

DRAFT RESOLUTION 19-16

SUBJECT: New Presumptive Conditions Due to Vietnam Service

SOURCE: HQ

WHEREAS, it has been well established by medical research that American veterans who served in the Republic of Vietnam have experienced illnesses such as diabetes mellitus, chloracne, ischemic heart disease that are considered presumptive conditions resultant from their service in Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, it took the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) more than a decade to accept medical research findings and recommendations, comparing Vietnam veteran deaths and illnesses to their non-Vietnam veteran counterparts, finally declaring those same conditions officially “presumptive” for VA medical care, and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Institute Of Medicine (IOM) issued its fourth and final directed research report to the VA, again finding that there is significant evidence to show that four additional medical conditions - hypothyroidism, bladder cancer, stroke, and hypertension - have been determined to meet the rigorous standards of probability of causation due to environmental exposures in the Republic of Vietnam, and

WHEREAS, the majority of Vietnam veterans are now in their sixties, seventies and beyond, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that AMVETS petitions the U.S. Congress to urge expeditious adoption of the IOM recommendations to include hypothyroidism, bladder cancer, stroke, and hypertension as presumptive conditions for Vietnam veterans, and be it further

RESOLVED, that AMVETS petitions the VA Secretary to expeditiously adopt the IOM recommendations and incorporate them into the standing rules and regulations of the Department, to the benefit of Vietnam veterans.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

VAVS & VA Hospital and Medical Services, Rehabilitation

Benefits.....ADOPT AMEND REJECT NONE

Floor Action.....ADOPTED ADOPTED (as amended) REJECTED TABLED