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

Resolution No. 352: Transitional Housing Allotments for Returning Combat Veterans
Origin: Convention Committee on Veterans Employment & Education
Submitted by: Convention Committee on Veterans Employment & Education

WHEREAS, Unlike the active-duty component that are stationed stateside in the final months of their service, National Guardsmen and Reservists are fully employed in a combat zone up until the final day that they redeploy back to the continental United States; and

WHEREAS, At the demobilization site, returning veterans undergo approximately three weeks of physicals, transition programs, reunion with family members and inventory accountability; and

WHEREAS, There is little time for these servicemembers to start the process of finding a home, apartment, room or other dwelling; and

WHEREAS, Families are sometimes unaccommodating to returning veterans and cannot or refuse to house them; and

WHEREAS, Young veterans are living with their families, friends, in hotels, in cars, and are homeless; and

WHEREAS, Many single soldiers stay at hotels and are burning up their savings earned over the prior year; and

WHEREAS, Veterans are having to enter unfair leases/agreements just to find a place to stay because they are in dire need; and

WHEREAS, Veterans are ineligible to live in campus housing due to the likelihood of returning in the middle of a semester and are unable to start college for four more months; and

WHEREAS, For nine months out of the year, universities are in their lengthy fall and spring semester terms and these young men and women can't restart their academic careers until the next term starts; therefore, they are not eligible to live on campus; and

WHEREAS, Approximately 90,000 National Guard and Reserve have been re-entering the private sector each year since 2001; and

WHEREAS, A 180-day 'buffer' period will allow veterans to transition back in to the civilian sector with much greater ease and will prevent homelessness; 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 support the creation of a program by Congress for returning veterans similar to Basic Allowance for Housing for housing upon return from mobilization for 180 days.