NINETY-NINTH NATIONAL CONVENTION
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
Reno, Nevada
August 22, 23, 24, 2017

Resolution No. 47: Research into Hearing Loss Due to Loud or Constant Noise Exposure in the Military
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 the community, state and nation; and

WHEREAS, The Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Chicago American Legion office and other Legion offices nationwide have seen a substantial increase in service-connected compensation claims for bilateral hearing loss coming from our older veterans of the Korean and Vietnam era; and

WHEREAS, The majority of these veterans did not develop bilateral hearing loss until much later in their lifetime; and

WHEREAS, All of these veterans were exposed to loud or constant noise exposure in the military; and

WHEREAS, The most recent study done by the Institute of Medicine in 2005 did not find sufficient evidence of noise-induced hearing loss developing later in life; and

WHEREAS, Since there are no good and current studies showing such a link the Department of Veterans Affairs is consistently denying these claims; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 22, 23, 24, 2017, That The American Legion strongly supports funding by Congress or the Department of Veterans Affairs to support more detailed research into this area of delayed hearing loss due to loud or constant noise exposure in the military.