

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

Resolution No. 251: Extended Hours and Weekends for Veterans' Health Care
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 their community, state and nation; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) mission is to provide for those who have borne the battle; and

WHEREAS, Veterans employed in the civilian workforce may require more flexible hours to meet their health care needs, because they have not accrued an adequate amount of personal or sick leave to use for health care appointments or are in a probationary period of employment with a new company and don't wish to foster a bad impression by taking excessive days off; and

WHEREAS, Eligible veterans should not be denied access to VA health care due to a lack of flexible health care appointments; and

WHEREAS, Veterans with children, especially those in single parent households, also may require flexible hours to meet their health care needs; and

WHEREAS, Extended hours such as early mornings, evenings and weekend appointments should be made available at all VA facilities to include primary and specialty care; and

WHEREAS, Offering extended hours for veterans may reduce no-show rates by providing flexible appointments; and

WHEREAS, Additional clinic hours are not possible due to chronic short staffing; and

WHEREAS, Staffing limitations would affect patients from receiving health care on a timely basis; and

WHEREAS, The VA's premium and overtime compensation should be competitive with the private sector for employees who contribute overtime and weekend work; 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 shall encourage and support the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) in providing extended hours and weekend appointments for both primary and specialty care at all VA medical facilities in addition to their regular hours of operation; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the VA recruits and hires additional staff to accommodate the rising need of weekend and extended hours for appointments in both primary and specialty care.