

**NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
May 4-5, 2022
Indianapolis, Indiana**

Resolution No. 20: Amend Title 38, United States Code, to Provide GI Bill Education Benefits for Veterans Receiving a General Discharge Under Honorable Conditions
Origin: Veterans Employment & Education Commission
Submitted by: Veterans Employment & Education Commission

WHEREAS, The issue of GI Bill for general discharges was debated vociferously on the Senate floor prior to the passage of the 1944 Servicemembers Readjustment Act, resulting in a unanimous committee vote to uphold GI Bill for all discharges other than dishonorable; and

WHEREAS, Between 2019 and 2021, nearly 37,000 veterans received discharges classified as "general under honorable conditions," accounting for more than 7% of total discharges each year; and

WHEREAS, According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), a veteran can only receive education benefits and services if the veteran's character of discharge or service is classified as honorable; and

WHEREAS, Eligibility for all other VA benefits, including compensation, pension, home loan, and insurance, requires that a veteran's character of discharge or service be under other than dishonorable conditions (e.g., honorable, under honorable conditions, general); and

WHEREAS, It may take several years for servicemembers who receive a general discharge under honorable conditions to successfully petition the U.S. Department of Defense for an honorable discharge upgrade; and

WHEREAS, Education benefits from the Montgomery GI Bill or Post-9/11 GI Bill program provides veterans and their families with vital means of achieving gainful employment and economic stability after exiting the military; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 4-5, 2022, That Congress enact legislation to ensure that servicemembers issued a general discharge under honorable conditions receive full education benefits from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That Congress provide retroactive education benefits to those servicemembers who lost GI Bill benefits as a result of receiving a general discharge under honorable conditions.