutions that may be resubmitted, when corrected, to the National Executive Committee or National Convention by the originator. Inappropriate or non-germane resolutions include, but are not limited to: Convention resolutions (1) containing more than one subject, (2) calling for or requiring the expenditure of funds, (3) containing personal attacks or derogatory characterizations, (4) outside the purview, (5) not pertinent or inappropriate for action by the National Convention or (6) unclear and undocumented. Deficient resolutions, once corrected, in order to be reconsidered, need to be resubmitted to the National Convention or National Executive Committee as provided in the National Constitution & By-Laws.