



THE AMERICAN LEGION
Veterans Strengthening America
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

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The American Legion calls for ending ‘Forever War,’ repealing, replacing Authorization for Using Military Force

WASHINGTON (April 15, 2021) – Calling the White House plan to fully withdraw troops from Afghanistan by September 11, “a good start,” the leader of the nation’s largest veteran service organization, The American Legion, is calling for an end to the “Forever war,” nearly twenty years after troops were deployed there.

Acknowledging that the United States “had little choice but to strike back hard” after the 9/11 attacks, American Legion National Commander James W. “Bill” Oxford called for the repeal of the “outdated authorizations for use of military force” that are currently being used to keep U.S. troops in Afghanistan and Iraq.

“Today, there are men and women defending our nation in uniform who were born after 9/11.” Oxford wrote in the May issue of The American Legion Magazine. “Thousands of American lives have been lost or broken fighting the global war on terrorism. An entire generation grew into adulthood without knowing a time when the United States was at peace.”

Oxford’s position mirrors a national resolution titled “[Addressing the ‘Forever War,’](#)” passed by The American Legion National Executive Committee (NEC) during its virtual meeting October 14-15, 2020. The NEC Resolution also states, “Our servicemembers accomplished their original objectives in Afghanistan long ago at great cost...”

Oxford penned the magazine piece weeks before the White House had announced its plan. The editorial also calls for the construction of the Global War on Terrorism Memorial in a prominent location in the nation's capital.

“We understand the value of alliances and certainly favor the elimination of imminent threats,” Oxford said. “But imminent is not the same as permanent. It’s past time to memorialize and honor those who made tremendous sacrifices on our behalf. It’s also time to put diplomacy first.”

About The American Legion

[The American Legion](#) is the largest veterans service organization with nearly 2 million members in more than 12,000 posts across the nation. Chartered by Congress in 1919, The American Legion is committed to mentoring youth and sponsoring wholesome community programs, advocating patriotism and honor, promoting a strong national security and continued devotion to servicemembers and veterans.

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