

EIGHTY-EIGHTH NATIONAL CONVENTION  
OF  
THE AMERICAN LEGION  
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH  
AUGUST 29, 30, 31, 2006

**RESOLUTION NO.:218**

**SUBJECT:                   The Establishment of Amyotrophic  
Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) as a Gulf War  
Presumptive Disease**

Origin:                   Wyoming

Submitted by:           Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation

WHEREAS, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) is a fatal neurological disease that controls muscle movement and neither a cause or effective treatment for ALS is known; and

WHEREAS, Preliminary findings of a joint Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and Department of Defense (DoD) study, released in December 2001, of nearly 2.5 million veterans indicated that deployed Gulf War veterans are twice as likely as their non-deployed counterparts to develop ALS; and

WHEREAS, The VA study initially identified 40 Gulf War veterans with ALS and there may be other Gulf War veterans currently suffering from ALS yet to be identified; and

WHEREAS, The Secretary of Veterans Affairs ("Secretary") announced that he would explore VA's options for compensating Gulf War veterans who subsequently develop ALS; and

WHEREAS, VA subsequently directed all VA regional offices to submit all Gulf War ALS cases to VA Central Office for expeditious adjudication; and

WHEREAS, Despite the Secretary's announcement and subsequent action, VA did not have plans to draft a regulation establishing an ALS presumption under current law guaranteeing compensation for Gulf War veterans who develop ALS in the future; and

WHEREAS, The joint VA and DoD study was published in the scientific journal "Neurology" in September 2003, resulting in the Secretary to publicly announce that this "final study" supports his 2001 decision to compensate Gulf War veterans stricken with ALS; and

WHEREAS, Despite this public announcement and the Secretary's initial decision to expeditiously service-connect, on a direct basis, Gulf War veterans diagnosed with ALS, VA recently informed The American Legion that it would be "premature" at this time to create a regulatory presumption of service connection for Gulf War veterans with ALS; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Salt Lake City, Utah, August 29, 30, 31, 2006, That The American Legion pursue specific legislation to establish ALS as a condition presumed to be service-connected when incurred by veterans of the Gulf War.**