



THE AMERICAN LEGION
JOHN H. GEIGER
OPERATIONS CENTER

5745 Lee Road
Indianapolis, Indiana 46216

Dedication Ceremony
Wednesday, October 12, 2011



JOHN H. GEIGER

Remembered as "the Fifth Pillar of The American Legion" by Department of New York Adjutant Richard Pedro, Past National Commander John H. Geiger was truly a beloved and monumental leader of The American Legion.

A longtime resident of Des Plaines, Ill., PNC Geiger was a member of Hiram J. Slifer Post 135 in Chicago. He was a member of the Legion for 66 years, first joining Minden, Iowa, Post 437 while serving in Europe during World War II. Despite being seriously wounded during the Battle of the Bulge, he insisted on rejoining the fight before the war's end.

During his tenure as head of the nation's largest veterans service organization (1971-1972), National Commander Geiger traveled to Europe and the Far East, receiving briefings from U.S. and South Vietnamese military leadership during a stop in South Vietnam. He testified before Congress on several issues, including the preservation and protection of the Veterans Administration from a national health care plan, and to register The American Legion's strong opposition to blanket amnesty for Vietnam War draft dodgers. Commander Geiger also cemented a strong friendship with President Richard Nixon that would continue well beyond the White House years.

As the newly elected national commander, he left The American Legion's National Convention held in Houston armed with 249 resolutions in need of legislative action. By the end of his term, more than 100 of those resolutions had been satisfied – a remarkable achievement. Membership in The American Legion increased during Commander Geiger's year at the helm, a noteworthy accomplishment considering that the year also included a national dues increase. The American Legion conducted job fairs in 221 cities, spread across 41 states with more than 88,000 veterans and 3,900 employers participating during Commander Geiger's tenure. His theme, "Reach Out – It's Action Time," was repeatedly demonstrated by this man of character and deed.

At the young age of 35, John H. Geiger was elected department commander of Illinois. His leadership extended beyond The American Legion to United Airlines where he rose through the corporate ranks to become a vice president. As a past national commander of The American Legion, Mr. Geiger mentored many of his successors, served on the National Commander's Advisory Committee and provided wise counsel during meetings of the National Executive Committee.

In gratitude for the many years of service that Past National Commander Geiger provided to The American Legion and his country, The National Executive Committee unanimously passed Resolution 1 at its May 4-5, 2011, meeting in Indianapolis. It resolves to name The American Legion Building at 5745 Lee Road in Indianapolis, "The American Legion John H. Geiger Operations Center."

NATIONAL OFFICERS

National Commander

Fang A. Wong (NY)

National Vice Commanders

Mervin G. Gunderson (MT)

James H. Hales, Jr. (PA)

Milton G. Heifner (IA)

Larry D. Sheets (FL)

David N. Voyles (MO)

National Adjutant

Daniel S. Wheeler (VA)

National Judge Advocate

Philip B. Onderdonk, Jr. (MD)

National Treasurer

George A. Buskirk, Jr. (IN)

National Chaplain

Gerald Theriot (LA)

National Historian

Robert B. Craig (NE)

National Sergeant-At-Arms

David J. Louie (NY)

PROGRAM

Welcome

Fang A. Wong (NY)
National Commander

Invocation

Gerald Theriot (LA)
National Chaplain

Pledge of Allegiance

David J. Louie (NY)
National Sergeant-At-Arms

Introductory Remarks

Fang A. Wong (NY)
National Commander

Operations Center Overview

Jeffrey O. Brown (IN)
Executive Director

Tributory Remarks

Richard M. Pedro (NY)
Department of New York Adjutant

John P. Comer (MA)
Past National Commander

Unveiling of Building Signage

Fang A. Wong (NY)
National Commander

Benediction

Gerald Theriot (LA)
National Chaplain

THE JOHN H. GEIGER OPERATIONS CENTER

The American Legion John H. Geiger Operations Center serves as one of the main three buildings that comprise The American Legion's national headquarters. Located at historic Fort Benjamin Harrison in eastern Indianapolis, the facility houses Emblem Sales, Fundraising, Information Technology and the Membership Support Services divisions. The center produces \$30 million in annual revenues.

Construction for the 64,500 square foot facility started on April 5, 1999. In October 1999, the building was completed six weeks ahead of schedule and \$400,000 under budget. The official dedication ceremony on May 9, 2000, was attended by Indianapolis Mayor Bart Peterson, Lawrence Mayor Thomas Schneider and numerous American Legion national leaders. National Commander Alan G. Lance, Sr., presided over the ceremony and was introduced by Past National Commander John H. Geiger, a key supporter of the facility's construction and leader of the Building Committee.

Executive Director

Jeffrey O. Brown

Director of Emblem Sales

Richard B. Keith

Director of Fundraising

William A. Pease

Director of Information Technology

Bradley R. Pryor

Director of Membership Support Services

Gregory P. Roth

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

MAY 4 - 5, 2011

Resolution No. 1: The American Legion John H. Geiger Operations Center

Origin: Internal Affairs Commission

Submitted by: Finance Commission

WHEREAS, Past National Commander John H. Geiger of Des Plaines, Illinois, was instrumental in the decision, approval, acquisition of land, building design and construction in 1999 of The American Legion building located on the grounds of historic Fort Benjamin Harrison at 5745 Lee Road, Indianapolis, Indiana; and

WHEREAS, Since its dedication, the building has housed the Information Technology, Emblem Sales, Fundraising, and Membership Services Divisions of The American Legion as well as the former Haynes and Partners Communications, Inc., in a 64,000-square-foot facility; and

WHEREAS, John H. Geiger served as National Commander from 1971 to 1972 and during his tenure in office represented The American Legion before heads of state and among allied military advisors in briefings on the status of the Vietnam War; and

WHEREAS, As the National Commander, John H. Geiger testified in Congress on many issues, including in opposition to dismantling or absorbing the Veterans Administration into a national health-care plan, and in opposition to blanket amnesty for Vietnam War draft dodgers while the war was ongoing, suggesting to Congress that amnesty be granted only on a case-by-case review following the war; and

WHEREAS, After leaving the office of National Commander, Past National Commander Geiger continued to serve his fellow veterans and The American Legion with strong leadership presence on the National Executive Committee of The American Legion until his death in 2011; and

WHEREAS, Past National Commander Geiger, whose time and talents were given daily to the work of our organization, left behind a legacy that will never be forgotten; and

WHEREAS, It is entirely fitting that the memory of Past National Commander John H. Geiger be marked prominently and forever in the permanent history of The American Legion; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 4-5, 2011, That, in tribute to Past National Commander John H. Geiger for his commitment to America and his dedication to America's veterans, The American Legion building located at 5745 Lee Road, Indianapolis, Indiana, be rededicated as "The American Legion John H. Geiger Operations Center"; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the official dedication shall be conducted during the National Executive Committee Meeting of The American Legion to be held at Indianapolis, Indiana, October 12-13, 2011; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That \$25,000 be approved for appropriate signage, building lettering and the dedication ceremony.