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

Resolution No. 380: Exempt Funds Related to Interment Services at Cemeteries from any Future Sequestration
Origin: Convention Committee on Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation
Submitted by: Convention Committee on Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

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

WHEREAS, Our country has a proud history of honoring deceased veterans by providing burials in cemeteries paid at the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) expense; and

WHEREAS, When a serviceman or woman dies on active duty there are additional benefits available to the surviving spouse and/or family; and

WHEREAS, In these killed in action or active duty deaths cases those benefits include a $100,000 death gratuity normally paid out to help tide the family over until survivor benefits kick in and also a year's worth of housing allowance, typically paid in a lump sum to the surviving spouse or dependent children of a service person; and

WHEREAS, During the recent federal government budget problems we experienced sequestration of funds; and

WHEREAS, This put a halt to these above-mentioned benefits and families were unable to bury their loved ones in a timely manner and unable to secure these monetary benefits, causing greater personal financial pressure and problems during their time of grief; and

WHEREAS, Families who wished to have their loved ones interred in a cemetery, paid at VA expense also experienced delays in burial; 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 promote and support legislation to have all benefits paid, at time of death to the surviving families of those killed in action or died on active duty, and funds related to interment services at cemeteries be exempt from any future sequestration of laws.