NINETIETH NATIONAL CONVENTION
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
Phoenix, Arizona
August 26, 27, 28, 2008

Resolution No. 343: Oppose Granting The Purple Heart For Illnesses
Origin: Convention Committee on National Security
Submitted by: Convention Committee on National Security

WHEREAS, The Purple Heart was established by General George Washington at Newburgh, New York, on 7 August 1782, during the Revolutionary War and was initially created as the Badge of Military Merit; and

WHEREAS, The Purple Heart was reestablished by the President of the United States per War Department General Orders 3, 1932; and

WHEREAS, The Purple Heart is awarded in the name of the President of the United States to any member of an Armed Force or any civilian national of the United States who, while serving under competent authority in any capacity with one of the U.S. Armed Services after 5 April 1917, has been wounded or killed; and

WHEREAS, To this day, examples of conditions which have clearly not justified the award of the Purple Heart include battle fatigue and post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD); and

WHEREAS, PTSD as well as herbicide (Agent Orange) related diseases are not physical injuries, rather they are illnesses; and

WHEREAS, PTSD in particular, not being a physical injury, will manifest itself in some service members but not in others who have the same experiences, whereas physical wounds have no such limitations; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Phoenix, Arizona, August 26, 27, 28, 2008, That The American Legion opposes the issuing of The Purple Heart for physical or psychological illnesses.