

**FORTIETH NATIONAL CONVENTION
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
Chicago, Illinois
September 1, 2, 3, 4, 1958**

**Resolution No. 328: Bestow Upon Eric Fisher Wood the Title of 'Past National
Commander' with all the Privileges and Rights Pertaining to Such Office**

Origin: Pennsylvania

Submitted By: Convention Committee on Credentials and Internal Organization

WHEREAS, According to the minutes and historical files of The American Legion, it appears that recognition has been given to all of the veterans who took an active part in the original planning and early formation of The American Legion from the time of the first Paris Caucus until the actual formation of the same, by bestowing upon them the title of 'past national commander,' the same having been conferred by The American Legion in National Convention assembled; and

WHEREAS, Eric Fisher Wood, one of the keynoters and active participants in the planning and formation of The American Legion, has never had any recognition bestowed upon him acknowledging the outstanding services he has rendered; and

WHEREAS, The said Eric Fisher Wood was one of the four veterans including Roosevelt, White and Donovan, and was a member of a committee of 20 which in February, 1919, called the original Paris Caucus for the formation and planning of the said American Legion, and Eric Fisher Wood was vice chairman of the said committee and also secretary of the committee and as said secretary, prepared, signed and distributed the "Call for the Paris Caucus," this being the first written American Legion document; and

WHEREAS, As vice-chairman, and in the absence of Chairman Roosevelt, Eric Fisher Wood opened the Paris Caucus with the keynote speech which said keynote speech substantially includes what is now the Preamble to The American Legion Constitution, this being the first fundamental address in Legion history; and

WHEREAS, The said Eric Fisher Wood was made permanent secretary of the said Paris Caucus and served as such throughout the three-day sessions and upon his return to the United States, he became secretary of the committee that organized the St. Louis Caucus and signed and issued the "Call for the St. Louis Caucus," and practically alone made all the physical arrangements and plans for the said St. Louis Caucus and was made permanent secretary and parliamentarian of the said St. Louis Caucus; and

WHEREAS, The said Eric Fisher Wood served as national secretary (now designated as national adjutant) of the Legion from May to November, 1919: and

WHEREAS, The said Eric Fisher Wood was appointed and acted as chairman of the committee to draft a National Constitution which was submitted to and adopted by the Minneapolis National Convention in 1919, the said Eric Fisher Wood having made the physical arrangements for the Minneapolis Convention and was made permanent secretary and parliamentarian of this said convention; and

WHEREAS, The said Eric Fisher Wood is solely responsible for designing and having patented “The American Legion Emblem” and then sold the said patent to The American Legion for the nominal sum of (\$1.00) one dollar; and

WHEREAS, The said Eric Fisher Wood was chairman of the Constitutional Committee of the Cleveland American Legion Convention in 1920 when the Legion Constitution finally formulated itself into its present general form; and

WHEREAS, The said Eric Fisher Wood has, throughout his entire lifetime, faithfully served The American Legion in whatever capacity under which he was called to serve, and rendered very distinguished and capable service to the said Legion; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Chicago, Illinois, September 1, 2, 3, 4, 1958, That the title of “past national commander” is bestowed upon the said Eric Fisher Wood with all of the privileges and rights pertaining to such office, in view of the outstanding, distinguished, extraordinary and noteworthy services he performed in the planning, formation, and permanent organization of the said American Legion.