

**SEVENTY-SIXTH NATIONAL CONVENTION  
OF  
THE AMERICAN LEGION  
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA  
SEPTEMBER 6-8, 1994**

**Resolution No. 413: Support for Vietnam Assistance for the Handicapped**

**Origin: Convention Committee on Foreign Relations**

**Submitted by: Convention Committee on Foreign Relations**

WHEREAS, Members of the United States Armed Forces fought alongside the military units of the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) for over ten years; and

WHEREAS, After the fall of Saigon in 1975, hundreds of thousands of ARVN members were either killed or banished to “reeducation camps” where they were treated worse than criminals; and

WHEREAS, Although the government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam claims to have now released the ARVN members from reeducation camps, they are treated not as veterans, but as non-entities, who perform mostly menial jobs for a minute amount of money when able to get work; and

WHEREAS, Many of the ARVN members are amputees only able to ambulate with antiquated and barely functional prostheses; and

WHEREAS, A nonprofit organization located in McLean, Virginia — Viet-Nam Assistance for the Handicapped (VNAH) — since January, 1992 has provided over 7,000 artificial limbs and 500 wheelchairs to amputees, over 70% of whom were our former ARVN allies; and

WHEREAS, VNAH is the only humanitarian organization that assures assistance to such a large number of former ARVN members; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion has traditionally provided assistance and comradeship to former allies of the U.S. armed forces; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 6, 7, 8, 1994, That The American Legion supports the operation of the Viet-Nam Assistance for the Handicapped, so as to help in providing functional prosthetic appliances to our former ARVN allies who had limbs amputated during the Vietnam War, assistance for certain displaced children in Vietnam and vocational training for certain Vietnamese veterans.**