

**THE AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
HOLIDAY INN, GRANTVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA
SEPTEMBER 21-22, 2019**

Resolution No. 1110

Submitted by: Stephen Slinski
District 33 Commander

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- WHEREAS, The American Legion is an organization of veterans who have dedicated themselves to supporting programs for veterans and their families; and
- WHEREAS, The American Legion considers VA healthcare a right that veterans have earned by their military service; and
- WHEREAS, Many veterans enter VA facilities with mental, drug and homeless issues related to their military service; and
- WHEREAS, The American Legion is dedicated to making a stay in a VA facility feel a little bit more like home; and
- WHEREAS, For many veterans, tobacco use was introduced as part of the military culture; and
- WHEREAS, Tobacco use is addictive and to suddenly stop using tobacco may cause other complications for veterans staying in VA facilities; and
- WHEREAS, Making VA facilities and campuses tobacco free may cause some veterans to not seek treatment in a VA facility; and
- WHEREAS, Making VA facilities and campuses tobacco free may cause some veterans staying in the facility to leave prematurely; and
- WHEREAS, According to VA directives, veterans who leave the VA property temporarily to use tobacco products are subject to discharge **Against Medical Advice (AMA)**, which will be placed in a patient's medical records, having an adverse effect on the veteran's medical care; and
- WHEREAS, The Veterans Administration is implementing a policy of making all VA facilities and campuses tobacco free starting 1 October 2019; now therefore be it
- RESOLVED, That the Pennsylvania American Legion Department Executive Committee meeting in Grantville, PA at the Holiday Inn, September 21-22, 2019 supports the Veterans Administration in establishing a VA facilities tobacco policy that reduces tobacco use while addressing The American Legion's concerns for the veterans who are addicted to tobacco use and who rely on the VA facilities for their medical and psychological care; and be it finally
- RESOLVED, That this Resolution be forwarded to the Veterans Administration for action.

APPROVED _____ REJECTED _____ REFERRED _____ CONSOLIDATED _____ FILED _____

APPROVED _____ REJECTED _____ REFERRED _____ CONSOLIDATED _____ FILED _____