

3598 RECOMMENDATIONS OF VETERANS' ORGANIZATIONS, 1968

Retirement of members of the armed services

1966 Fall NEC Resolution No. 25 seeks legislation to provide that members of the Armed Forces shall be retired in the highest grade satisfactorily held in any Armed Force. (HR-839 introduced by Congressman Mailliard (Calif.)).

Conditional discharge

1966 Fall NEC Resolution No. 28 seeks legislation to establish eligibility to VA benefits of those veterans conditionally discharged or released from active service who immediately reenter such service. (HR-9241 introduced by Congressman Roberts (Tex.)).

Oppose reduction of existing attorney or agent fees

1966 Fall NEC Resolution No. 33 urges that we oppose enactment of any legislation that would remove the existing attorney or agent fee limitations and penalty provisions in claims before the VA.

Oppose use of words "War Veterans" for the incorporation of any organization or association of persons who did not serve in the Armed Forces

1967 Spring NEC Resolution No. 47 urges that we oppose the use of the words "War Veterans" in any Acts or articles for the incorporation of any association or organization of persons who did not serve in the Armed Forces of the United States during a period of war or armed conflict.

Hospital and outpatient care for dependents of veterans who die of service-connected disabilities after release from active duty

1967 Convention Resolution No. 154 (Tenn.) urges legislation to provide that the surviving dependents of those war veterans who die of a service-connected disability after discharge from active duty in the Armed Forces be authorized hospital and outpatient care in civilian medical facilities. (HR-14961 introduced by Congressman Haley (Fla.)).

VA remain as the single agency to administer veterans benefits

1967 Convention Resolution No. 315 (Ill.) urges that we oppose those reorganization plans, legislative or administrative, which would take from the Veterans Administration any of its responsibility of serving veterans and their dependents or which would cause the VA to share this responsibility of service with other agencies of the Federal Government.

Oppose the policy of the AMA to convert VA hospitals into community hospitals

1967 Convention Resolution No. 577 (Convention Committee) urges that the American Legion voice its disapproval of the self-serving policy of the AMA; and to use every means at its disposal to oppose those suggestions or plans or legislation which would take from the VA the responsibility of maintaining its singular system of hospitals and other facilities for the care and treatment of veterans.

NATIONAL CEMETERIES

Conversion of the VA cemetery at Houston, Texas, into a national cemetery

1966 Convention Resolution No. 520 (Texas) asks that the Senators and members of Congress be urged to use all means to see that the VA cemetery in Harris County, Texas, is converted to a National Cemetery.

The national cemetery policy of the American Legion

The 1967 Convention Resolution No. 497 (District of Columbia) seeks legislation to: (1) transfer to the VA existing national cemeteries presently under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, and the Department of the Army; (2) provide the VA with authority and responsibility for the operation, care, and maintenance of these cemeteries; (3) direct the VA to plan a system of national cemeteries and creation of additional ones so that the capacity and distribution of sites shall at all times be sufficient to assure burial in a national cemetery for those who so desire; and (4) authorize the VA to acquire such lands as are needed: by gift, purchase, condemnation, transfer, or any other means; to provide that jurisdiction of national cemeteries be placed under those Committees of the U.S. Senate and of the House of Representatives which have jurisdiction of veterans affairs; and, petition the President, the Congress of the United States, and the Secretary of Defense to rescind the discriminatory order of February 10, 1967, which limited burials in Arlington National Cemetery. (HR-12801 introduced by Congressman Teague (Tex.)).