

Adopted November 18, 2020
by AFT-Oregon Retirees Chapter Membership

1 Recommending General Henry M. Robert for Renaming of Military Bases

2 **Whereas**, public events have raised discussion on names of military installations, notably, military bases
3 named after Confederate military leaders; and

4 **Whereas**, changing those base names is an important element in removing remnants of treason and
5 treasonous acts against the United States; and

6 **Whereas**, bills in the U.S. Congress seek to rename military installations, including some in Defense
7 Department appropriations bills; and

8 **Whereas**, names of bases and installations should reflect honorable service to the United States; and

9 **Whereas**, General Henry M. Robert was such an officer in the United States Army serving in the Union
10 Forces during the Civil War and continuing in a fruitful military career following the war, retiring in 1901
11 after 44 years service in combat and engineering operations; and

12 **Whereas**, notwithstanding that reputation, General Robert is best and nearly universally known for his
13 Rules of Order, the most common parliamentary guide in use for organizations and membership societies in
14 the country; and

15 **Whereas**, graduating forth in his West Point Class in 1857, and remaining with the Union Army when
16 many of his fellow graduates resigned and took up arms for the Confederacy, his service included the 1859
17 “pig war” on San Juan Island; assignment as chief engineer for the military division of the Pacific, including
18 supervision of the lighthouse and harbor; assignment in 1873 to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where he
19 supervised the construction of lighthouses on Lake Michigan and the Milwaukee harbor; and appointment
20 by President Cleveland to a board of engineers to develop a deep water port on the Gulf of Mexico, helping
21 to select Galveston, Texas, then as the engineer on the project for the Corps of Engineers, completing it in
22 1895; appointment by President McKinley as brigadier general and commander of the Army Corps of
23 Engineers; and, continuing his engineering profession after retirement, designed the seawall for Port of
24 Galveston storm protection; and

25 **Whereas**, following his retirement, General Robert continued actively writing and improving his
26 parliamentary procedure prescriptions, producing his revised 1915 edition; and

27 **Whereas**, his Rules of Order manual, now revised and modernized by the Robert's Rules Association,
28 most recently as its 2020 edition, has become an American standard for parliamentary procedure, and

29 **Whereas**, the American Institute of Parliamentarians has adopted its own resolution recommending the
30 name of General Henry M. Martin as a name for a base, noting him as: “. . . a person whose military career
31 was distinguished ad whose contribution to our civil society and civil discourse through his teaching, his
32 civic activities, and his writings in parliamentary procedure cannot be paralleled by any other American
33 civil or military commander;” now

34 **Therefore, Be It Resolved**, that American Federation of Teachers-Oregon Retirees Chapter recommends
35 naming a military base or other installation for General Henry M. Robert, writing as well to members of

36 Oregon's congressional delegation to support this recommendation, including forwarding by them his name
37 to appropriate Congressional committees and base-naming commissions or other bodies; and

38 **Be It Further Resolved**, that Chapter request the AFT-Oregon Executive Council support this
39 recommendation by adopting it, and recommending its adoption by all Oregon AFT affiliates and also
40 writing Oregon's congressional delegation; and

41 **Be It Finally Resolved**, that the Chapter forward this resolution to the AFT Executive Council and AFT
42 Retiree Chapters through AFT, requesting support and recommendation to their respective state
43 Congressional delegations.