

**NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
October 14-15, 2020
Virtual**

Resolution No. 10: Stellate Ganglion Block (SGB) Research For Treatment of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)

Origin: Register Resolution No. 2771 (CA) Department Convention

Submitted by: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

WHEREAS, Every June is designated as “National Post-Traumatic Stress Awareness Month” to help raise public awareness, reduce the associated stigma, and help ensure that those individuals suffering from the invisible wounds of war promptly receive proper treatment; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) reports that approximately 20% Iraqi Freedom, 12% Persian Gulf and 30% Vietnam War servicemembers and veterans have post-traumatic stress; and

WHEREAS, Both government and non-government organizations have made significant advances in their identification, prevention, diagnosis and treatment of post-traumatic stress; and

WHEREAS, One of the most promising post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) treatments is stellate ganglion block (SGB) and the VA Long Beach Healthcare System, in California, and the Veterans Affairs Center for Compassionate Care Innovation are leading an effort to offer stellate ganglion block to a subset of veterans who have not experienced relief from traditional PTSD treatments; and

WHEREAS, There is growing evidence that stellate ganglion block may alleviate certain PTSD symptoms such as hyperarousal, exaggerated startle responses and anxiety, and it appears to calm an exaggerated “fight or flight” survival reflex in people having PTSD, which can become triggered by various events that do not warrant it; and

WHEREAS, Veterans who received stellate ganglion block for other health conditions like nerve pain, report positive effects for the PTSD symptoms including reduced anxiety and hypervigilance; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled virtually on October 14-15, 2020, That The American Legion urges the federal government to accelerate stellate ganglion block (SGB) research and that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) advertise SGB in all VA health-care facilities; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion supports the expansion of the VA's Center for Compassionate Care Innovation program nationwide and throughout VA facilities and to further the Center for Compassionate Care Innovation program's mission to provide veterans a wide array of state-of-the-art treatments and evidence-based therapies with further research, innovation and access.