

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

Resolution No. 274: Support Employment Services for Spouses of Servicemembers Killed in the Line of Duty

Origin: Illinois

Submitted by: Convention Committee on Veterans Employment & Education

WHEREAS, The American Legion is a national organization for veterans who have dedicated themselves to the service of their community, state and nation; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion has always supported strong programs to assist veterans, disabled veterans and the spouses of veterans in obtaining assistance in finding employment; and

WHEREAS, Under federal civil service guidelines certain veterans are given either five or ten point preference in federal hiring and this preference passes on to the surviving spouse if the veteran dies while on active-duty and their service was under honorable conditions; and

WHEREAS, The Jobs of Veterans Act (Public Law 107-288) established job counseling, training and placement services for veterans and certain spouses; and

WHEREAS, Under this act it narrowly defined a spouse (Title 38, Chapter 41, Section 4101 definitions) as 1) the spouse of any veteran who died of a service-connected disability, or 2) listed by the Secretary concerned as missing in action, or 3) captured in line of duty for a hostile force, or 4) forcibly detained or interned in line of duty by a foreign government or power; and

WHEREAS, This public law completely left out the spouses of those veterans "killed in the line of duty" causing a great injustice to this group; 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 amend Title 38, Chapter 41, Section 4101 definitions to include spouses of servicemen and women who were killed in the line of duty.