

- (i) April 6, 1917, through November 11, 1918;
- (ii) December 7, 1941, through December 31, 1946;
- (iii) June 25, 1950, through January 31, 1955;
- (iv) February 28, 1961, through May 7, 1975;
- (v) August 24, 1982, through July 31, 1984;
- (vi) December 20, 1989, through January 31, 1990; or
- (vii) August 2, 1990, through the date of cessation of hostilities, as decided by the United States Government; or

(B) a government associated with the United States during a period referred to in subclause (A) of this clause and was a citizen of the United States when the individual entered that service; and

(2) was honorably discharged or separated from that service or continues to serve honorably during or after that period.

(Pub. L. 105-225, Aug. 12, 1998, 112 Stat. 1297; Pub. L. 105-354, §1(6), Nov. 3, 1998, 112 Stat. 3244; Pub. L. 107-309, §1, Dec. 2, 2002, 116 Stat. 2449.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES
PUB. L. 105-225

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
21703	36:45.	Sept. 16, 1919, ch. 59, §5, 41 Stat. 285; Oct. 29, 1942, ch. 633, §2, 56 Stat. 1012; July 9, 1946, ch. 546, 60 Stat. 524; Dec. 28, 1950, ch. 1177, 64 Stat. 1122; July 26, 1955, ch. 386, §2, 69 Stat. 380; Sept. 1, 1966, Pub. L. 89-550, §2, 80 Stat. 372; Dec. 27, 1974, Pub. L. 93-557, 88 Stat. 1792; Aug. 17, 1978, Pub. L. 95-346, 92 Stat. 485; Dec. 21, 1979, Pub. L. 96-155, 93 Stat. 1165; Oct. 30, 1990, Pub. L. 101-478, 104 Stat. 1157; Dec. 2, 1991, Pub. L. 102-179, 105 Stat. 1229.

In clause (1), the words “armed forces” are substituted for “naval or military services” and “military or naval service” for clarity. In subclause (A), the word “through” is substituted for “all dates inclusive” for clarity. In subclause (B), the words “a government associated with the United States during a period referred to in subclause (A) of this clause and was a citizen of the United States when the individual entered that service” are substituted for “who, being a citizen of the United States at the time of entry therein . . . of any governments associated with the United States during said wars or hostilities” for clarity.

In clause (2), the words “after that period” are substituted for “after any of the aforesaid terminal dates” to eliminate unnecessary words.

PUB. L. 105-354

This amends section 21703(1)(A)(iv) of title 36 to reflect changes made by Public Law 105-110 (Nov. 20, 1997, 111 Stat. 2270).

AMENDMENTS

2002—Par. (2). Pub. L. 107-309 inserted “during or” after “continues to serve honorably”.

1998—Par. (1)(A)(iv). Pub. L. 105-354 substituted “February 28, 1961” for “December 22, 1961”.

§ 21704. Powers

The corporation may—

- (1) adopt a constitution, bylaws, and regulations to carry out the purposes of the corporation;
- (2) adopt and alter a corporate seal;
- (3) establish and maintain offices to conduct its activities;
- (4) establish State and territorial organizations and local chapter or post organizations;
- (5) provide guidance and leadership to organizations and local chapters established under paragraph (4), but may not control or otherwise influence the specific activities and conduct of such organizations and local chapters;
- (6) acquire, own, lease, encumber, and transfer property as necessary to carry out the purposes of the corporation;
- (7) publish a magazine and other publications;
- (8) sue and be sued; and
- (9) do any other act necessary and proper to carry out the purposes of the corporation.

(Pub. L. 105-225, Aug. 12, 1998, 112 Stat. 1297; Pub. L. 112-66, §1, Dec. 13, 2011, 125 Stat. 768.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
21704	36:44 (words before 4th semicolon less perpetual succession, words after 5th semicolon). 36:47.	Sept. 16, 1919, ch. 59, §4 (words before 4th semicolon less perpetual succession, words after 5th semicolon), 41 Stat. 285; June 26, 1953, ch. 153, §1, 67 Stat. 82. Sept. 16, 1919, ch. 59, §7, 41 Stat. 285.

In this section, the text of 36:47 is omitted as executed and obsolete.

In clause (1), the words “not inconsistent with the laws of the United States or of any State” are omitted as unnecessary.

In clause (2), the words “at pleasure” are omitted as unnecessary.

In clause (3), the word “activities” is substituted for “business” for consistency in the revised title.

Clause (5) is substituted for “to receive, hold, own, use, and dispose of such real estate and personal property as shall be necessary for its corporate purposes” for consistency in the revised title and to eliminate unnecessary words.

In clause (7), the words “in courts of law and equity” are omitted as unnecessary.

In clause (8), the words “do any other act” are substituted for “generally to do any and all such acts and things” for consistency in the revised title and to eliminate unnecessary words.

AMENDMENTS

2011—Pars. (5) to (9). Pub. L. 112-66 added par. (5) and redesignated former pars. (5) to (8) as (6) to (9), respectively.

§ 21705. Exclusive right to name, emblems, and badges

The corporation and its State and local subdivisions have the exclusive right to use the name “The American Legion” or “American Legion”. The corporation has the exclusive right to use, manufacture, and control the right to manufacture, emblems and badges the corporation adopts.

(Pub. L. 105-225, Aug. 12, 1998, 112 Stat. 1298.)