

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

Resolution No. 230: Policy for those Serving November 4, 1979 Through January 20, 1981 to be Considered Wartime Veterans

Origin: New York

Submitted by: Convention Committee on Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

WHEREAS, During the early part of 1979 the ideology of the Iranian Islamic revolutionary government had led to a steady deterioration in Iran-U.S. relations which culminated in an act of aggression on the United States described by then President Jimmy Carter as “victims of terrorism and anarchy”; and

WHEREAS, On Nov. 4, 1979 in Tehran Iran the United States embassy was attacked and seized by Iranian students and terrorist factions and because the American consulate is a sovereign U.S. territory and an attack on the embassy is exactly the same as an attack on our mainland soil which constitutes an act of war; and

WHEREAS, Of the approximately 90 people inside the embassy, including the United States Marine Corps Embassy Guard, 52 remained in captivity until the end of the crisis; and

WHEREAS, At the same time several diplomatic initiatives began to free the hostages, all of which proved fruitless; and

WHEREAS, This prompted the use of military force on April 24-25, 1980 during which the United States attempted a military rescue mission that failed after three of eight helicopters were damaged in a sandstorm and subsequent crash the operation was aborted and during the failed attempt eight U.S. servicemen were killed; and

WHEREAS, The hostages taken at the U.S. Embassy remained in captivity for 444 days, and

WHEREAS, As a direct result of this crisis the armed forces of the United States were placed in a state of combat readiness which is similar in nature to the combat state during other recent periods of conflict; 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, urges the United States Congress and President to include the men and women of the United States armed services who served on active duty during the dates November 4, 1979, through January 20, 1981, inclusive be considered war time veterans and afford them all rights and privileges associated with being war time veterans.