

**NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA
MAY 6 - 7, 2015**

**Resolution No. 29: Institute of Medicine Studies of Agent Orange and Oral Cancers
Origin: Register Resolution No. 2715 (IL) Department Executive Committee
Submitted By: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission**

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, Agent Orange was used in the Vietnam War and over the years laws governing service-connected compensation for certain medical conditions have been passed and now thousands of veterans receive monthly payments due to their exposure to Agent Orange; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) relies on the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies (IOM) to conduct epidemiologic studies to determine an association between certain diseases and Agent Orange; and

WHEREAS, Due to these studies additional conditions e.g. coronary artery disease and Adult Onset Type II Diabetes, have been added to the list of diseases whereby the VA may pay compensation; and

WHEREAS, The IOM update of 2008 found inadequate or insufficient evidence to determine an association between exposure to Agent Orange and cancers of the oral cavity, including tonsils; and

WHEREAS, Between the period of 1950 to 1959, 2.2 million babies were born each year and 2 million tonsillectomies were performed; and

WHEREAS, It is unclear if the IOM took into consideration the fact that approximately 90% of the veterans who registered into the Agent Orange registry had no tonsils; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 6-7, 2015, that The American Legion shall contact the Institute of Medicine (IOM) to determine if their studies were based on all veterans in the Agent Orange Registry or just those who still had tonsils; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That if their studies did not take this into consideration then a new one be suggested.