

THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

RESOLUTION: 07-11-C
SUBMITTED BY: Department of Michigan
SUBJECT: Indiana-Ohio Center For Traumatic Amputation Rehabilitation Research

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Many veterans of the War on Terror have been subjected to high energy, penetrating blasts or high-velocity gunshot wounds and many survive their injuries, due to advancements in protective gear and improvements in medical treatment available in theater; and

WHEREAS, Those injured in Iraq and Afghanistan have required more than twice the number of amputations needed in previous conflicts; and

○ WHEREAS, Those with traumatic amputations require extensive physical rehabilitation and functional prosthetics to enable them to live autonomously and care for their dependents; and

WHEREAS, There is a need for research addressing long-term outcomes of military personnel who experienced war-related traumatic amputations; and

WHEREAS, Conditions related to blast injuries and amputations - like heterotropic ossification, a rare and understudied condition where bone growth occurs during recovery at the amputation site - have already begun to manifest in some recovering Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) veterans; and

WHEREAS, The Indiana-Ohio Center for Traumatic Amputation Rehabilitation Research (The Indiana-Ohio Center) was established to specifically promote research that will address the needs of veterans with war amputations; and

○ WHEREAS, Data on Vietnam War veterans with amputations related to blast trauma has not been widely collected and their rehabilitation experiences would be valuable in illustrating the long-term health effects of traumatic amputations; and

WHEREAS, The Indiana-Ohio Center seeks to develop a data-bank to capture the long-term health care and rehabilitation experiences of Vietnam War veterans to improve care for future veterans who sustain traumatic amputations and to increase knowledge of war-related amputations for the scientific community; and

WHEREAS, The Indiana-Ohio Center's initiative will also address issues affecting war amputees, such as use of prosthetic devices and access to health care, as well as psychological, social, and economic outcomes; and

WHEREAS, Information gathered during the course of this research would be beneficial in determining possible outcomes in current and future war veterans; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion, Department of Michigan, in annual Department Convention assembled in Dearborn, Michigan, June 14-17, 2007, That the National Organization of The American Legion provide public endorsement for the efforts of Indiana-Ohio Center researchers; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That The American Legion provide input to highlight issues relevant to war amputees; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That The American Legion disseminate information (i.e. via publications and the website) about the war amputation research project to the membership in an effort to solicit participation from eligible Vietnam War veterans who may be interested in providing information for the databank; and, be it

FINALLY RESOLVED, That The American Legion provide support for efforts of Indiana-Ohio Center researchers to collect information that would improve the knowledge of the long-term effects of traumatic amputations, at no direct cost to The American Legion.