

Incorporated (in this chapter, the “corporation”), is a federally chartered corporation.

(b) PLACE OF INCORPORATION AND DOMICILE.—The corporation is declared to be incorporated and domiciled in the District of Columbia.

(c) PERPETUAL EXISTENCE.—Except as otherwise provided, the corporation has perpetual existence.

(Pub. L. 105–225, Aug. 12, 1998, 112 Stat. 1381.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
140501	36:821. 36:822. 36:824(1).	Aug. 26, 1958, Pub. L. 85–761, §§1, 2, 4(1), 72 Stat. 854, 856.

This section is substituted for the source provisions for consistency in the revised title and to eliminate executed and unnecessary words.

§ 140502. Principles and purposes

(a) PRINCIPLES.—The principles underlying the corporation are patriotic allegiance to the United States, fidelity to the Constitution and laws of the United States, the security of civil liberty, and the permanence of free institutions.

(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the corporation are educational, fraternal, historical, and patriotic, perpetuating the principles of liberty and justice which have created the United States, by—

- (1) commemorating all national patriotic holidays;
- (2) maintaining true allegiance to the Government of the United States and fidelity to its Constitution and laws;
- (3) preserving and strengthening comradeship and patriotism among its members;
- (4) assisting, comforting, and aiding all needy and distressed members and their dependents;
- (5) giving needed hospital and service work through its Department of Veterans Affairs certified service officers;
- (6) cooperating with other civic and patriotic organizations having worthy objectives;
- (7) keeping alive the achievements and memory of our country’s founders;
- (8) ever cherishing the memory of General George Washington, who founded the Purple Heart at his headquarters at Newburgh-on-the-Hudson on August 7, 1782;
- (9) influencing and teaching our citizenry, in a loyal appreciation of the heritages of American citizenship, with its responsibilities and privileges; and
- (10) preserving and defending the United States from all enemies.

(Pub. L. 105–225, Aug. 12, 1998, 112 Stat. 1381.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
140502	36:823.	Aug. 26, 1958, Pub. L. 85–761, §3, 72 Stat. 856; June 13, 1991, Pub. L. 102–54, §13(n)(3), 105 Stat. 278.

In this section, the words “of America” are omitted for consistency in the revised title.

In subsection (b)(3), the word “among” is substituted for “amongst” to use more common terminology.

In subsection (b)(10), the word “whomsoever” is omitted as unnecessary.

§ 140503. Membership

(a) ACTIVE MEMBERS.—An individual is eligible for active membership in the corporation if the individual—

- (1) is of good moral character; and
- (2) has received the Purple Heart for wounds received as a member, of any rank, of the Armed Forces of the United States or any foreign country during military or naval combat against an armed enemy of the United States.

(b) ASSOCIATE MEMBERS.—The corporation may extend eligibility for membership as associate members to the parents, spouse, siblings, and lineal descendants of an individual described in subsection (a) of this section on terms provided in its constitution and bylaws.

(c) VOTING.—Each member described in subsection (a) of this section has one vote on each matter submitted to a vote at a meeting of the members.

(Pub. L. 105–225, Aug. 12, 1998, 112 Stat. 1382; Pub. L. 110–207, §2, Apr. 30, 2008, 122 Stat. 719.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
140503	36:826.	Aug. 26, 1958, Pub. L. 85–761, §6, 72 Stat. 857.

In this section, the text of 36:826(d) is omitted as obsolete.

In subsection (a), the words “has received” are substituted for “who have received or who may hereafter receive”, and the words “as a member” are substituted for “are, have been, or may become members”, for clarity and to eliminate unnecessary words.

In subsection (b), the word “may” is substituted for “shall have the power, moreover, to” for consistency and to eliminate unnecessary words.

AMENDMENTS

2008—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 110–207 substituted “the parents, spouse, siblings, and lineal descendants” for “parents and lineal descendants”.

§ 140504. Governing body

(a) BOARD OF DIRECTORS.—(1) The board of directors is the governing body of the corporation. Between meetings of the corporation, the board is responsible for the general policies and program of the corporation. The board is responsible for all funds of the corporation.

(2) The number of directors, their manner of selection (including the filling of vacancies), and their term of office are as provided in the constitution and bylaws of the corporation. However, the board shall have at least 18 directors.

(b) OFFICERS.—(1) The officers of the corporation are a commander, a senior vice commander, a chaplain, an adjutant, a finance officer, a judge advocate, an inspector, a surgeon, a historian, and other elected officers as provided in the constitution and bylaws.

(2) The manner of election, term of office, and duties of the officers are as provided in the constitution and bylaws.