

**NINETY-NINTH NATIONAL CONVENTION
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
Reno, Nevada
August 22, 23, 24, 2017**

Resolution No. 74: Air Carrier Access

Origin: Convention Committee on Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

Submitted by: Convention Committee on Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

WHEREAS, The Air Carrier Access Act was signed into law by President Reagan in 1986, to prohibit commercial airlines from discrimination based on disability in air travel; and

WHEREAS, Since the signing of the law significant progress has occurred, however, many disabled travelers, including veterans and servicemembers, still encounter significant barriers while traveling using air transportation, such as, damaged assistive devices (e.g., wheelchairs), inaccessible aircraft, lavatories, and communication media (e.g., websites and kiosks), delayed assistance, inequitable treatment of service animals, inadequate disability cultural competency, and a lack of suitable seating accommodations; and

WHEREAS, Disabled air travelers have experienced damaged equipment, poor customer relations with airline personnel, inaccessible aircraft, missed flights, injuries and delays in travelling; and

WHEREAS, People with disabilities should enjoy the same opportunities for travel as all United States citizens, including the opportunity to travel for business or pleasure without issue; and

WHEREAS, Access for all travelers, including disabled veterans and servicemembers must be modernized to meet 21st century needs; and

WHEREAS, Modernizing travel for people with disabilities meets the standard of reasonable accommodation, which will not pose any undue hardship on the commercial airline industry; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 22, 23, 24, 2017, That The American Legion urge Congress to pass legislation that better protects the rights of passengers with disabilities in air transportation, which includes a significant number of veterans and servicemembers.