

THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

RESOLUTION: 18-C-10

SUBMITTED BY: Department of Michigan 11th District

SUBJECT: Recognition of Korea's "Unknown War" Deceased Veterans

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, In a speech in 1966, and according to official military documents, the leadership of North Korea issued a Declaration of War against the United States which read that "U.S. Imperialists should be dealt blows and their forces disposed to the maximum in Asia"; and

WHEREAS, On or about November 2, 1966, the Red Communist Korean Forces clashed with American soldiers in the southern portion of DMZ in an area north of the Imjim River; and

WHEREAS, That these hostilities continued through December 3, 1969, recording over 600 hostile acts toward American soldiers, during which 92 soldiers lost their lives; and

WHEREAS, On or about April 1, 1968, the Defense Secretary for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, Alfred B. Fitt, recognized the situation and designated the area that the soldiers serving north of Imjim as a "Hostile Fire Zone", thus awarding "Hostile Fire" pay to all soldiers serving in the area; and

WHEREAS, Since the Korean hostilities were overshadowed by the Vietnam War at the time and the Johnson Administration was determined to keep a tight lid on this hostile action for political purposes; and

WHEREAS, The Johnson Administration's policy effectively denied recognition by the U.S. Government and Congress to these servicemen who served during these hostile actions; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That The American Legion recognize these servicemen who lost their lives during these Korean hostilities and petition the Congress of the United States of America to approve the erection of a Korean "Unknown War" special commemoration memorial to honor the 92 soldiers who lost their lives during the period of November 2, 1966, through December 3, 1969; and, be it further

RESOLVED,

That the Memorial be placed separate, but adjacent, to the existing Korean Wall Memorial in Washington D.C.; and, be it finally

RESOLVED,

By The American Legion, Department of Michigan, in annual Department Convention assembled in Kalamazoo, Michigan, June 21, 2018, That this resolution be forwarded to the National Organization of The American Legion.

APPROVED