

52 RECOMMENDATIONS OF VETERANS' ORGANIZATIONS, 1969

RESOLUTION 138—CONCURRENT PAYMENT OF DISABILITY COMPENSATION AND PENSION UNDER A SPECIFIED FORMULA

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

Whereas non-service-connected pension benefits are are gratuity payable to veterans who served a mere 90 days or more (one day during wartime), have an honorable discharge, and be considered permanently and totally disabled from disabilities not due to service and whose income is within certain income limitations, and

Whereas veterans entitled to wartime disability compensation, who are totally disabled from a combination of their service-connected non-service-connected disabilities entitling them to non-service-connected pension benefits, must under the present interpretation of the dual compensation law forfeit their disability compensation in order to receive the greater amount in pension benefits under the theory that to pay both benefits concurrently would conflict with the dual compensation law, and

Whereas we do hold that it is most inequitable for veterans with gunshot wounds or other disabilities incurred in combat, such as a veterans whose leg was shot off on the battle field, entitling him to only \$82.00 per month compensation, to have to forfeit his compensation in order to receive the same non-service pension payment as a veteran who served a mere 90 days stateside and received no disability as a result of such service: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, August 18 to 23, 1968, go on record recommending passage of legislation to correct existing inequities and provide that where the veterans service connected disability in combination with non-service connected disabilities meets the schedular requirements for non-service connected pension benefits, he shall be entitled to receive the full amount of his disability compensation and after subtracting the service connected disability evaluation rating from 100%, shall be entitled to receive that percentage of non-service connected pension entitlement under the prescribed income limitations exclusive of his compensation payment. We hold that this benefit would not be in conflict with the dual compensation laws.

RESOLUTION 141—INCREASE RATES FOR SINGLE STATUTORY AWARDS

Whereas there has been no increase in additional compensation for loss of or use of one hand or one foot or one eye or both buttocks since passage of P.L. 427 (S2C) effective August 1, 1952, and

Whereas veterans with these types of disabilities are in the same need of an increase in this additional compensation as veterans with disabilities rated under rating schedule codes for multiple amputations: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, August 18 to 23, 1968, go on record recommending passage of legislation providing that the additional compensation payable for loss of or loss of use of one hand, one foot, one eye or both buttocks be increased from the present rate of \$47.00 per month to \$75.00 per month.

RESOLUTION 143—7 YEAR PRESUMPTIVE PERIOD FOR PARKINSON'S DISEASE

Whereas under present laws and regulations, service connection may be granted for Parkinson's Disease if diagnosed within one year from the date of discharge from military service, and

Whereas Parkinson's Disease is an insidious neurological disorder with confusing symptoms that sometimes remain dormant for long periods of time, is frequently confused in it's early stages with other neurological disorders or diseases and in some cases is difficult to diagnose until several years after its onset, and

Whereas advanced medical knowledge has resulted in the extention of the presumptive period for similar neurological disorders, such as multiple sclerosis to seven years by the Veterans Administration for the purpose of granting service connection, and