

**The American Legion**

**Ruskin Post 389**

**P.O. Box 0944, Ruskin, Florida 33579**

February 3, 2018

MEMORANDUM TO: American Legion National Americanism Commission

THROUGH: Commander, American Legion Department of Florida

THROUGH: Adjutant, American Legion Department of Florida

THROUGH: Programs Director, American Legion Department of Florida

THROUGH: Boy Scout Chairman, American Legion Department of Florida

MEMORADNUM FROM: Commander, American Legion Ruskin Post 389

SUBJECT: Application and Endorsement for the National American Legion Square Knot Award for Legion Member Richard L. Hewett.

1. I certify that Mr. Richard L. Hewett (Rick) has met and/or exceeded all the requirements for The American Legion Square Knot Award. He has a lifelong record of selfless service at the local, state, and national level in multiple capacities, not just for the American Legion. See below for a narrative of his service accomplishments. I endorse him for the National American Legion Square Knot Award.

2. Americanism Service Endorsement. [It is highly encouraged that award nominees provide detailed service history, not just that of The American Legion]

1. American Legion Service. Mr. Hewett is the current American Legion Post 389 Commander and Department of Florida Boy Scout Chairman for 2017-2018. Mr. Hewett served as the 2016-2017 Post 148 Judge Advocate and the National High School Oratorical Contest Chair. He is “Paid Up For Life” (PUFL). He volunteered to serve as The American Legion 15th District Boy Scout Chairman for 2016-2017. In fall of 2015, Mr. Hewett and his spouse, Julie Hewett, a PUFL Legionnaire and the 2016-2017 Post 148 Boy Scout Chair, were instrumental in reorganizing Post 148’s chartered BSA Unit despite numerous challenges with problematic non-Legion adults in the BSA Unit. In 2017, he led the Department of Florida in a branding effort to change new and existing BSA Unit numerals to match the Post home’s numerals as well as lecture at the Department’s Conventions and Fall Conferences. He grew Post 148’s BSA program to form a new BSA Troop. He was pivotal in overseeing a ground-breaking charter transfer from Post 148 to Post 389 which formed the template for other inter-American Legion charter moves for other Posts within a District if and when necessary. Mr. Hewett provides a Scouting report to every general meeting, solicits American Legion Family members to volunteer, adds Cub Scout Pack and Boy Scout Troop unit events on the Post, District, and Area calendars, and has been successful at having Legionnaires participate and lead Scouting events. His leadership in our BSA Units has had a direct impact on increased Post 148 and Post 389 membership and credit for the annual Consolidated Post Report. As a direct result of his impact on the Department of Florida, Mr. Hewett was nominated by the Department National Executive Committee Member and appointed by the National Commander to the National Americanism Committee for 2017-2018.
2. Military Service. Mr. Hewett is a decorated Army special operations veteran with multiple counterterrorism combat tours in Afghanistan, Iraq, and other politically sensitive countries with national-level joint special operations task forces. His awards include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Bronze Star (3OLC), Valorous Unit Award, and multiple Joint, Army, and foreign awards. He is currently a senior U.S. Air Force civilian and serves as the Deputy Chief, Operations Branch, J3X Sensitive Activities Division within the United States Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) on MacDill Air Force Base, FL. Prior to USSOCOM, Mr. Hewett was on the staff of the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence in Washington, D.C. as a U.S. Navy civilian and managed a compartmented preparation of the environment sensitive activities program. As a civilian, he was selected to attend military senior service college in residence at the U.S. Navy War College in Newport, RI. While active duty, Mr. Hewett was awarded the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal (MOVSM) for support to children and youth programs (service prior to September 2001). The MOVSM is the same BSA adult knot award as the American Legion’s Square Knot (Boy Scouts of America’s Community Organization Square Knot). Therefore, Mr. Hewett will earn his first device for the BSA knot with the American Legion’s Square Knot Award as a two-time recipient for outstanding volunteerism.
3. Boy Scouts of America Service. As a Cub Scout, Mr. Hewett earned the Arrow of Light and Religious Emblem. As a Boy Scout, he earned the Eagle Scout Award with Bronze Palm, Vigil Honor in the Order of the Arrow, went to Philmont Scout Ranch, and served on staff at a local BSA Camp. He was selected to give the State of the State of Scouting to the Governor of Texas as youth. He has six children (three boys, three girls) registered in Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts. As an adult Scouter, Mr. Hewett served as a leader and committee member in his children’s’ Pack and Troop which is chartered by our American Legion Post. He currently serves on the BSA training team at both the BSA District and Council level. His adult BSA awards include: BSA National James E. West Fellow Award for fundraising, Community Organization Award, Timucua District Shield of Service Award, and the Den Leader Training Award. At the time of this nomination memorandum writing, Mr. Hewett was also nominated for the BSA National William D. Boyce New Unit Organizer Award and the God & Service Award. Mr. Hewett is a graduate of Wood Badge class S4-86-14-1 (Beaver Patrol) and is a lifetime member of the National Eagle Scout Association.
4. Girl Scouts of the USA Service. Mr. Hewett is a registered adult leader with the Girl Scouts of America. He has three daughters in Girl Scouts. He recognized the need to strengthen families in the local community and was instrumental in implementing a joint Boy Scout-Girl Scout program where the entire family may participate at any given event. This concept was traditionally taboo and went against the norm for both organizations. However, due to the innovative concept, membership in both Scouting organizations and the American Legion family have increased since 2016. In October 2017, BSA national followed suit allowing girls to register in all BSA organizations so the program can cater to entire families.
5. Religious Service. Mr. Hewett served in several churches in the Tampa Bay area as a layman volunteer. He led multiple community outreach ministry teams, including food drives, pantry operations, counseling, was a church administrator, and taught Dave Ramsey’s Financial Peace University to adult small groups to build stability and resilience within families for a stronger community. He advised his current church on the benefits of para-church outreach ministry aspects of Scouting. As a result, his church sponsors the Post 389 Boy Scout Troop on their campus, and allows them full use of the property and facility, including the storage of American Legion property. Likewise, the Troop assists the church’s food pantry operations through Scouting for Food and volunteer service as well as conducting service projects for the church. Troop members who are also registered American Legion members represent both organizations at the annual Scout Sunday event that occurs in February in conjunction with the American Legion’s Four Chaplains service.

3. Nominee American Legion Member#: 205098938 (PUFL)

4. Because the nominee is the Post 389 Commander, the Post Adjutant endorses this nomination. The Post 389 Adjutant is simultaneously the American Legion Central Area Commander and former 15th District Commander while the nominee served as the 15th District Boy Scout Chairman under him. [Paragraph is only required if the nominee is also the Post Commander]

5. Point of contact for this action is the undersigned at 813-545-4623 or centralarea@legionmail.org.

LUTHER J. ALLEN [Post Commander Name]

Adjutant [or Commander if not the nominee]

Ruskin Post 389

11 Enclosures: [Nominee must provide copies of all substantiating documents that correspond to the application chart]

1. 2018 American Legion Post 389 membership card

2. Report, “My Scouting Positions” (continuous adult tenure 1,766 days)

3. Training Certificate, Cub Scout Leader Specific Training Course

4. Report, “my.Scouting training”, Youth Protection Training and Scoutmaster Specific

Training courses

5. Training Certificate, Venture Crew Advisor Position Training

6. Training Certificate, Wood Badge Course Completion, S4-86-14-1, and approved

“ticket” completions (project explanations to meet various requirements)

7. Report, 5th Annual American Legion Department Scouting Chairpersons Conference

(BSA National Community Alliance Seminar; Hewett attendance as Department

of Florida Chairman)

8. Training Certificate, Charter Organization Representative course

9. BSA National James E. West Fellow Award for BSA fundraising

10. Email to BSA Timucua District Commissioner for submission of the BSA National

William D. Boyce New Unit Organizer Award

11. Emails (2), Emblem Sales, recognition item shipping confirmation for Legion

neckties, Auxiliary scarfs, Oratorical Pin, and Amateur Radio Club programs.

Copy: [Info copy the chain of command and the NEC/NECA that corresponds with American Legion National]

Commander, 15th District

Commander, Central Area

Department National Executive Committeemen Alternate

Department National Executive Committeemen

3rd Vice Commander, Department of Florida

2nd Vice Commander, Department of Florida

1st Vice Commander, Department of Florida

CONCUR: (N/A) [Necessary if not the nominee]\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Richard Hewett DATE

Boy Scout Chair, Department of Florida

CONCUR: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Elizabeth Douglas DATE

Programs Director, Department of Florida

CONCUR: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Mike McDaniel DATE

Adjutant, Department of Florida

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Steve Shuga DATE

Commander, Department of Florida