

State of Maine



WHEREAS, The American Legion was founded in March 1919 in Paris, France, by U.S. World War I military personnel stationed there who were dedicated to four pillars of service and advocacy: veterans, defense, youth, and Americanism; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion today consists of 55 departments in each of the 50 states as well as the District of Columbia, France, Mexico, the Philippines, and Puerto Rico, operating through more than 12,500 local posts worldwide; and

WHEREAS, The current national membership is nearly 2 million, making The American Legion the largest veterans service organization in the nation, with an affiliated American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion program, comprising an American Legion Family membership in excess of 3 million; and

WHEREAS, American Legion membership is open to military personnel and veterans who have served their nation on active duty during wartime, and eligibility has been open to all who have served on active duty and were honorably discharged since August 2, 1990, the beginning of continuous U.S. armed conflict in the Middle East and other locations around the planet; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion has been instrumental in the creation of multiple major institutions of American society, including formation of the Department of Veterans Affairs, creation of U.S. Flag Code, passage of the GI Bill, and more; and

WHEREAS, American Legion posts annually provide more than 3.7 million hours of volunteer service in their communities; donate more than 80,000 pints of blood to collection centers nationwide, making it the nation's single largest blood donor; award more than 8,000 medals to Junior ROTC students; sponsor more than 2,300 Scouting units serving more than 64,000 young people; award more than \$4 million in college scholarships; and

WHEREAS, more than 3,000 American Legion service officers are continuously assisting with more than 750,000 veterans benefits cases worldwide at any one time; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion is the nation's leading ambassador organization to honor and remember the nation's military sacrifices through thousands of memorials and monuments around the world; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion 100th Anniversary mantra is "Legacy and Vision" – both a celebration of past accomplishments and a renewal of the organization's resolve to serve communities, states, and the nation for a second century;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Janet T. Mills, Governor of the great State of Maine, do hereby proclaim March 15, 2019 as **American Legion Centennial Day**.



In testimony whereof, I have caused the
Great Seal of the State to be hereunto affixed
GIVEN under my hand at Augusta this fifteenth
day of March Two Thousand Nineteen

Janet T. Mills
Governor

Matthew Dunlap
Secretary of State
TRUE ATTESTED COPY