

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

Resolution No. 31: Prevent Exploitation of Veterans and Family Members Applying for Benefits, to Include Aid and Attendance

Origin: Utah

**Submitted by: Convention Committee on Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation
(As amended)**

WHEREAS, Veterans and widows of veterans qualify for Aid and Attendance and pension benefits with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; and

WHEREAS, There are groups or individuals that charge veterans and their families to file for these benefits some as much as \$2,000 dollars and as a result have turned claims assistance in this area into a profit center; and

WHEREAS, This practice allows the exploitation of our senior veterans and their families; and

WHEREAS, Veterans service organizations, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, State Veterans Offices and County Veterans Service Officers all provide claims assistance without charge; and

WHEREAS, It is critical that our veterans and their families be protected from those seeking to profit from claims assistance in this area; 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 goes on record urging the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the Congress to tighten current laws that prohibit the practice or charging veterans or their families for claims assistance; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the national organization support all efforts by Congress to “criminalize” the practice of charging veterans for claims assistance and creating a for-profit business based on these practices.