NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
October 11-12, 2023
Indianapolis, Indiana

Resolution No. 8: Review of All Claims Affected by Inaccurate Contact Information
Origin: Resolution No. 10 (FL) 2023 National Convention
Submitted by: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

WHEREAS, The American Legion was instrumental in creating the Veterans Administration in 1930, and an ardent supporter of its rise to cabinet status when it became the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) in 1989; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion continues to aggressively lobby for adequate funding for the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) to provide timely access to quality healthcare; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion seeks to ensure fair rulings on claims and other earned veterans benefits for those who have service-connected injuries and illnesses; and

WHEREAS, In 2019, the VHA and Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) admitted to having the wrong address for up to 25,000 veterans and utilized those incorrect addresses in attempts to communicate with these veterans; and

WHEREAS, One's address affects numerous VA benefits, including VA disability compensation, pension benefits, claims, appeals, vocational rehabilitation and employment; and

WHEREAS, A lack of response and care from the VHA has been a factor in veteran suicide from this same period; and

WHEREAS, Veterans' benefits and compensation are a direct link in the quality of life between the veteran's physical and mental health; and

WHEREAS, Many of the 25,000 veterans experienced claim denials as a result of communications being sent to incorrect addresses; and

WHEREAS, A lack of accountability has led to continued denials and blame being placed upon the veterans for inaction taken by the VHA; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 11-12, 2023, That The American Legion demands that the Veterans Benefits Administration and Veterans Health Administration retroactively reopen all veteran compensation or benefit claims that were closed, denied or neglected due to the lack of accurate contact information.