WHEREAS, Thirty-six years ago, on June 25, 1950, North Korean Armed Forces launched a surprise attack across the 38th Parallel, resulting in three years of armed conflict between North Korea and China on the one side and the Armed Forces of the United Nations on the other; and

WHEREAS, During those three years, America's Armed Forces reached a peak strength of 5.7 million, of these, 54,236 servicemen and women died, 103,284 were wounded, 7,000 were interned as prisoners of war and 8,177 were listed as missing in action; and

WHEREAS, This nation owes the families of the dead and missing, as well as those returned veterans of the Korean Conflict, a debt of gratitude for their unselfish and heroic sacrifices which did preserve the integrity of South Korea, a friend and ally; and

WHEREAS, Presently at least one non-governmental organization is soliciting funds for the construction of a Korean War Memorial; and

WHEREAS, Commercial firms hired to solicit funds keep 30% to 90% of all monies collected; and

WHEREAS, The American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC), an independent agency of the Executive Branch of the federal government has a responsibility to commemorate the services of the American Armed Forces through the erection of memorial shrines in the United States and abroad after April 5, 1917, is authorized to accept monies through contributions, where each dollar collected is placed in trust with the U.S. Treasury to be utilized for the sole project for which it was collected; and

WHEREAS, The Eighty-Fourth General Assembly, State of Illinois Senate, has passed legislation urging the people of Illinois to make a special effort in supporting the construction of a Korean Veterans Memorial; and

WHEREAS, There is now, pending legislation in Congress, to erect a memorial, in the Washington area, dedicated to the veterans of the Korean Conflict.

WHEREAS, Pending legislation would authorize the American Battle Monuments Commission to prepare a site and design for the memorial in the District of Columbia or its environs with appropriations such as necessary to carry out the construction; and

WHEREAS, The lapse in time between the cessation of hostilities in Korea and the completion of a memorial would be forty years or more, requires immediate action by Congress if the families of the dead and missing, as well as those living veterans, are to see a memorial dedicated to their achievements and sacrifices in their lifetime; now, therefore, be it
RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Cincinnati, Ohio, September 2, 3, 4, 1986, That The American Legion initiates action to actively support the design and construction of a Korean War Veterans Memorial; and be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion assertively support immediate Congressional passage of pending legislation providing partial funding to defray the cost of design, specifications, and maintenance, thus expediting construction; and be it further

RESOLVED, That whether a Korean War Memorial is constructed with federal appropriations or private contributions the American Battle Monuments Commission be made the responsible agency for the design, planning, and construction of a Korean War Veterans Memorial in the Washington Area.