

**ONE-HUNDREDTH NATIONAL CONVENTION
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
Minneapolis, Minnesota
August 28, 29, 30, 2018**

**Resolution No. 48: Dependency And Indemnity Compensation For Surviving Spouses
Origin: Illinois
Submitted by: Convention Committee on Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation
(As Amended)**

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

WHEREAS, Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) is paid to the widows and widowers of service-connected disabled veterans who die as a result of their service-related condition or who at the time of death were rated 100% service-connected disabled for at least ten years, or in the case of former prisoners-of-war one year; and

WHEREAS, Many veterans don't reach the 100% level until they are much older because their condition has worsened with time; and

WHEREAS, They often pass away due to other than their service-related condition well before they have been receiving the 100% rate for the required length of time; and

WHEREAS, The spouse has usually been the primary care giver and companion for these disabled veterans throughout the veterans lifetime and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) compensation has been a primary means of support; and

WHEREAS, The surviving spouse in many instances can no longer count on VA benefits for assistance due to a 100% rating of less than ten years; and

WHEREAS, This causes a dramatic change in the quality of life of the surviving spouse; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, August 28, 29, 30, 2018 That The American Legion shall support legislation to reduce the number of years a veteran must be rated 100% from 10 years to 5 years for eligibility to Dependency and Indemnity Compensation payments.