

**NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA
OCTOBER 14-15, 1998**

**Resolution No. 6: Exempt Former POWs from Co-Payment of VAMC-Issued Prescriptions
Origin: 1998 National Convention Resolution No. 111 (IL)
Submitted By: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission**

WHEREAS, Prisoners of War (POWs) have given equally if not more than battle survivors or the battle dead in the respective engagements throughout our country's military history; and

WHEREAS, Until the enactment of the means test, POWs did not pay for medications dispensed through Veterans Affairs hospitals; and

WHEREAS, Current policy states that the POW does not have to pay co-payment for any medication in treatment of a service-connected injury, or there will be no co-payment if the POW is service-connected over 50%; and

WHEREAS, The Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents (1998 ed.), a Department of Veterans Affairs publication, states: "former prisoners of war who were incarcerated for at least 30 days may be entitled to disability compensation for disabilities resulting from a number of diseases or ailments. The disabilities must be manifested to a degree of 10 percent or more. Other intervening causes may rebut claims"; and

WHEREAS, The Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents (1998 ed.) section on "Outpatient Pharmacy Services," continues to say that pharmacy services are provided free to: (1) veterans service-connected 50% or more; (2) veterans receiving medications for service-connected conditions less than 50%; and (3) veterans whose annual income does not exceed the maximum VA pension. Nonservice-connected veterans, and service-connected veterans receiving medication for treatment for nonservice-connected conditions if less than 50% on an outpatient basis from VA facilities for treatment of nonservice-connected ailments, are charged \$2.00 for each 30-day supply; and

WHEREAS, The aforementioned paragraph appears to classify POWs in one of aforementioned categories; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 14-15, 1998, That The American Legion petition the Department of Veterans Affairs to reclassify POWs in such a manner as to exempt or waive any and all co-payments for prescriptions issued through Veterans Affairs hospitals, satellite clinics or outpatient facilities.