

BILL R. SUTTLE
Sr. Vice Commander

RALPH J. RUPPILER
Commander

HAROLD L. LENOX
Jr. Vice Commander

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

Tulsa Post No. 577

EDWARD L. POTTER
Quartermaster

LAWRENCE BRENT
Adjutant



409
UPTOWN OFFICE 301 ORPHEUM BLDG.—PHONE 5-1324
CLUBHOUSE 214 EAST 13th PLACE — PHONE 4-5957

TULSA 3, OKLAHOMA

June 18, 1945

MEMBERS

Are citizens honorably discharged from the United States Army, Navy and Marine Corps, who served on foreign soil or in hostile waters during time of war and men now in the armed forces serving outside the continental limits of the United States of America.

OBLIGATED

To bear true allegiance to the government of the United States.

DEDICATED

To upholding the efforts of those who strive for honesty, freedom of thought and equal opportunity for all.

COMMITTED

To the task of furnishing help to any who need the many benefits and blessings of our government.

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Of many activities for both men and women civilians and those in the armed forces such as the U. S. Service Men's Lodge, Memorial to Tulsa County's Honored Dead, World War 2, rifle training schools, the auxiliary police force, junior baseball, draft evasion investigations, Traffic Cemetery and liaison work between the military and civilian population of our country.

Hon. George B. Schwabe
Member of Congress
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

Dear George:

I was surely glad to get your letter of June 11, 1945, together with copies of letter that you wrote to Mr. Burris. In that I am going to State Encampment at Okmulgee this weekend, your letters will come in handy when I go before the Resolutions Committee.

In this Community, the question of super seniority for returned veterans is becoming an important proposition among Service men. Generally, the public is favorable. However, representatives from the National Offices of the Labor Organizations indicate they are willing to make concessions, but so far have not helped remedy the immediate situation any. I hope some character of legislature will be passed by Congress which will at least protect the handicapped veteran in his employment, regardless of seniority, so long as he performs his services.

In one of my letters to Omer Ketchum, the Veterans of Foreign Wars Legislative Officer in Washington, I suggested that he contact you. He is extremely busy at this time, but I hope he does find time to call on you, and I am sure he will at his first opportunity.

Wishing you the best of luck, I am

Yours very truly,

LJB:dr

June 11, 1945

Mr. L. J. Bicking, Attorney
Douglas Aircraft Company
Tulsa, Oklahoma

Dear Lew:

I am just in receipt of your letter of June 8th telling me of the situation which you say recently occurred at a meeting of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Tulsa Post 577. This pertained to a resolution apparently adopted by your Post under date of May 3, 1945 dealing with the attitude of your members relative to H. R. 2346, the so-called Merchant Marine Bill of Rights.

I am happy to tell you all I know about this situation. The Resolution was sent to me by John C. Burris, Adjutant, with a brief letter written by him, dated May 9, 1945. The resolution appears to be signed by Bill R. Suttle, Commander and John C. Burris, Adjutant. It seems a little unusual that the resolution should have been adopted May 3rd and the letter from the Adjutant not addressed to me until May 9th, and I did not receive it until May 17th. I do not know when you had your meeting, but it is very apparent that no effort was exerted to get this resolution to me in any hurry.

Immediately upon receipt of the letter from the Adjutant under date of May 17th I addressed him acknowledging receipt of his letter and the resolution and commenting at some length upon the contents of the resolution. His letter was merely a letter of transmittal, which read as follows:

"Dear Sir:

May 9, 1945

Please find enclosed resolution pertaining to H. R. 2346 passed by Tulsa Post 577, Veterans of Foreign Wars on May 3, 1945.

This Resolution is being forwarded to you for your information and guidance."

My letter shows for itself that I read carefully the Resolution and was favorably impressed with the position taken by your Post. For your personal information, I am enclosing herewith two copies that I have had my secretary make of my letter of May 17th addressed to the Adjutant of your Post. These were made from my office copy, and if the Adjutant has not received my letter, I wish you would kindly furnish him with one of the enclosed copies. I also wish that you would please see that this letter is read at your next meeting, in order that the members present may have the benefit of my views, and may be properly informed that this matter had prompt attention from me.

I am sure you can appreciate the fact that I did not in any way delay answering the Adjutant and expressing my views with reference to the position taken by the Post.

There is one thing I do not know about which I should like to know, and that is who constitutes your Legislative Committee referred to in your letter. I naturally addressed my letter to the Adjutant who sent me the Resolution. If I should have written the Legislative Committee instead of the Adjutant, it seems to me the Adjutant should have so informed me, for no names of such committee appear on the letterhead used by the Adjutant.

Thanking you for calling this matter to my attention, I am

Sincerely yours,

George B. Schwabe, M.C.

2 enclosures

GS:lw

BILL R. SUTTLE
Sr. Vice Commander

RALPH J. RUPPILER
Commander

HAROLD L. LENOX
Jr. Vice Commander

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

Tulsa Post No. 577

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Quartermaster



LAWRENCE BRENT
Adjutant

409
UPTOWN OFFICE 301 ORPHEUM BLDG.—PHONE 5-1324
CLUBHOUSE 214 EAST 13th PLACE — PHONE 4-5957

TULSA 3, OKLAHOMA

June 8, 1945

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Hon. George B. Schwabe
Member of Congress
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Schwabe:

Needless to say, I appreciated your letter and have endeavored to carry your message to the Post. However, as a Republican interested in the next election, I have this suggestion to make. There are in excess of 1500 members in the Tulsa Post alone, and it pleases their pride to have their Congressman acknowledge receipt of their resolutions addressed as a direct communication to the Post.

This was called to my attention rather forcibly a few nights ago, when our Legislative Officer was called on for a report with reference to the resolution on the Merchant Marine Bill. He brought out his file, read the resolution as passed, a copy of his letter of transmittal forwarding the resolutions to both Senators and all Representatives of the State of Oklahoma in the Congress of the United States, and the replies he had received. He had replies from both Senators and all of the Congressmen in this State, except yours, and commented that the only answer they had from George Schwabe was the one that the Republican Comrade, Mr. Bicking, had made on the floor several nights ago.

It is also worth mentioning that it is apparent that one Senator Thomas and three of the Congressmen were familiar with the subject and understood the resolution. Senator Moore answered the resolution in

Hon. George B. Schwabe

#2 - 6-8-45

opposition of the bill by thanking the Post for its resolution in support of the bill. Several of the other answers were equally as ridiculous.

There probably are now one or two resolutions on their way to your office. I hope you will be able to acknowledge their receipt, and any suggestions you wish to make to the Post, between now and Thursday, the 21st, in that our Department Encampment will be held in Okmulgee, starting Friday 22nd, Saturday 23rd, and Sunday 24th.

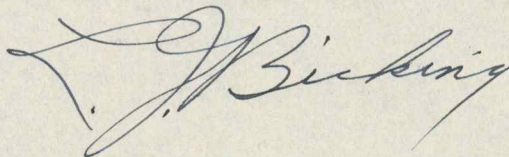
Our Legislative Committee has been directed to take its files on all resolutions passed by the Post during the year to the Encampment for the purpose of submitting them to the State Resolution Committee. I think it would also be good politics for you to direct a letter to Mr. Sam Mitchell, Department Commander of the State of Oklahoma, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, Muskogee, Oklahoma, to supply you with a copy of all resolutions passed at the State Encampment.

The Tulsa Post, due to the present lay-off by the Douglas Company, has become very much interested in job preference for veterans, in that under the seniority rule, many handicapped veterans who are unable to procure jobs in private industry are being laid off, while men who have enjoyed good wages and the privilege of living in their homes during all the war period are permitted to remain on the job. It appears that the only way the situation can be rectified is by an Act of Congress.

We have been informed that Mr. Rankin has introduced a bill in Congress to rectify this condition. I will appreciate it very much if you will send me two or three copies of the bill so that we may study it and offer our suggestions.

With best wishes for your future success, I am

Yours very truly,



LJB:dr

May 17, 1945

Mr. John C. Burris, Adjutant
Veterans of Foreign Wars
Tulsa Post No. 577
409 Orpheum Building
Tulsa 3, Oklahoma

Dear Sir:

I am pleased to acknowledge receipt of yours of the 9th instant enclosing a resolution your Post adopted May 3, 1945, which just reached my office.

This resolution pertains to H. R. 2346, a bill pending in Congress seeking to place Merchant Marines on the same basis that members of the armed forces occupy under the G. I. Bill of Rights, or substantially the same.

I have read very carefully the resolution which you sent me and am frank to state that my opinion is that the reasons and principles set forth in the resolution for the conclusion to which your post has arrived are very pertinent and deserving of the most serious consideration.

The resolution refers to the many letters that have been written Congressmen in behalf of the Seamen's Bill of Rights. I know by experience that this is true. We have been literally flooded with such appeals. I have received them from all over the United States and perhaps a hundred or more from the mothers of the Merchant Marines who live in Tulsa. In addition to this, I had 12 Merchant Marine mothers call on me personally in my office on a recent visit to Tulsa. I am pleased to know that your group has given such careful and studied consideration to this bill. It will be impossible for me to please both sides, unless the pending measure is amended. I doubt if it passes in its present form. I am thinking that perhaps some relief might well be afforded these boys, but it has been extremely difficult for me to become convinced that they are entitled to the same consideration, privileges and opportunities that have been afforded the boys in the armed service under the G. I. Bill of Rights.

Mr. John C. Burris

Page 2

May 17, 1945

Again, assuring you of my appreciation of your having sent me the well prepared resolution of your Post and that I shall give this matter continued serious consideration, and trusting that my vote on the measure will meet with your approval, I am

Yours very truly,

George B. Schwabe, M. C.

GBS:CMG

GEORGE J. OVERMYER
Sir. Vice Commander

BILL R. SUTTLE
Commander

BASIL H. CLARK
Jr. Vice Commander

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

Tulsa Post No. 577

GLENN V. DOUGLAS
Quartermaster

GERALD F. O'BRIEN
Service Officer



JOHN C. BURRIS
Adjutant

RICHARD H. ASSID
Relief Officer

UPTOWN OFFICE 409 ORPHEUM BLDG.—PHONE 5-1324
CLUBHOUSE 214 EAST 13th PLACE — PHONE 4-5957

TULSA 3, OKLAHOMA

MEMBERS

May 9, 1945

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Honorable George B. Schwabe
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Please find enclosed resolution pertaining to HR 2346 passed by Tulsa Post 577, Veterans of Foreign Wars on May 3, 1945.

This Resolution is being forwarded to you for your information and guidance.

Yours very truly,

John C. Burris
John C. Burris, Adjutant

JCB/lmr
Enc.

GEORGE J. OVERMYER
Sir. Vice Commander

BILL R. SUTTLE
Commander

BASIL H. CLARK
Jr. Vice Commander

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

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R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, a bill designed to grant Government aid to members of the Merchant Marine comparable to that granted members of the Armed Forces has been introduced in the 79th Congress and designated HR 2346, and

WHEREAS, the members of the Merchant Marine and members of their family are organized for the purpose of bringing pressure on the members of the Congress and Senate to pass HR 2346 and are now distributing pamphlets and issuing press releases for the purpose of influencing the public mind in favor of this bill, and

WHEREAS, the enactment of this bill into law would provide money and other benefits at Government expense to the employees of private shipping companies operating for profit just the same as hundreds of other war industries, all of which employees are recognized by the government as civilian employees and are granted occupational selective service deferments, and

WHEREAS, the proponents of the bill attempt to justify the passage of the bill because of the hazards of the employment in the Merchant Marine but does not propose similar benefits for the war correspondents, aircraft and automotive technicians, engineers, experts and representatives of numerous other manufactures and suppliers of materials of war who have been sent by their private employers to the battle fronts; nor does it consider as eligible for the benefits, the dependents of the men who have lost their lives or productive abilities through injury while engaged in essential war work, and

WHEREAS, the industrial worker and members of the Merchant Marine receive compensation calculated to cover the risk and in addition thereto retain the benefit of civilian privileges denied members of the Armed Forces, and

Page 2
Resolution

WHEREAS, a member of the Merchant Marine can change jobs at his own pleasure, change ships, take leaves of absence, select his own style of dress and enjoy all the privileges of any civilian worker engaged in essential work, and

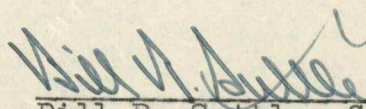
WHEREAS, the base rate of pay for ordinary Merchant Seamen is \$85.00 per month while in a United States port plus \$100.00 and \$5.00 per day when in hostile waters, plus overtime pay for all time worked over eight hours per day, plus a bonus of \$125.00 for each member of the crew every time the ship is damaged or a member of the crew is injured by enemy action, and

WHEREAS, the base pay of apprentice Seamen of the United States Navy is \$50.00 per month plus \$10.00 for war zone duty, wherever he may be sent, with 24 hours a day duty and no overtime and no bonuses, and

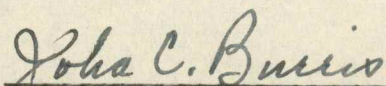
WHEREAS, a member of the United States Armed Forces is at all times under strict Military or Naval regulations, compelled to wear the uniform ordered by his superiors at all times, execute the orders of his superior, and compelled by law to stay on the job for the duration of the war plus six months and thereafter until discharged at the pleasure of the government without the privilege of visiting home except for limited leaves and then not when he chooses but at the convenience of the Government.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Officers and Members of Tulsa Post 577, Veterans of Foreign Wars in regular Post Meeting assembled do hereby voice our objection to the granting to any civilian worker government benefits equal to or comparable with those benefits now provided for members of our Armed Forces, and do therefore most seriously object to the passage of this Bill designated HR 2346.

Unanimously passed and approved this 3rd day of May 1945, by Tulsa Post 577, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.


Bill R. Suttle, Commander

ATTEST:


John C. Burris, Adjutant

May 2, 1945

Mr. L. J. Bicking
Attorney
Douglas Aircraft Company
Tulsa, Oklahoma

Dear Lew:

I am just in receipt of your letter of the 28th ultimo and have carefully noted the contents of the same.

You state that a few days ago your Post of the Veterans of Foreign Wars passed some resolutions and that the Adjutant was directed to mail copies of the same to me. For some reason, I do not seem to be able to locate these copies and do not believe that they have been received by me. Since you did not mention the subjects of these resolutions, I am unable to locate them if they have been received by me. Please let me know who is supposed to have sent them and what the subjects of the resolutions were.

You also state that the Post is now considering two more resolutions, one with reference to the request of members of the Merchant Marine for equal benefits with war veterans, and the other in connection with German war prisoners. You state that all members of the Post are opposed to the request of Merchant Marines for equal benefits with war veterans. I have found that this is generally true all over the country. Merchant Marine mothers and Merchant Marine men in the service have literally bombarded the Members of Congress with their appeals for favorable consideration in passage of their equal rights bill now pending in Congress. I have not committed myself on this subject, but am unable to appreciate the justness of their bill in its entirety, as it is now pending. When I was back home several weeks ago, a delegation of 12 Merchant Marine mothers called on me at one time and attempted to refute all of the arguments which have been urged against the passage of the Merchant Marine equalization bill. I told them that I was not convinced, and my present feeling is that they are not entitled to all that they are asking for and are not entitled to equal rights with the regular war veterans.

In reference to the resolution covering German war prisoners, which would have the Federal Bureau of Investigation assist the Army and Navy in investigation of all prisoners under control of the American armed forces, etc., I must say that I would want to give this matter more study

Mr. L. J. Bicking
Page 2
May 2, 1945

and reflection before I would know just what should be done in such matters. This would involve a tremendous amount of work and a very large personnel, for I think we now have something over 2,000,000 German war prisoners, including those which are now in this country and those which have recently been taken by our Armies in their swoop across Germany. I am in sympathy with the idea and its execution so far as it may be practicable. I shall await with pleasure the receipt of these two resolutions.

I appreciate very much the statistical information which you furnished me in reference to Selective Service status of personnel in your plant. You have made a study that is wonderfully helpful and the results reflect much credit on the management of the Douglas Aircraft Company at Tulsa.

Of course, I have not yet received the company's weekly plant paper, but I shall be pleased to scan it each week when it comes in.

Assuring you of my appreciation for your cooperation in all these matters and your friendship through the years, I beg to remain

Your friend,

George B. Schwabe, M. C.

GBS:CMG

P. S. Since dictating the above, I have found the 2 Resolutions sent me by Mr. Lenox. They will receive very early and serious consideration. G. B. S.

BILL R. SUTTLE
Sr. Vice Commander

RALPH J. RUPPILER
Commander

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

Tulsa Post No. 577

EDWARD L. POTTER
Quartermaster



LAWRENCE BRENT
Adjutant

UPTOWN OFFICE 301 ORPHEUM BLDG.—PHONE 5-1324
CLUBHOUSE 214 EAST 13th PLACE — PHONE 4-5957

TULSA 3, OKLAHOMA

April 28, 1945

MEMBERS

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Hon. George B. Schwabe
Member of Congress
First District of Oklahoma
House Office Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear George:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of the Department of State publication, entitled "Toward the Peace Documents." I have made a preliminary examination of the booklet and find that it will be of great interest not only to me, but also to members of Tulsa Post No. 577, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and fellow employees of Douglas Aircraft Company, Inc.

A few days ago, our Post passed some resolutions, and the Adjutant was directed to mail you copies thereof. The resolutions are self-explanatory, and I presume you have received your copies by now.

The Post is now considering two resolutions in which you will be interested. One is with reference to the request of members of the Merchant Marines for equal benefits with War Veterans. Apparently, all members of the Post, beginning with the Spanish-American War Veterans down to and including many members of World War II, are opposed to such proposal.

The other resolution will be in connection with German war prisoners. It has been suggested that Congress should authorize the Federal Bureau of Investigation to assist the Army and Navy Departments in an investigation of all prisoners, under the control of the

Hon. George B. Schwabe
#2 - 4-28-45

American Armed Forces, for the purpose of ascertaining if any of them are war criminals, and that all confirmed Nazi Party members and members of the SS Troops be segregated from the other German war prisoners and treated differently.

Since you left, I have made some investigation with reference to the Selective Service status of the personnel in this Plant, with the idea of comparing its record with that of other plants of this Company and other industrial war plants. I find that out of our approximately 21,000 employes, there are only 800 men in the age group up to 29 years vulnerable to the draft; that of this group, approximately 500 may be drafted at any time the draft boards decide to take them. Deferments have been requested by the Company for 256 men because of their particular skill essential to the work. On a percentage basis, it appears that this Plant has fewer deferred men than other plants of this Company and, also, is in a better position than other industries in this area.

The same tables show that we have the largest percentage of discharged veterans of World War II of any of the Douglas plants, and of any industries in this area. We have approximately 600 discharged veterans from World War II now on our payroll.

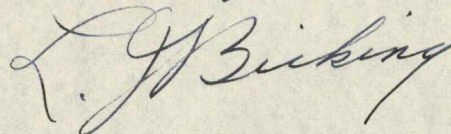
The records also disclose that our percentage of draft-rejected men or, in other words, 4-F's, is in excess of that of any other Douglas plant and in excess of other local industrial plants.

The only place this Plant seems to be below the ratio to other plants is in that we have a larger number of men between the ages of 29 and 38 than other plants; and, in the event that the older age group is called upon, we will have some difficulty in carrying on our increasing production schedule.

I had a talk with Mr. Maginnis a few days ago and requested that you be put on the Company's mailing list so that you will receive copies of our weekly Plant paper and the monthly Douglas Company magazine. If you do not receive your copies within the next few days, please advise me and I will see that they are forwarded to you.

Thanking you again for your consideration in forwarding to me the booklet, I am as ever

Your friend,



LJB:dr

BILL R. SUTTLE
Sr. Vice Commander

RALPH J. RUPPILER
Commander

GEORGE J. OVERMYER
Jr. Vice Commander

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

Tulsa Post No. 577

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April 21, 1945

Honorable George B. Schwabe
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

Gentleman:

Please find enclosed copies of two resolutions passed by Tulsa Post 577, Veterans of Foreign Wars at their regular meeting held April 19, 1945.

These copies are being forwarded to you for your information and guidance.

Yours very truly,

Harold L. Lenox,
Acting Adjutant

HLL/lmr
enc.

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Sr. Vice Commander

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April 19, 1945

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, there has been introduced in and passed by the Senate of the United States a Bill identified as Senate Bill

No. 294, providing in substance that the Administration of Veterans Affairs, upon request from proper officials, shall provide the full schedule of Veterans benefits, excepting pensions and compensation to discharged Veterans of other

Nations, allied or associated with the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Bill provides for benefits to discharged Veterans of other Nations, including hospitalization, medical and dental treatment, prosthetic appliances, and educational or vocational training; and

WHEREAS, the Veterans Administration is already taxed beyond its capacity to care for our own boys; and

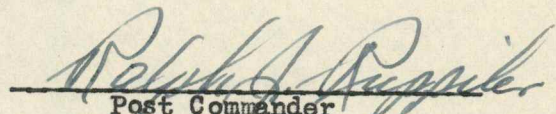
WHEREAS, the Officials of the Veterans Administration are having difficulty in preparing for the increased load placed upon hospital facilities, physicians, nurses, regional offices, rating boards, and administrative personnel; and

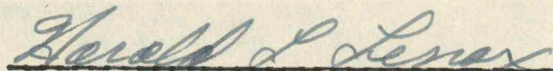
WHEREAS, the passage of such a law would be an invitation to

citizens of foreign Nations to emigrate to the United States for the sole purpose of securing the special benefits provided for the members of our own Armed Forces, and tend to create a relaxation of our emigration laws:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Tulsa Post 577, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, is unalterably opposed to the further burdening of the Veterans Administration and other Facilities for the care and rehabilitation of the returning members of our Armed Forces by granting to the Nationals of any other country equal care at the expense of the American taxpayer.

Unanimously passed by Tulsa Post 577 this 19th day of April, 1945.


Post Commander


Acting Post Adjutant

BILL R. SUTTLE
Sr. Vice Commander

RALPH J. RUPPILER
Commander

GEORGE J. OVERMYER
Jr. Vice Commander

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

Tulsa Post No. 577

EDWARD L. POTTER
Quartermaster



HUGH H. LEEPER
Adjutant

UPTOWN OFFICE 409 ORPHEUM BLDG.—PHONE 5-1324
CLUBHOUSE 214 EAST 13th PLACE — PHONE 4-5957

TULSA 3, OKLAHOMA

April 19, 1945

MEMBERS

Are citizens honorably discharged from the United States Army, Navy and Marine Corps, who served on foreign soil or in hostile waters during time of war and men now in the armed forces serving outside the continental limits of the United States of America.

OBLIGATED

To bear true allegiance to the government of the United States.

DEDICATED

To upholding the efforts of those who strive for honesty, freedom of thought and equal opportunity for all.

COMMITTED

To the task of furnishing help to any who need the many benefits and blessings of our government.

SPONSORS

Of many activities for both men and women civilians and those in the armed forces such as the U. S. Service Men's Lodge, Memorial to Tulsa County's Honored Dead, World War 2, rifle training schools, the auxiliary police force, junior baseball, draft evasion investigations, Traffic Cemetery and liaison work between the military and civilian population of our country.

RESOLUTIONS

SINCE, There are now appearing in the Press, statements by Government officials in Washington, D.C., to the effect that after the cessation of organized resistance in the European Theater, there will be a long period of occupation by our troops of enemy territories; and

SINCE, we are being constantly reminded by members of the Armed Forces that they have been bearing the battle, that many of them have been on foreign soil away from their families for periods in excess of two years, and some of them as much as three years; and

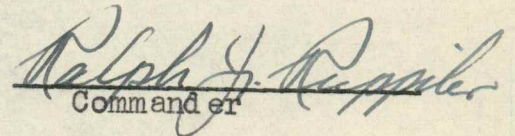
SINCE, it is only fair that the sacrifices and burdens of war should be equally distributed among all of the people; and

SINCE, the men and women who have served in combat and have been overseas for long periods of time are anxious to return to the United States and are entitled to return to their families;

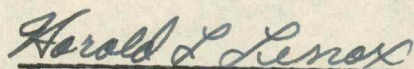
BE IT RESOLVED, by Tulsa Post 577, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States of America, that we petition the Army and Navy Commands and the Congress of the United States to provide for the return to this Country of all members of the Armed Forces having served in Combat, or who have served for two years or more in hostile waters or on foreign soil; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Army of Occupation to serve in the European Theater be created from those men who have heretofore enjoyed Selective Service deferments by reason of their occupations.

DULY passed by the unanimous vote of the post in regular meeting assembled this 19th day of April, 1945.


Commander

ATTEST:


Acting Post Adjutant