

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

Resolution No. 259: Extend Caregiver Benefits to Include Veterans Before September 11, 2001

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 the community, state and nation; and

WHEREAS, On March 28, 2009 the VA&R Commission of Illinois passed a resolution regarding caregiver benefits and this resolution was then sent to the Illinois DEC meeting that day and was passed; and

WHEREAS, This resolution was then submitted to the National level and became part of the American Legion's Legislative Agenda; and

WHEREAS, Congress then passed and the President signed Public Law 111-163, also known as the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010; and

WHEREAS, Title I, Sec. 101 of this law specifies an eligible veteran is an individual who has a serious injury (including traumatic brain injury, psychological trauma, or other mental disorder) incurred or aggravated in the line of duty in the active military, naval, or air service on or after September 11, 2001; and

WHEREAS, There are many veterans from previous wars and conflicts who have serious injuries incurred or aggravated in the line of duty and are just as deserving of benefits for their caregivers as spelled out in PL 111-163, but are not covered; 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 support legislation to remove the date September 11, 2001 from Public Law 111-163 and revise this law to include all veterans who otherwise meet the eligibility requirements.