

THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

Noted
Yes
By members
6-27-14

RESOLUTION: 7-14-C
SUBMITTED BY: 8th District
SUBJECT: Vietnam Era Bonus Act 370 of 1974

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The Vietnam Era Bonus Act 370 was passed by voters in Michigan in 1974, soon after the last combat troops left Vietnam and the release of American POW's; and

WHEREAS, The "Period of Service" dates of the Vietnam Veteran Era Bonus were between 12:01 a.m., January 1, 1961, and 12:01 a.m., September 1, 1973, to receive the Bonus; and

WHEREAS, The Vietnam Veteran Era Bonus states a "veteran" to mean a person who completed not less than 190 days of honorable service; and

WHEREAS, The Federal law established the end of the "Vietnam Era" as May 7, 1975; and

WHEREAS, The Michigan Law 'Uniformity of Service Dates Act' of 1965 states: veterans having served in the Vietnam Era, which is that period beginning February 28, 1961, and ending on May 7, 1975; and

WHEREAS, The Vietnam Memorial Wall lists 21 Vietnam Veterans that died in Vietnam between the dates of September 1, 1973, and May 7, 1975; and

WHEREAS, The National Defense Service Medal is awarded to veterans that served during the Vietnam War January 1, 1961 – August 14, 1974; and

WHEREAS, The last man inducted entered the U.S. Army on June 30, 1973, and;

WHEREAS, In 2007, the Iowa Vietnam Conflict Veterans Bonus extended their date to May 31, 1975; and

WHEREAS, The Vietnam Era Bonus Act 370 of 1974 has a cutoff date for applications of June 30, 1980; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion, Department of Michigan, in annual Department Convention, assembled in Livonia, Michigan, June 27 - June 29, 2014, That The American Legion, Department of Michigan, urge the Michigan Legislature to amend the "Vietnam Veteran Era Bonus Act 370 of 1974" from an end date of September 1, 1973, to an end date of May 7, 1975, for Michigan veterans who served on active duty for at least 190 days during a period of service from February 24, 1973, and May 7, 1975, to correct the dates to the true ending of the Vietnam Era and give Michigan veterans what is due to them; and, be it

FINALLY RESOLVED, That the original time limitation of June 30, 1980, be extended to allow veterans not previously eligible for the Vietnam Veteran Era Bonus Act of 1974 a reasonable amount of time to apply.