

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

Resolution No. 68: WWII Veterans Hospital and Medical Entitlements

Origin: Colorado

Submitted by: Convention Committee on Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

(Consolidated with Resolution No. 161 (MD) and Resolution No. 249 (IL))

WHEREAS, The American Legion strongly supports the extension of U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health benefits to include all U.S. veterans; and

WHEREAS, Title 38, United States Code (U.S.C.), Chapter 17, Sect. 1710 (a) (2) (e) requires the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish needed hospital care and medical services without regards to the other VA eligibility requirements to veterans of the Mexican border period or of WWI; and

WHEREAS, Only a small number of WWI veterans and none from the Mexican border period are alive today; and

WHEREAS, The veterans of WWII have served our country honorably both in the war and as exemplary citizens of our great nation and are reaching an age when such medical services are needed similar to those granted WWI and Mexican border period veterans in the aforementioned law; and

WHEREAS, The current medical services provided to the WWII veterans by VA is based on a category and/or an income means test and proves difficult for these aging veterans to complete as well as being cumbersome for VA to apply and thus prevents some WWII veterans from accessing those services; and

WHEREAS, The funds the VA spends to apply this bureaucratic means test procedure could be better spent providing direct care to these WWII veterans; 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 amending Title 38, U.S.C. Chapter 17, to grant World War II veterans the same Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) hospital and medical entitlements as granted to World War I and Spanish American War veterans to honor their service and ensure the VA continues the same standards of care.