

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

**Resolution No. 271: Request Study by the Department of Veterans Affairs on the Medical Effects of Exposure to Depleted Uranium**

**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 is always striving to expand the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) benefit program; and

WHEREAS, At first the VA and U.S. Government denied Agent Orange was sprayed in Vietnam, then due to pressure from the American Legion and media started investigations into that chemical; and

WHEREAS, These investigations led to a series of laws granting Vietnam veterans compensation for their exposure and through the VA hospital system set up the Agent Orange registry; and

WHEREAS, At first the U.S. Government denied any long term effects from the fumes from the burning oil wells during the first Gulf War and denied the idea of “undiagnosed illnesses” and again through pressure from the American Legion and media, laws were put into place to compensate veterans from the Iraq War with these “undiagnosed illnesses”; and

WHEREAS, Depleted uranium (DU) ordinance was used during the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars and has left traces throughout those countries; and

WHEREAS, The military services have used DU in shells fired from tank and aircraft cannons against enemy armor; and

WHEREAS, DU burns after hitting a target, releasing aerosolized uranium particles into the air, exposing troops who come in contact with the target; and

WHEREAS, Our brave soldiers who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan, many with multiple deployments, have been exposed to DU and they are coming home and developing many rare diseases (including Sacramatoid Renal Sarcoma) at a much higher percentage than the general population; and

WHEREAS, The movie “Beyond Treason” by William Lewis depicted in part the horrible effects of DU and this movie went on to win the Berkeley Film Festival Award in 2005; and

WHEREAS, The scientific community and the Armed Forces do not have adequate medical or exposure information to determine the exact long term health effects caused by exposure to aerosolized DU particles; and

WHEREAS, DU munitions were fired at, and destroyed, thousands of Iraqi tanks and vehicles during the Gulf War, scattering tons of depleted uranium throughout the theater of operations; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Cincinnati, Ohio, August 30, 31, September 1, 2016, That the Department of Veterans Affairs conduct peer-reviewed scientific studies to determine what medical conditions may be linked to depleted uranium exposure, establish a depleted uranium registry similar to the Agent Orange registry and if the studies show a greater incident of certain rare diseases e.g. Sacramatoid Renal Sarcoma, then legislation be implemented to compensate these veterans.**