

**ONE HUNDRED AND THIRD NATIONAL CONVENTION  
OF  
THE AMERICAN LEGION  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin  
August 30, 31, September 1, 2022**

**Resolution No. 54: Expansion of Eligibility for Pension Benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs**

**Origin: Ohio**

**Submitted by: Convention Committee on Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation**

WHEREAS, The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) offers a benefit of monthly payments for wartime veterans and survivors with limited or no income; and

WHEREAS, To be eligible for this benefit the veteran must meet certain criteria regarding service time and discharge status, family income and net worth, and age or disability status; and

WHEREAS, Under current law, the VA recognizes the following wartime periods to determine eligibility for VA pension benefits:

- Mexican Border period (May 9, 1916, to April 5, 1917, for veterans who served in Mexico, on its borders or in adjacent waters)
- World War I (April 6, 1917, to November 11, 1918)
- World War II (December 7, 1941, to December 31, 1946)
- Korean Conflict (June 27, 1950, to January 31, 1955)
- Vietnam War era (November 1, 1955, to May 7, 1975, for veterans who served in the Republic of Vietnam during that period. August 5, 1964, to May 7, 1975, for veterans who served outside the Republic of Vietnam)
- Gulf War (August 2, 1990, through a future date to be set by law or presidential proclamation); and

WHEREAS, The current dates deny eligibility for veterans who served between January 1, 1947, and June 26, 1950, between February 1, 1955, and October 31, 1955, and between May 8, 1975, and August 1, 1990; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion, a congressionally chartered veterans service organization, whose membership eligibility is determined by Congress, had similar wartime service requirements, changed its wartime requirements to read: April 6, 1917, to November 11, 1918, and December 7, 1941, to a time later to be determined by the federal government; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, August 30, 31, September 1, 2022, That The American Legion urges Congress to expand the eligibility for wartime service for Department of Veterans Affairs pension benefits to read: April 6, 1917, to November 11, 1918, and December 7, 1941, to a time later to be determined by the federal government.**