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

Resolution No. 54: Designate Waldenstrom's Macroglobulinemia as a Presumptive Condition for Veterans Who Served in Combat Theaters
Origin: Colorado
Submitted by: Convention Committee on Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

WHEREAS, Waldenstrom's Macroglobulinemia is a rare form of Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma; and

WHEREAS, Waldenstrom's Syndrome is among the diseases listed as a presumptive disease related to Agent Orange Exposure; and

WHEREAS, Two (2) National Institute of Health (NIH) Studies that analyzed large numbers of VA Records that showed a very high correlation of Waldenstrom's Syndrome to military service, including those not having exposure to a herbicide used during the Vietnam Era; and

WHEREAS, There is proof that herbicides were used to clear vegetation other than Vietnam, DMZ in Korea and Thailand, before, during and subsequent to the Vietnam Era; and

WHEREAS, Two large samples done by the NIH Epidemiological Studies VA Patients had an unexpectedly high incidence of Waldenstrom's exists in Veterans with Service Periods before, during and after the Vietnam Era; and

WHEREAS, Lou Gehrig's disease is a presumptive disease which has a 2-fold increase of veteran's with the disease over the general population; and

WHEREAS, Studies show the same type of ratio for veterans with Waldenstrom's Macroglobulinemia exists; 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 enactment into law, legislation adding Waldenstrom's Macroglobulinemia to the list of presumptive diseases for all veterans who served in combat theaters.