

**NINETY-SECOND NATIONAL CONVENTION
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
August 31, September 1, 2, 2010**

Resolution No. 99: Extend the Presumptive Period for Service Connection for Gulf War Veterans with Undiagnosed Illnesses

Origin: Maryland

**Submitted by: Convention Committee on Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation
(As Amended, Consolidated with Res. No. 161(GA), and No. 213 (MA))**

WHEREAS, Many servicemembers who served in the Gulf War suffer from long-term, life-altering ailments and chronic multi-symptom illnesses that have unknown etiology—like chronic fatigue syndrome, fibromyalgia, irritable bowel syndrome, concentration problems; and

WHEREAS, Many service members who have served in the Southwest Asia theater since the 1991 Gulf War - including those serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom - have also been exhibiting chronic, unexplained physical symptoms; and

WHEREAS, There has recently been some progress in research on the long-term health effects of many of the agents Gulf War veterans were potentially exposed to during the Gulf War, but numerous symptoms experienced by sick Gulf War veterans are still not well understood, the causes of such symptoms remain elusive and answers could likely remain evasive for some time; and

WHEREAS, Continuation of care for ill Gulf War veterans would provide invaluable data that could be used to examine the nature of Gulf War illnesses, provide better care for ill Gulf War veterans, and provide preparation for treatment of future servicemembers who may become ill after deployments to the Southwest Asia theater; and

WHEREAS, Additional research into the long-term health effects of exposures is needed, a fact confirmed by the Department of Veterans Affairs Research Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses; and

WHEREAS, Certain ailments caused by environmental exposures may produce unforeseen health effects that may manifest in the future; and

WHEREAS, Eligibility for Gulf War veterans in Priority Group 6 of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)'s health care system—expired January 1, 2007; and

WHEREAS, Congress needs to grant VA the authority to re-establish eligibility for Gulf War veterans in Priority Group 6; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, August 31, September 1, 2, 2010, That The American Legion supports legislation to reinstate and extend the presumptive period for service connection of Gulf War veterans with undiagnosed illnesses indefinitely; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That Gulf War veterans be re-established as eligible for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Priority Group 6; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That VA continues to conduct research into the long-term effects of Gulf War Illnesses and expand the Gulf War registry.