

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

Resolution No. 344: Support Federal Legislation that Protects the Employment of Veterans in the U.S. Postal Service Mail Processing Facilities that are Slated for Closure
Origin: Convention Committee on Veterans Employment & Education
Submitted by: Convention Committee on Veterans Employment & Education

WHEREAS, As one of the largest employers of veterans and disabled veterans, approximately 25 percent of the 500,000 men and women employed by the U.S. Postal Service are veterans; and

WHEREAS, The Postal Service intends to reduce its service standards that guarantee the delivery of First Class mail within 1-3 days; and

WHEREAS, The reduction of delivery standards will degrade mail transit time for critical veterans' health care and/or claims documentation, many of which are required to arrive in designated Veterans Affairs Regional Offices with 'date-certain' deadlines; and

WHEREAS, The reduction of delivery standards will permit the Postal Service to dramatically reduce its mail processing network in order to dramatically cut costs; and

WHEREAS, The widespread closure of mail processing facilities will threaten approximately 35,000 postal employees, including large numbers of veterans and disabled veterans; and

WHEREAS, Federal employment veteran preference protections are inapplicable when a federal facility is closed; and

WHEREAS, Federal veteran preference protections will be upheld when mail processing facilities alternatively are downsized, but not closed; 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 urge Congress to support legislation requiring the U.S. Postal Service to preserve current service standards guaranteeing the delivery of First Class mail within 1-3 days, preserving quick mail transit times for the Department of Veterans Affairs claims documentation and/or medications; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion urge Congress to support legislation that limits closures of mail processing facilities, while protecting veterans employment within the U.S. Postal Service.