

**NINETY-SIXTH NATIONAL CONVENTION
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
Charlotte, North Carolina
August 26, 27, 28, 2014**

Resolution No. 215: Extend Eligibility for National Cemetery Administration Medallion

Origin: Illinois

Submitted by: Convention Committee on Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

WHEREAS, The American Legion is a national organization of veterans who have dedicated themselves to the service of the community, state and nation; and

WHEREAS, Our country has a proud history of honoring deceased veterans by providing a free government headstone or marker which can be placed either in a Department of Veterans Affairs national cemetery or a private cemetery; and

WHEREAS, Some veterans' families prefer to purchase their own headstone or marker for internment in a private cemetery; and

WHEREAS, Many of these headstones have no engraving upon them to reflect that the deceased was a veteran; and

WHEREAS, To correct this, the Department of Veterans Affairs now furnishes a medallion made of bronze that can be affixed to an existing privately purchased headstone or marker for veterans interred in a private cemetery; and

WHEREAS, Its purpose is to signify the deceased's status as a veteran and is available in three sizes: 5 inches, 3 inches, and 1½ inches and each medallion is inscribed with the word VETERAN across the top and the branch of service at the bottom; and

WHEREAS, Under PL 110-157 this medallion is currently issued to all deceased other than dishonorably discharged veterans that died on or after November 1, 1990, and whose grave in a private cemetery is marked with a privately purchased headstone or marker; and

WHEREAS, If a veteran died before November 1, 1990 they would not qualify for this medallion; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Charlotte, North Carolina, August 26, 27, 28, 2014, That The American Legion support legislation to remove the date of November 1, 1990 from the current law (PL 110-157) and change it to grant eligibility for this medallion to all veterans other than dishonorably discharged, regardless of their date of death.