

Adopted May 10, 2021
by AFT-Oregon Retirees Chapter Membership
(Revising and Replacing Resolution of 2020-11-18)

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 fourth 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;” and

34 **Whereas**, The Department of Defense Education Activity (DDEA), a government agency responsible for
35 operating the two Department of Defense schools through two school systems overseen by the Department
36 of Defense Dependents Schools (DDDS), covering all DDEA schools on military bases outside of U.S.
37 territory; and the Domestic Dependents Elementary and Secondary Schools (DDESS), providing education
38 services to military dependents on certain bases within the United States, as well as on U.S. territories, such
39 as Guam and Puerto Rico; and

40 **Whereas**, AFT has a significant contingent of members in a local, the Overseas Federation of Teachers
41 (OFT), founded in 1963, representing teachers and others employed by the Defense Department, staffing
42 schools for dependent children on military bases around the world, including members working in schools
43 in Spain, Turkey, Bahrain and Italy; and

44 **Whereas**, Federal Education Association (FEA), an affiliate of the National Education Association, also
45 represents teachers and education employees in the DDEA; and

46 **Whereas**, the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) represents a large array of
47 Department of Defense support workers; and

48 **Whereas**, names listed should include not just those who contributed singularly militarily to the honor
49 and defense of the United States, excluding those who took up arms against it; and

50 **Whereas**, the list has room for those with honorable military history whose works also contributed, as his
51 works did and continues to contribute, to models for civil discourse and debate for resolving differences
52 within and among deliberative bodies while allowing all points of view, including full expression of both
53 majority and minority opinions, in resolving differences and achieving acceptable outcomes in their
54 deliberations; now

55 **Therefore, Be It Resolved**, that American Federation of Teachers-Oregon Retirees Chapter recommends
56 listing the name of General Henry M. Robert for naming a military base or other installation, by writing all
57 the members of Oregon's congressional delegation to support the listing, including by forwarding his name
58 to appropriate Congressional committees and base-naming commissions or other bodies; and

59 **Be It Further Resolved**, that the Chapter directly request the Executive Board or Council of Oregon AFT
60 affiliates to join in this request by also writing Oregon's congressional delegation with the same request to
61 include the name on lists used for renaming military bases and installations; and

62 **Be It Further Resolved**, that the Chapter forward this resolution to AFT Retiree Chapters through AFT,
63 requesting their support by making the same request of their respective state Congressional delegations that
64 the name of General Henry M. Robert by listed among those names for naming a military base or other
65 installation; and

66 **Be It Finally Resolved**, that the Chapter forward this resolution to the AFT Executive Council for its
67 support and that it submit the same request to appropriate representatives and bodies in the federal
68 government, that the name of General Henry M. Robert by listed and included among those names for
69 naming a military base or other installation.