June 22, 2018

The Honorable David Valadao
United States House of Representatives
1728 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Valadao:

On behalf of the 2 million members of The American Legion, we heartily support the provisions of **H.R. 299**, legislation to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify presumptions relating to the exposure of certain veterans who served in the vicinity of the Republic of Vietnam, and for other purposes.

This legislation, as written, includes as part of the Republic of Vietnam its territorial seas for purposes of the presumption of service connection for diseases associated with exposure by veterans to certain herbicide agents while in Vietnam. It also includes American servicemen who served in the Korean demilitarized zone (DMZ) between September 1, 1967 and August 31, 1971.

The American Legion strongly supports legislation to expand the presumption of Agent Orange exposure to any military personnel who served on any vessel during the Vietnam War that came within 12 nautical miles of the coastlines of Vietnam, as well as in the Korean DMZ between 1967 and 1971. Our organization feels that our nation's defenders should receive the full benefits to which they are entitled.

Through Resolution No. 35, *Agent Orange*, passed at the 2016 National Convention, The American Legion supports legislation "to amend title 38, United States Code, section 1116, to provide entitlement to these presumptions for those veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange while serving in areas other than the Republic of Vietnam where Agent Orange was tested, sprayed, or stored."

Thank you again for your continued commitment to the men and women in uniform and the nation's veterans and for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Denise H. Rohan

DENISE ROHAN
National Commander
The American Legion