

Did You Know?

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That our 100th Annual National Convention is now history. This year there were over 300 resolutions submitted from our various Departments. I am proud to report that of those 29 were from the Department of Illinois. Yes, we were number one in that area and I am also pleased to say only two were rejected, the rest were approved. Kudos to our current chairman of the Illinois VA&R Commission, Rodger Bennett, for his leadership.

Resolutions are the way our organization develops an idea from the Post level on how our veteran's benefits can be improved. These ideas are fine-tuned at the District and Division levels and then go on to our State and National Conventions for approval. If approved at that level they become part of our National Legislative Agenda. Then if we get enough support in Congress we may eventually get a law changed. We did that exact thing last year when one of our resolutions on the Care Giver Act was approved. As you can see this process is one way our "blue cap" legionnaires can have their voices heard and sometimes even see their ideas become law. Here are just some of the topics that were approved for possible law changes:

CHANGES TO THE DIC PROGRAM...CREMATION PLAQUE FOR URNS...HOME LOAN BENEFIT PASS TO WIDOW/ER...WAIVERS UNDER \$300...BACK INTEREST ON APPEAL DECISIONS...10% FOR SERVICE-CONNECTED HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE IF ON MEDS...ENGLISH AS THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGE...CHARITABLE MILEAGE RATE CHANGE... INCREASE IN RH LIFE INSURANCE...BLUE WATER NAVY VETS AND AGENT ORANGE...MEANS TEST FOR MARRIED VETERANS...SMC K INCREASE.

These are just some of the many that were passed. If you wish to see the actual resolution you may go to our National website www.legion.org where they will soon be posted. And as the year progresses if any of these resolutions become either a house or senate bill I will keep you informed.

Now that our Illinois Posts are back from their summer hiatus it would be a great time to start discussing ideas and topics for some new resolutions. As my old mentor Paul H Kralman (former Chairman of VA&R) once said: "The only bad resolution is the one that was not submitted".