



## THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN

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### **WISCONSIN VETERANS DESERVE HIGH GRADES, NOT DOWN GRADES Milwaukee Commission Lowers Veterans' Status For Police And Fire Positions**

(MILWAUKEE) – The Wisconsin American Legion is decrying a recent decision by the Milwaukee Police and Fire Commission to downgrade veterans' status while being considered for future police and fire positions. Previously, the Commission assigned ten-plus points for military service, but last month lowered that number to three.

*“The (Milwaukee) police union has condemned the veteran change, with its president, (Mike) Crivello, saying it was ‘dishonorable to those that should be honored.’”*

*Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, May 5, 2017*

“These ‘preference points’ gave veterans a hard-earned, well-deserved credit for their noble service in the military,” said Wisconsin American Legion state commander Daniel J. Seehafer. “We are extremely disappointed in Milwaukee’s decision that we know represents yet another barrier to our veterans who want to continue to serve their country and their communities.”

The Police and Fire Commission also decided to award five preference points to anyone for merely being a city of Milwaukee resident.

“We implore the Commission and the city to revisit this important issue for veterans and help them pursue careers in firefighting and law enforcement,” said Seehafer.

The Commission revised its preference point system for hiring after a federal appeals court recently upheld a residency requirement for Milwaukee police officers, firefighters and other emergency workers to live within 15 miles of city limits.

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*The Wisconsin American Legion is the state’s largest veterans’ service organization with over 60,000 members and 507 posts in communities across Wisconsin serving troops, veterans and youth since 1919. For more information on the Legion’s programs and membership, please visit [www.wilegion.org](http://www.wilegion.org).*