

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

Resolution No. 368: Increase the Transparency of Asbestos Claims

Origin: Convention Committee on Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

Submitted by: Convention Committee on Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

WHEREAS, Veterans comprise up to 30 percent of deaths from asbestos-caused lung cancer, which can occur decades after exposure; and

WHEREAS, The flame-retardant material was widely used in Navy ships and buildings until 1980; and

WHEREAS, Companies that produced it, and sometimes hid its dangers, were forced to set up trusts over the years that have paid out at least \$17.7 billion to more than three million victims who were sickened; and

WHEREAS, Trial attorneys have been able to file multiple claims with different funds on behalf of the same victims; and

WHEREAS, Every dollar that leaves the trust funds through fraud reduces future awards for legitimate claims; and

WHEREAS, Asbestos trust funds must be protected from future fraud claims through further transparency, but not at the cost of invading veterans' private information; 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 urges Congress to pass legislation requiring public disclosure by trusts regarding the receipt and disposition of claims for injuries based on exposure to asbestos while protecting veterans' private medical and work history, as well as Social Security numbers; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That Congress continues to assure adequate compensation for veterans harmed by asbestos and deserve compensation.