Resolution No. 255: Reducing Eligibility for Dependency Indemnity Compensation (DIC) Payments for 100% Disabled Veterans from 10 Years to 5 Years

Origin: Illinois
Submitted by: Convention Committee on Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

WHEREAS, The American Legion is a national organization of veterans who have dedicated themselves to the service of their community, state and nation; and
WHEREAS, Dependency and Indemnity Compensation is paid to the widows and widowers of service-connected disabled veterans who die as a result of their service-related condition or who at the time of death were rated 100% service-connected disabled for at least ten years, or in the case of former prisoners-of-war one year; and
WHEREAS, Many veterans don’t reach the 100% level until they are much older because their condition has worsened with time; and
WHEREAS, They often pass away due to other then their service-related condition well before they have been receiving the 100% rate for the required length of time; and
WHEREAS, The spouse has usually been the primary care giver and companion for these disabled veterans throughout the veterans lifetime and the VA compensation has been a primary means of support; and
WHEREAS, The surviving spouse in many instances can no longer count on VA benefits for assistance due to a 100% rating of less than ten years; and
WHEREAS, This causes a dramatic change in the quality of life of the surviving spouse; 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 shall sponsor and support legislation to reduce the number of years a veteran must be rated 100% from 10 years to 5 years for eligibility to Dependency and Indemnity Compensation payments.