

THE AMERICAN LEGION  
DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
HOLIDAY INN  
MOON TOWNSHIP, PENNSYLVANIA  
JANUARY 8 – 10, 2010

Resolution No. 1029

Submitted by: Ronald F. Conley  
Past Department & National Commander

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- WHEREAS: The Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs in about 2003 formed the CARES Commission to look at VA facilities that were under used or not used; and
- WHEREAS: The CARES Commission recommended the closing of some VA Hospitals and merging other facilities; and
- WHEREAS: The Pittsburgh Health Care System was to build a parking garage at the Oakland campus, close down Highland Drive and merge the care given at Highland Drive into the Aspinwall and Oakland hospitals; and
- WHEREAS: Highland Drive responsibility was to care for the homeless veterans, mental health veterans, veterans who needed to be cared for in a controlled environment, OIF/OEF veterans, wheelchair research, prosthetics and much more; and
- WHEREAS: The increase in construction at Oakland and Aspinwall campuses is not enough square footage to care for all the care that is given at Highland Drive; and
- WHEREAS: The CARES commission recommended that a local advisory board made up of veterans to help in recommendations on implementing the CARES recommendations; and
- WHEREAS: The local VA Leadership never followed through with appointing a local board; and
- WHEREAS: Vision 4, which use to be housed in the Pittsburgh Health Care System, now leases prime real estate on the North Shore of Pittsburgh; and
- WHEREAS: The Pittsburgh Health Care System is in the process of leasing other real estate outside of the property owned by the Department of Veterans Affairs; and
- WHEREAS: This extra expense comes out of the health care budget; now therefore be it
- RESOLVED: That The American Legion, Department of Pennsylvania Executive Committee meeting in regular session January 8-10, 2010 at the Holiday Inn, Moon Township, PA hereby calls on Congress to properly fund the restoration of buildings on the Highland campus to be used for care of veterans instead of leasing other property; and be it further
- RESOLVED: That a letter be sent to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs asking for a full accounting of all contracts and/or leases that the Department of Veterans Affairs has signed to provide the care of veterans outside of the campuses of Aspinwall and Oakland; and be it finally

RESOLVED: A copy of this resolution is sent to the Pennsylvania Congressional Delegation and to members of the United States Congress House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees.

APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_ REJECTED \_\_\_\_\_ REFERRED \_\_\_\_\_ CONSOLIDATED \_\_\_\_\_ FILED \_\_\_\_\_