

**NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
OF  
THE AMERICAN LEGION  
May 5-6, 2021  
Virtual**

**Resolution No. 12: Enhance Ability of the National Personnel Records Center to Respond to Records Requests from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)  
Origin: Register Resolution No. 2800 (MN) Department Executive Committee  
Submitted by: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission**

WHEREAS, The National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) is one of the National Archives and Records Administration's (NARA) largest operations, employing 1,000 personnel; and

WHEREAS, The NPRC is the central repository of personnel-related records for both the military and civil services of the United States Government; and

WHEREAS, Their mission is to provide world class service to government agencies including the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), military veterans and their family members, former civilian federal employees, the general public; and

WHEREAS, Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the NPRC is closed except for emergencies regarding medical treatments, burials, or homeless veterans seeking admittance to a homeless shelter; and

WHEREAS, The NPRC has not had sufficient on-site staff since March 2020 to respond to many other important requests due to the emergency executive order, including requests from the VA related to veterans compensation or pension benefits; and

WHEREAS, The NPRC plays a critical role in VA's claims development process, providing the agency with military records requests; and

WHEREAS, The VA is approaching a claims inventory of 500,000 with over 200,000 claims backlogged pending over 125 days due to the NPRC's inability to virtually fulfill VA's records request for military records prior to 2000; and

WHEREAS, Military service records from the year 2000 to current are maintained electronically, most requests submitted to the NPRC involve veterans who separated from the military prior to year 2000 that are only available in paper or microfilm formats, which require on-site access; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled virtually on May 5-6, 2021, That the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) be provided the proper personal protective equipment to maintain a sufficient number of onsite staff to fulfill Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) record requests pertaining to VA benefits, while helping to reduce VA's claims inventory and backlog; and, be it finally**

**RESOLVED, That the NPRC provide a specific team of staff members to digitize veterans' records for those who served before 2000, so that in the future staff can continue to fulfill VA's record requests virtually for veterans who served in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.**