

RESOLUTION

Resolution No. 2612

Subject Syracuse USO Waiver

WHEREAS, The American Legion is chartered by Congress as a patriotic, veteran-focused organization dedicated to the principal that a nation must honor its obligation to those who serve on Active Duty, veterans, and their families, and

WHEREAS, The American Legion is deeply committed to supporting the sacrifices made by U.S. military service members and their families during and after their deployments and remains steadfast in its mission to ensure that they receive the care, benefits, and appreciation they have earned, and

WHEREAS, Military courtesy rooms and USO lounges are operated at many major airports across the nation to provide a free, comfortable, and supportive sanctuary for Active Duty, Reserve, and National Guard service members to rest, relax, and connect with loved ones during travel, and

WHEREAS, the Syracuse-Hancock International Airport is the proud home of the Cpl. Gregory J. Harris Military Courtesy Room, named to honor the sacrifice and service of a local U.S. Marine Corps service member who was captured in June 1966 and is still unaccounted for, that provides a critical, comfortable and safe environment for service members to rest, eat, and wait for flights, and

WHEREAS, the Cpl. Gregory J. Harris Military Courtesy Room operates as a 100% volunteer led, charitable organization providing essential comfort and support in a space classified by the Syracuse Regional Airport Authority (SRAA) as a commercial vendor space, resulting in rental charges of approximately \$2,200.00 per month, and

WHEREAS, 49 USC §47107(a)(3) and the corresponding Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Grant Assurance program require airport sponsors, like the SRAA, who receive federal funds to maintain a fee and rental schedule for commercial vendor space that makes the airport as self-sustaining as possible, and

WHEREAS, for the SRAA (which operates the Syracuse-Hancock International Airport) to provide the space which the Cpl. Gregory J. Harris Military Courtesy Room occupies rent-free requires a waiver determination by the FAA that the space provides a community service benefit that outweighs the loss of potential rental revenue, and

WHEREAS, providing space at no cost for the Cpl. Gregory J. Harris Military Courtesy Room directly supports the well-being of military members and their families passing through the Syracuse-Hancock International Airport, which aligns with the airport's commitment to supporting the military community that justifies a reclassification from a commercial vendor space to a community service space allowing for a rent-free occupation without violating any federal revenue diversion policies, now be it therefore

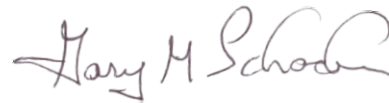
RESOLVED, that The American Legion Department of New York, in convention assembled July 16th-18th, 2026 in Syracuse, New York supports the reclassification of the space utilized by the Cpl. Gregory J. Harris Military Courtesy Room at the Syracuse- Hancock International Airport as a community service space allowing for rent free occupation, and be it further

RESOLVED, that The American Legion endorses the application for the necessary FAA waiver determination to allow the Cpl. Gregory J. Harris Military Courtesy Room at Syracuse-Hancock International Airport to operate in a space exempt from fee and rental schedule mandated under 49 USC §47107 (a)(3) and the corresponding Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Grant Assurance program, and be it further

RESOLVED, that The American Legion requests the support and assistance of the Syracuse Regional Airport Authority in making application to the FAA which has the authority to grant exemptions and waivers from federal regulations under 14 CFR part 11 when such relief is in the public interest and does not adversely affect safety, and be it finally

RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be forwarded to SRAA Board of Directors, which oversees all rental structures and leases, Mr. Joseph Mehl, Chief Commercial Operations Officer at Syracuse Hancock International Airport, U.S. Senators Chuck Shumer and Kristin Gillibrand, U.S. Representative John Mannion and DOT Secretary Sean Duffy for action and support.

American Legion Department of New York FOR CONVENTION COMMITTEE USE Approved _____ Rejected _____ Approved with Amendments <u>X</u> _____ Consolidated with _____ Referred to Standing Committee on _____ <u>Received and Recorded: July 15th, 2026</u> <u>Other Action:</u> <u>Signature: Frank J. Peters</u> (Chairman)



Adjutant Signature

Department Adjutant

Title

Below section to be completed when resolution
is submitted from another authorized source.

Frank J. Peters, Chairman

Name

Department Resolutions Committee

Title