

**NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
October 12-13, 2022
Indianapolis, Indiana**

**Resolution No. 15: Oversight of Camp Lejeune Justice Act
Origin: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission
Submitted by: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission**

WHEREAS, From August 1953 to December 1987, servicemembers and their families were exposed to contaminated drinking water at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, and Marine Corps Air Station New River, North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, During the 112th Congress, H.R. 1627 the Honoring America's Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act of 2012 was signed into law (Public Law 112-154), and Congress established presumptive conditions for those exposed to contaminated drinking water at the aforementioned locations to include the following conditions: esophageal cancer; lung cancer; breast cancer; bladder cancer; kidney cancer; leukemia; multiple myeloma; myelodysplastic syndromes; renal toxicity; hepatic steatosis; female infertility; miscarriage; scleroderma; neurobehavioral effects; and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma; and

WHEREAS, Presumptive conditions shift the burden of proof away from the veteran, which streamlined and simplified the disability claims process for those exposed to toxic drinking water at Camp Lejeune; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Veterans Affairs has established presumptive conditions for those exposed to contaminated drinking water at Camp Lejeune, but this does not address the entirety of the harm suffered by veterans and their families as a result of their exposure to contaminated water; and

WHEREAS, Within the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our PACT Act, Section 804 allows those who resided, worked, or were otherwise exposed (including in utero exposure) for not less than 30 days during the period beginning on August 1, 1953, and ending on December 31, 1987, to water at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina to bring an action in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina to obtain appropriate relief for harm that was caused by exposure to the water at Camp Lejeune; and

WHEREAS, Predatory law firms charging exorbitant fees have engaged in aggressive marketing campaigns to include, but not limited to, television advertisements and social media digital marketing campaigns targeting veterans through sponsored content; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 12-13, 2022, That The American Legion urges Congress to provide the necessary oversight during the implementation of the Camp Lejeune Justice Act to ensure veterans receive fair consideration of their lawsuits and protections against predatory law firms.