

**NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
OF THE AMERICAN LEGION  
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA  
OCTOBER 12-13, 2016**

**Resolution No. 16: Expectations for Rendering Proper Respect when Participating in Programs of The American Legion**

**Origin: Americanism Commission      Submitted By: Americanism Commission  
(As amended)**

WHEREAS, The American Legion since its founding has supported this country, and WHEREAS, Countless members of The American Legion died defending the Constitution of the United States and the First Amendment; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion has fought bigotry, racism and similar concepts since its founding; and WHEREAS, The Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion pledges that "For God and Country" we shall associate ourselves together "To foster and perpetuate a 100 percent Americanism"; and

WHEREAS, There have been public displays of disrespect to the Flag of the United States, including during the National Anthem, by certain individuals, groups and others failing to show respect thereto; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion realizes there are proper platforms for expressing protest or disagreement; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion vehemently rejects using disrespect to the Flag of the United States or the National Anthem as a platform for publicly expressing protest or disagreement; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 12-13, 2016, That The American Legion expects participants of all its programs to show proper respect to the Flag of the United States, at all times, including during the National Anthem; and, be it further**

**RESOLVED, That the national organization of The American Legion recommends to departments and posts that the chairman or director of any American Legion program make clear to all participants in advance of the program that The American Legion has the expectation for rendering proper respect to the Flag of the United States, at all times, including during the National Anthem; and, be it further**

**RESOLVED, That if any participant of any program of The American Legion cannot or will not live up to this expectation, the individual should not be a participant in American Legion programs; and, be it finally**

**RESOLVED, That if any participant of any national-level program of The American Legion cannot or will not live up to this expectation, the individual will be removed from the program and not be allowed any further participation.**

TO: Participants, Coaches, Staff and Volunteers of SOUTH DAKOTA AMERICAN LEGION (SDAL) youth programs;

The South Dakota American Legion at its Executive meeting, held on February 10, 2017 in Oacoma, SD, adopted Resolution 16, passed by the National Executive Committee of the American Legion.

This resolution states that all participants in American Legion Youth Programs will pay proper respect to the American Flag of the United States, at all times, including during the National anthem. Therefore, if any participant of any South Dakota American Legion Youth Program cannot or will not live up to these expectations, the individual will be removed from the program and not be able to resume participation.

I \_\_\_\_\_ (print) have read the above statement and agree to the terms of the statement.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Player Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Signed