

**NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA**

MAY 8-9, 2002

RESOLUTION NO.: 22

**SUBJECT: THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AMYOTROPHIC
LATERAL SCLEROSIS (ALS) AS A GULF WAR
PRESUMPTIVE DISEASE**

COMMITTEE: 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 recent joint Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and Department of Defense (DoD) study of nearly 2.5 million veterans indicate 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 announced that he would explore VA's options for compensating Gulf War veterans who subsequently develop ALS; and

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

WHEREAS, From the information obtained by The American Legion at this time, VA does 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 preliminary results of the recent VA study support the establishment of an ALS presumption under current law; and

WHEREAS, Legislation was also introduced in the First Session of the 107th Congress to establish ALS as a Gulf War presumptive disease; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 8-9, 2002, That The American Legion urge the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs to implement a regulation, under existing law, establishing ALS as condition presumed to be service-connected when incurred by veterans of the Persian Gulf War or, in the alternative, The American Legion pursue specific legislation to accomplish this purpose.