

2026 -- H 8285

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

HOUSE RESOLUTION

JOYOUSLY CELEBRATING THE 107TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
ON MARCH 15, 2026

Introduced By: Representatives Azzinaro, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale,
Kennedy, Noret, Serpa, Lima, Hull, and J. Brien

Date Introduced: March 12, 2026

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, The American Legion is a nonprofit organization representing the interests
2 and needs of America's war veterans. Formed on March 15, 1919, in Paris, France, and chartered
3 by an Act of Congress on September 16, 1919, today the American Legion is comprised of nearly
4 two million members, with more than 12,000 posts across the United States, France, Mexico,
5 Puerto Rico and the Philippines; and

6 WHEREAS, In the aftermath of World War I, with more than two million Americans
7 serving in the military, Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., son of President Theodore Roosevelt, felt it was
8 time to create a national organization to represent America's many war veterans; and

9 WHEREAS, Through the years, the American Legion successfully lobbied to attain the
10 passage of many initiatives that made the lives of countless war veterans better and has made the
11 nation stronger militarily, economically and socially. In 1921, the American Legion led the
12 campaign to create the U.S. Veterans Bureau, which later became the Veterans Administration.
13 The first Flag Code was drafted during an American Legion conference and was later adopted by
14 the United States Congress in 1942; and

15 WHEREAS, Perhaps the most famous piece of legislation enacted, thanks to the efforts
16 of the American Legion, was the famous GI Bill, also known as the "Servicemen's Readjustment
17 Act", which was signed into law by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Six months prior to being
18 enacted, the American Legion wrote the first draft of what would become the "GI Bill of Rights".
19 This landmark legislation was a monumental achievement which benefited our nation

1 immeasurably as it allowed eight million veterans to attend an institution of higher learning,
2 thereby allowing our veterans to attain better jobs, quality housing and raise families; and

3 WHEREAS, Additional examples of the American Legion's civic support of war
4 veteran's issues included their donation of \$1 million to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial fund, the
5 largest single contributor to the project, which helped enable the construction of the wall in
6 Washington, and their sponsorship of an independent study to examine the effects of exposure to
7 Agent Orange on Vietnam War Veterans; and

8 WHEREAS, Thanks to the American Legion, every veteran receives assistance when
9 they file and pursue benefit claims before the Department of Veterans Affairs. Since 1919, the
10 American Legion has sponsored more than 2,500 Scouting Units across the nation, and annually
11 honors an Eagle Scout of the year with a \$10,000 scholarship. One of the more popular endeavors
12 the American Legion provides to our nation is its famous American Legion baseball program,
13 which was created in 1925, and today registers more than 5,400 teams in all 50 States, Canada
14 and Puerto Rico; and

15 WHEREAS, Countless great Americans have been members of the American Legion
16 including, Presidents Woodrow Wilson, Harry Truman, Dwight Eisenhower, John Kennedy,
17 Lyndon Johnson, Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford, Ronald Reagan, George Herbert Walker Bush, and
18 George W. Bush, as well as Generals Douglas MacArthur, George Patton, Theodore Roosevelt,
19 Jr., Medal of Honor winner Sergeant Alvin York, famous aviator and war veteran, Captain Eddie
20 Rickenbacker, and actors, Jimmy Stewart, Humphrey Bogart, and Clark Gable, all military
21 veterans; now, therefore be it

22 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
23 joyously celebrates the 107th Anniversary of the American Legion on March 15, 2026, and
24 thanks them for all the great work they do daily on behalf of America's veterans and in
25 maintaining the freedoms and national security of our great nation; and be it further

26 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
27 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Dan K. Wiley, National Commander of the
28 American Legion.

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