

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

Resolution No. 377: Support for Veteran Quality of Life

Origin: Convention Committee on Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

Submitted by: Convention Committee on Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

WHEREAS, The American Legion was chartered and incorporated by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic veterans organization devoted to mutual helpfulness; and

WHEREAS, Through the first pillar of The American Legion, thousands of American Legion accredited service officers and other professional staff work diligently to assist veterans in obtaining the benefits and care they have earned and deserve through the Veterans Health Administration (VHA), the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), and the National Cemetery Administration (NCA); and

WHEREAS, As the nation's largest veterans service organization, The American Legion is often called upon to support legislation expanding veterans benefits through the VHA, VBA, and NCA either through testimony or letter of support; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion may not always have a specific resolution addressing future legislation; and

WHEREAS, When legislation is aimed at directly enhancing veterans' quality of life by expanding their VHA, VBA, or NCA benefits, The American Legion needs be ready to firmly support; 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 and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to enact legislation and programs within the VA that will enhance, promote, restore or preserve benefits for veterans and their dependents, including, but not limited to, the following: timely access to quality VA health care, timely decisions on claims and receipt of earned benefits, and final resting places in national shrines and with lasting tributes that commemorates their service.