




OFFICE OF THE
NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE

MEMORANDUM

TO: American Legion Members
FROM: National Judge Advocate Kevin J. Bartlett, J.D. 
RE: Amendment to the Preamble of The American Legion
DATE: November 5, 2019

The National Executive Committee (NEC) at the Fall 2019 Meetings passed Resolution 1 "Amendment Of the Preamble to The Constitution of The American Legion" (attached).

Since the passage of the LEGION Act (P.A. 116-35) by the US Congress, which honored the 1,600 military persons wounded or killed in action and acknowledged millions of other veterans for their military service during at least twelve additional military conflicts, it was only fitting that The American Legion NEC amend the Preamble to The American Legion Constitution.

The Preamble now reads:

For God and Country, we 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 one hundred percent Americanism; to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in all wars; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; to combat the autocracy 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 comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

Our Preamble's amendment is immediate and in effect. This amendment, along with all other National Constitution and By-Law amendments passed at the 2019 National Convention, can be found at: https://www.legion.org/sites/legion.org/files/legion/publications/201A0919-Constitution-and-By-laws_0.pdf

Please distribute this important information.

**NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
October 16-17, 2019
Indianapolis, Indiana**

Resolution No. 1: Amendment To The Preamble Of The Constitution Of The American Legion

Origin: Resolution No. 44 (OH) 2019 National Convention

Submitted by: Finance Commission

WHEREAS, The American Legion is very careful and cautious in the drafting of its organizational documents; and

WHEREAS, The Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion was amended once after World War I by replacing the words "association" and "War" to read as "associations" and "Wars" as a means of recognizing the World War II veterans; and

WHEREAS, The United States government in the LEGION Act (P.A. 116-35) officially acknowledged that the United States military has been involved in at least twelve additional military conflicts not previously recognized; and

WHEREAS, It is now proper to amend the preamble to recognize all of the millions of United States military veterans from these many other wars and conflicts since the great wars of World War I and World War II that are not being currently recognized within the preamble; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 44 from the 2019 National Convention was referred to the Subcommittee on Resolutions for further study and recommends this resolution be submitted for approval through the Internal Affairs Commission and Finance Commission; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 16–17, 2019, That the Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion is amended to read:

For God and Country, we 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 one hundred percent Americanism; to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in ~~the Great Wars~~ all wars; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; to combat the autocracy 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 comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.