

3556 RECOMMENDATIONS OF VETERANS' ORGANIZATIONS, 1968

ice connected disabilities should receive first priority in the distribution of the nation's wealth,

Now, therefore, be is resolved that the disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled at Denver, Colorado, July 31 through August 4, 1967, go on record recommending legislation that will provide an across the board increase in compensation rates comparable to the average wage earner's income.

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(RESOLUTION No. 320, LEGISLATIVE)

REQUESTING PAYMENT OF COMPENSATION AND PENSION CONCURRENTLY TO CERTAIN
DISABLED VETERANS

Whereas, the historic policy of this nation is that its first duty is to veterans with disabilities incurred in or aggravated by military service during time of war and to adequately compensate the veteran for pain, suffering, loss of health, vitality, life expectancy, employment and financial opportunities and, therefore, regarded as earned benefits, and

Whereas, nonservice connected pension benefits are a gratuity benefit payable to veterans who served a mere 90 days or more, have an honorable discharge, are considered permanently and totally disabled from disabilities not due to service and whose income is within certain income limitations, and

Whereas, many veterans entitled to wartime disability compensation for their service connected disabilities are also entitled to nonservice connected pension payments for disabilities not due to service exclusive of their service connected disability, however, upon the theory that payment of compensation and pension concurrently is in conflict with the dual compensation laws, the service connected veteran must forfeit his compensation for his service connected disability in order to receive the greater amount as pension, and

Whereas, although we do not oppose liberal benefits to veterans who served a mere 90 days and received no disabilities whatsoever as a result of military service, we do hold that it is most inequitable for veterans with gunshot wounds and other disabilities incurred in combat, such as a veteran whose leg was shot off on the battlefield entitling him to only \$82.00 per month compensation, to have to relegate him to a second-class citizen by having him forfeit his compensation in order to receive the same nonservice pension benefit as the veteran who only served 90 days statewide and received no disability as a result of such service, and

Whereas, veterans who received severance pay as a result of a certain disability incurred in military service may not receive compensation for that particular disability for which he was discharged from service, however, he is entitled to compensation for other service connected conditions and payment in cases such as this is so held not to be in conflict with the dual compensation law upon the theory that the veteran is not being paid dual benefits for the same disability.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled at Denver, Colorado, July 31 through August 4, 1967, go on record recommending the passage of legislation correcting the existing inconsistency and inequity in the interpretation of the dual compensation law by the passage of legislation that in cases wherein a veteran receiving compensation for a service connected disability who has sufficient nonservice connected disabilities, exclusive of the service connected disability, to meet the schedular requirement for nonservice connected pension payments and who are otherwise entitled, would be entitled to receive the full amount of his compensation payment and in addition thereto the full amount of nonservice connected pension benefits with no total payment to exceed the compensation rate payable for a 100% service connected disability; we hold this consistent with the interpretation of the dual compensation law pertaining to severance pay and would not be paying the veteran twice for the same disability and therefore not in conflict with the dual compensation laws.

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(RESOLUTION No. 321 LEGISLATIVE)

CONCURRENT PAYMENT OF COMPENSATION AND PENSION UNDER A FORMULA

Whereas, the historic policy of this nation as its first duty to veterans with wartime disabilities is to adequately compensate the veteran for disabilities in-