

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

**Resolution No. 24: Department of Veterans Affairs Construction Programs
Origin: Register Resolution No. 2719 (AK) Department Convention
Submitted By: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission**

WHEREAS, The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) currently has major medical projects underway in Denver, CO; Orlando, FL; New Orleans, LA and further redesign projects of Las Vegas, NV which was recently completed; and

WHEREAS, According to a Government Accountability Office Report - Cost Increases and Schedule Delays at the Four Largest Projects – “cost increases ranged from 59 percent to 144 percent representing a total cost increase of nearly \$366 million per project with average schedule delays ranging from 14 to 74 months with an average delay of 35 months per VA major construction project”; and

WHEREAS, In April 2012, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs established the Construction Review Council to serve as the single point of oversight and performance accountability for the planning, budgeting, executing and delivering of VA’s real property capital asset program; and

WHEREAS, VA issued a new handbook for construction change order processing and increased the change order threshold cost from \$100,000 to \$250,000 to prevent length approval and wait times at the national level in order to speed up change orders on the local levels; and

WHEREAS, Veterans are frustrated and concerned with VA’s construction processes and the continued delays and cost overruns and unsure whether VA’s improvements will ensure VA major construction in the future will be within schedule and budget; 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 support legislation and congressional oversight to improve future Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) construction programs; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion urge VA to consider all available options, both within the agency and externally, to include, but not limited to the Army Corps of Engineers, to ensure major construction programs are completed on time and within budget.