

EIGHTY-EIGHTH NATIONAL CONVENTION
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH
AUGUST 29, 30, 31, 2006

RESOLUTION NO.:242

**SUBJECT: Remove the Specific Date to Award
Dependency and Indemnity Compensation
Benefits to Surviving Spouses of Former
Prisoners of War**

Origin: Illinois

Submitted by: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation

WHEREAS, The American Legion is an organization of war veterans who have dedicated themselves to the service of the community, state and nation; and

WHEREAS, The Veterans Millennium Benefits Act, Public law 106 11, authorized payments of Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) benefits to the survivors of former Prisoners of War (POWs) who died after September 30, 1999, and who were continuously rated totally disabled due to a service-connected disability for a period of not less than one year immediately preceding death; and

WHEREAS, There are thousands of widows whose spouse was a former POW who died before September 30, 1999, and who was rated totally disabled for over one year for a service-connected disability; and

WHEREAS, These widows are not able to become eligible for DIC because their husband's death was before September 30, 1999; and

WHEREAS, When other survivor benefit programs were liberalized, they usually covered the widows of veterans who died before the enactment of the law, e.g. deaths from cancers from Agent Orange; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Salt Lake City, Utah, August 29, 30, 31, 2006, That The American Legion shall sponsor and support legislation to amend section 1318 of title 38, United States Code, to remove the date of September 30, 1999, and substituted "who died any time after discharge from active duty and who were rated totally disabled for over one year."