

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

Resolution No. 93: Agent Orange

Origin: Wisconsin

Submitted by: Convention Committee on Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

WHEREAS, Agent Orange was the most common herbicide used in Southeast Asia by the U.S. Armed Forces during the Vietnam War, and Agent Orange was contaminated by the carcinogen dioxin (2,3,7,8-tetrachlorodibenzo-para-dioxin (TCDD)); and

WHEREAS, Over two million veterans served in Vietnam during the Vietnam War and are presumed to have been exposed to Agent Orange and scientific evidence has linked human exposure to dioxin and certain diseases with a significant number of Vietnam veterans developing various cancers, neurological disorders, liver dysfunction and other severe diseases; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion, since its inception, has promoted an active involvement of its members, posts, and departments in the pursuit of better care for our veterans and treatment for wounds, injuries, and illness they may have incurred in defense of our great nation; and

WHEREAS, Numerous resolutions through the years have put The American Legion on record encouraging adequate and competent medical care for all our nation's veterans;

WHEREAS, All U.S. forces in Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam were in proximity of the Agent Orange applications and where its movement due to wind and other weather aspects placed troops at risk in theater both during and after the dispersal; and

WHEREAS, According to information from the National Archives, DCAS, Vietnam Conflict Extract File, 58,220 U.S. servicemen and women have died during and after the end of hostilities associated with the Vietnam War from combat and non-combat related injuries; and

WHEREAS, According to Department of Defense report, Project CHECO Southeast Asia Report: Base Defense in Thailand 1968-1972, pages 54-55, U.S. military personnel stationed at small bases throughout the theater of operations were exposed to Agent Orange in the conduct of routine level security patrols, but are not recognized by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs unless assigned a military police or military police-related career field: 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 seek legislation to amend Title 38, of the United States Code, section 1116 to provide entitlement to those presumptions for those veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange in any area where Agent Orange was tested, sprayed or stored; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the American Legion reiterates its long-standing support of adequate and competent medical care for all United States veterans; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the American Legion calls on the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to actively treat veterans that served in the theater of the Vietnam War to include all countries and territories previously denied.