

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

**Resolution No. 180: Designate Hypertension as a Presumptive Condition for Veterans
Exposed to Agent Orange**

Origin: Georgia

Submitted by: Convention Committee on Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

WHEREAS, Hypertension/high blood pressure is a highly recognized disorder/disease, which can result in many long term health issues and potentially have fatal end results; and

WHEREAS, Hypertension/high blood pressure is directly related to heart and kidney disease; and

WHEREAS, While a significant number of veterans suffer from hypertension, or high blood pressure and many were exposed to Agent Orange; and

WHEREAS, A 2008 study conducted by the Institute of Medicine suggest that many cases could be a result of exposure to Agent Orange during Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, This study added high blood pressure to the category of “limited or suggestive evidence of an association,” meaning there could be a link with Agent Orange exposure; and

WHEREAS, More recent studies from the Institute of Medicine, indicate strongly that Veterans who handled or were exposed to defoliants have a higher rate of high blood pressure; and

WHEREAS, The United States has used Agent Orange as a defoliant in Thailand (February 1, 1961 thru May 7, 1975), Vietnam (January 9, 1962 thru May 7, 1975) and again in Korea from April 1, 1968 thru August 31, 1971; 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 seek the Department of Veterans Affairs for approval of adding hypertension/high blood pressure to the list of presumptive conditions for any veteran who was exposed to Agent Orange in any area where Agent Orange was tested, sprayed or stored; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion seek legislation to amend Title 38, of the United States Code, section 1116 to provide entitlement to those presumptions for those veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange in any area where Agent Orange was tested, sprayed or stored.