

**NINETY-EIGHTH NATIONAL CONVENTION
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
Cincinnati, Ohio
August 30, 31, September 1, 2016**

Resolution No. 146: Veterans Receive Same Level of Benefits

Origin: Maryland

Submitted by: Convention Committee on Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

WHEREAS, The American Legion is a membership organization founded in 1919 on the common bond of wartime service during any active U.S. period of war; and

WHEREAS, The United States Code (U.S.C.) § 101, unfairly categorizes servicemembers and veterans by dates of service and/or theater of operations; and

WHEREAS, Due to this injustice, veterans from different eras and theaters of operations are receiving different levels of Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits based solely on their dates and locations of service, rather than their honorable service; and

WHEREAS, For example, the Caregiver and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010 recently passed by both chambers of Congress created two distinct caregiver support programs, providing a stipend to caregivers of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) veterans, but not to caregivers of veterans from previous eras; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion has always advocated on the principle of equal benefits for equal service; and

WHEREAS, All veterans of the United States are all united by the common bond of service and all took an oath of service to preserve, protect and defend the country; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Cincinnati, Ohio, August 30, 31, September 1, 2016, That The American Legion urge Congress to direct the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide the same level of benefits for any veteran, regardless of the dates or theater of operations during their military service; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That Congress review current legislation and public laws to ensure that veterans benefits are provided equitably and consistently for all veterans from the current conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan as well as those veterans from previous eras and conflicts.