

THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

RESOLUTION: 04-7-C  
SUBMITTED BY: American Legion National Headquarters  
SUBJECT: A System Worth Saving: National Commander's VA Facility Report

RESOLUTION

- WHEREAS, The Founders of The American Legion recognized the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation program as a pillar of the organization; and
- WHEREAS, The American Legion played a leading role in the establishment of the Veterans Administration, and its subsequent elevation to cabinet level status as the Department of Veterans Affairs; and
- WHEREAS, The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is charged with providing health care services to eligible veterans, their spouses and dependents through its Veterans Health Administration (VHA); and
- WHEREAS, VA is struggling to meet the needs of eligible veterans seeking care through VHA; and
- WHEREAS, Veterans of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom, combined with the aging veteran population will place increasing demands on an already overburdened system; and
- WHEREAS, VA's Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services (CARES) process is designed to realign the use of VA properties to provide the space and resources to serve the health care needs of veterans in the years 2010 to 2022; and
- WHEREAS, The American Legion, in an advocacy role to ensure that CARES does not overlook gaps in service to today's veterans, has representatives in the process at every Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) level, and the National Commander has established the VA Facility Advisory Committee to the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission; and

- WHEREAS, The American Legion was represented on the President's Task Force to Improve Health Care Delivery for our Nations Veterans, which closely scrutinized the operation of the VA health care system prior to developing its final report; and
- WHEREAS, The first-hand information gained through site visits by the National Commander to VA medical centers across the nation has proved invaluable in The American Legion's efforts to urge Congress and the Administration to fully fund VA at a level that will enable all eligible veterans to receive quality health care in a timely manner; and
- WHEREAS, Detailed questionnaires filled out by medical center staff provide valuable statistical information on the exact situation of each facility visited; and
- WHEREAS, The American Legion has a strong history of advocating for the improvement of accessibility and delivery of quality health care to all eligible veterans; now, therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, That The American Legion shall continue nation-wide site visits of the Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers and other health care facilities; and, be it further
- RESOLVED, That such site visits by the National Commander or his designee include a full report of each facility submitted to the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission of The American Legion, to include the submission of a questionnaire completed by the staff of each facility visited; and, be it further
- RESOLVED, That all information garnered through these facility visits will be compiled as part of a "State of VA Medical Facilities Report" or similar document; and, be it finally
- RESOLVED, That the "State of VA Medical Facilities Report" and the quality of VA health care provided the Nation's veterans be ever held as priority issues in the portfolio of The American Legion, and that the National Commander use all means available to communicate and advocate the importance of same to the President, his Administration and the Congress of the United States.