

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

Resolution No. 135: Extend the Presumptive Period for Service Connection for Gulf War Veterans with Undiagnosed Illness

Origin: Maryland

**Submitted by: Convention Committee on Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation
(Consolidated with Resolution No. 256 (IL))**

WHEREAS, Thousands of Gulf War veterans still suffer from chronic unexplained physical symptoms; and

WHEREAS, Many servicemembers 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, The Gulf War Era has not been officially concluded; 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, 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, The health effects from the Gulf Wars may not manifest until years after the servicemembers' service; 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 urge that legislation be enacted to reinstate and extend the presumptive period for service connection of Gulf War veterans with undiagnosed illnesses indefinitely.