



VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

CALIFORNIA STATE COUNCIL

RESOLUTIONS

2016 – 2018

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**JOINT COMMITTEES
AGENT ORANGE, PTSD, VETERAN AFFAIRS
RESOLUTION**

VA-1998-1

VETERANS LIFE INITIATIVE (VLI)

ISSUE

Vietnam Veterans and their families continue to deal with the effects of their service to this nation. Many suffer from exposure to horrific conditions that has since been manifested as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Substance Addiction, Homelessness and the physical toll from exposure to toxic chemicals or biological vectors or other factors that have degraded their physical and mental health. Through the specific focus on only Agent Orange / Dioxin and other herbicides as causative agents, they must deal with serious health and life issues without the support or the services available to others.

BACKGROUND

As an organization, VVA has advocated treatment for the various physical, mental and sociological effects that were caused by service to this nation, with significant success. We have offered resolutions and lobbied our legislatures for redress to those veterans that continue to suffer and die without the treatment and support that is provided others with similar but different conditions. We must unite our efforts to promote the life issues that will insure that veterans and their families can obtain their necessary treatment and services. “Life, Liberty and the pursuit of happiness”, is more than a phrase and it has eluded many veterans for many years. Those that did not serve their country are reaping the rewards of the sacrifices of those that did serve.

By uniting the efforts of the various VVA programs such as Agent Orange, Substance Abuse, PTSD, the Economics Committee and the Homeless Initiative into the “Veterans Life Initiative (VLI)”; we will be able to concentrate on the broader application of information and services to veterans and their families.

In the years since the war, it has become common scientific knowledge that many of the compounds and substances that veterans came into contact with as part of their daily duties have far-reaching negative health consequences. Many of those compounds have been declared carcinogens and some have been banned from use in the USA.

The use of chemical and other products that society has judged to be immoral or in many cases has made them illegal is in reality self medication for conditions that

were not identified or recognized at the time and are not the result of willful misconduct.

PTSD was only recognized as a condition after many years of diligent study and would never have been accorded its current status without the efforts of VVA. Thousands of Americans have benefited from these efforts. What has been overlooked during those years has been the effect on the careers and families of veterans that are functional in society, but have been held back by frequent job changes and other issues that non veterans have no knowledge of, and that as we age more and more veterans will not have the financial ability to support themselves without suffering poverty, homelessness, and the lack of the basic needs of life.

The VLI was presented for adoption and approved by the general membership at the 9th National Convention held in Anaheim, California, 1999.

This resolution was originally adopted at the State Convention in Ontario, June 1998 as VA-98-1, and reaffirmed as AO-2000-1, PTSD-2000-1, VA-2000-1, AO-2002-1, PTSD-2002-1 and VA-2002-1.

POSITION

Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc. California State Council at the state convention in Ontario, California, June 4 - 5, 2004, directs that the CSC Chairpersons and committee members of the Agent Orange, PTSD, Substance Abuse, Economic, and the Homeless Task Force work together to develop a advocacy plan in concert with the VVA strategic plan to implement the Veterans Life Initiative (VLI) for the state of California, under the guidance of the CSC Executive Committee.

Furthermore:

1. Funding and grant proposals will be developed and coordinated through the respective committees and submitted to VVAF, CVVAC and other funding sources.
2. A joint conference on the Life Initiative will be held NLT six months after adoption of this resolution at a time and place designated by the CSC with the purpose of coordinating the various programs so the VLI becomes a reality.
3. In addition, all programs will be disseminated through the press and other forms of media to support the VLI.
4. This Resolution deals with the issues of the veterans quality of life.

AGENT ORANGE COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

AO-1998-2

AGENT ORANGE PROGRAM

ISSUE

Vietnam veterans require current information regarding the possible effects to them and their families caused by exposure to Agent Orange and other identified carcinogens, mutagens and toxic substances during their service to the Nation.

BACKGROUND

Daily, Vietnam veterans and their family members are dying due to the health consequences of the veteran's exposure during their service to the Nation. Veterans and their families need to know the most current information and where to seek help for this intensely human problem. The personal support by veterans for veterans on disseminating information about this issue is critical to the survival of many of our fellow veterans.

This resolution was originally adopted at the State Convention in Ontario, June 1998, as AO-98-2 and reaffirmed as AO-2000-2 and AO-2002-2.

POSITION

Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc. California State Council at the state Convention in Ontario, California, June 4 - 5, 2004, directs that the California State Council Agent Orange Committee under the direction of the Committee Chairman, shall:

- 1. Hold an annual Agent Orange Symposium which Chapter Agent Orange Chairpersons shall attend, and any other interested parties may attend.**
- 2. Develop a state program of direct and/or referral services.**
- 3. Develop and implement a questionnaire and registry for the purpose of recording and measuring the past and current health status of Vietnam veterans, and their spouses, children and grandchildren.**
- 4. Develop and implement an interstate networking model of information and support services in concert with the National Agent Orange Program.**
- 5. The California State Council Agent Orange Committee shall submit to the California State Council a budget and proposals to support Committee activities and above directives.**

**GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
RESOLUTION
G-1994-1**

VOTER AWARENESS PROGRAM

ISSUE

Since VVA California State Council's reorganization in 1986, several approved resolutions have continued to be relevant and meaningful to the goals and principals of this organization. These previous resolutions still represent the objectives that the membership of CSC wishes to accomplish.

BACKGROUND

The California State Council, pledging to build on it's past commitment, recognizes and supports the importance of the Right to Vote and encourages all VVA members and their families to exercise this Right, and also encourages all the chapters within the state to establish a program of voter awareness.

This resolution was originally adopted at the State Convention in Fresno, June 1994, as G-94-1, and has been reaffirmed as G-96-1, G-98-1, G-2000-1 and G-2002-1.

POSITION

Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc. California State Council at the State Convention in Ontario, California, June 4 - 5, 2004, recognizes and supports the Right to Vote and encourages all VVA members and their families to exercise this privilege, and also encourages all chapters within the state to establish a program of voter awareness.

**SONS AND DAUGHTERS IN TOUCH SPECIAL COMMITTEE
RESOLUTION**

IT-1992-1

CSC SUPPORT FOR SONS AND DAUGHTERS IN TOUCH

ISSUE

The Vietnam Veterans of America, California State Council, Inc. wishing to continue their past commitment and support to the Sons and Daughters of our missing and fallen brother and sister veterans of the Vietnam War, reaffirm our

dedication to our adopted Nieces and Nephews through the CSC's Sons and Daughters In Touch Special Committee.

BACKGROUND

In June 1991 the healing began for the forgotten victims of the war in Southeast Asia, the children of those who fell in battle or did not return home, held as Prisoners Of War or Missing In Action. The Sons and Daughters In Touch and Vietnam Veterans Of America, California State Council, Inc. formed a relationship born out of our shared experience from that conflict.

This resolution was originally adopted at the State Convention in Sacramento, in June 1992, as IT-92-1, and reaffirmed as IT-94-1, IT-96-1, IT-98-1, IT-2000-1 and IT-2002-1.

POSITION

The Vietnam Veterans of America, California State Council, Inc. at the State Convention in Ontario, California, June 4 - 5, 2004 resolves to continue with its "adoption" and support of the Sons and Daughters In Touch.

POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

PTSD-1992-1

PTSD TREATMENT

ISSUE

Hundreds of thousands of veterans and their families suffer severe psychological and emotional difficulties related to the veteran's military service. However there remains a serious lack of Department of Veterans Affairs and Government commitment to providing realistic treatment, treatment facilities, trained personnel, and more adequate budgeting and compensation for this tragic problem.

BACKGROUND

Enacting legislation to increase VA treatment of PTSD is very important because not enough has been done by VA to address the magnitude of the PTSD epidemic. It is critically important that veterans with PTSD who are treated in VAMC, VA Clinics and Vet Centers receive appropriate and timely treatment.

It is apparent that VA Medical Centers, VA Clinics and Vet Centers are unable to meet the demand of veterans who have established eligibility for treatment because of the lack of funding and medical staff. VA health care in general is sparse and may be located at an inaccessible distance from the veteran. Chronic PTSD is widespread and has associated disorders such as depression and substance abuse, and dual-diagnosis, which complicates the treatment process. A variety of treatment levels are necessary to provide a continuum of care for individual veterans at varying levels of recovery. These program levels should be mutually supportive with the appropriate and accessible levels of care and counseling provided.

VA needs to provide sufficient and qualified staff at their Medical Centers, Clinics and Vets Centers in order to provide treatment for the veteran population.

This resolution was originally adopted at the State Convention in Sacramento, June 1992, as PS-92-1, and reaffirmed as PS-94-2, PS-96-1, PS-98-1, PS-2000-2 and PTSD-2002-2.

POSITION

Vietnam Veterans of America, California State Council, Inc. at the State Convention in Ontario, California, June 4 - 5, 2004, pledging to build on its past record to address meaningful treatment of the effects of PTSD, encourage the U.S. Congress to increase sufficient funding to adequately treat the PTSD issue, through VAMC, VA Clinics and the Vet Center System.

PTSD COMMITTEE VETERANS INCARCERATED SUB - COMMITTEE JOINT RESOLUTION

VI – 1992 -1

CALIFORNIA D.O.C. PTSD TREATMENT PROGRAM

ISSUE

Since VVA California State Council's (CSC) reorganization in 1986, several approved resolutions have continued to be relevant and meaningful to the goals and principals of this organization. These previous resolutions still represent the objectives that the membership of CSC wishes to accomplish.

BACKGROUND

The California State Council, pledging to build on its past commitment, recognizes the accomplishment of Veterans PTSD Treatment Programs at Correctional Institutions. The CSC applauds and endorses these programs and

encourages State and Federal Correctional Institutions to implement programs to help those veterans incarcerated within those facilities, with their PTSD.

This resolution was originally adopted at the State Convention in Sacramento, June 1992 as VI-92-1, and reaffirmed as VI-94-1, VI-96-1, VI-98-1, VI-2000-1 and PTSD-2002-3.

POSITION

Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc. California State Council at the State Convention in Ontario, California, June 4-5, 2004, endorses the Veterans PTSD Treatment Programs at Correctional Institutions, and encourages State and Federal Correctional Institutions to implement and continue programs within security limits to help those Veterans Incarcerated within those facilities, with their PTSD.

VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

VA-1996-1

VVA SUPPORT FOR US ARMED FORCES VETERANS OF PEACEKEEPING AND OTHER CONFLICTS

ISSUE

Members of US Armed Forces deployed worldwide in the protection of Freedom and Democracy, veterans of other conflicts and Peace Keeping efforts, Desert Shield/Desert Storm Persian Gulf War Veterans are suffering in great number the physical, medical, and psychological effects of the “Gulf War Syndrome”.

BACKGROUND

In keeping with the spirit of Vietnam Veterans of America’s very First adopted resolution, *“Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another.”*

This resolution was originally adopted at the State Convention in San Diego, June 28-30, 1996 as VA-96-1, and has been reaffirmed as VA-98-2, VA-2000-2 and VA-2002-2.

POSITION

Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc. California State Council at the State Convention in Ontario, California, June 4-5, 2004, reaffirms it’s commitment of support to Persian Gulf War Veterans. The CSC encourages it’s members and

Chapters to reach out and support in any way they can, Persian Gulf War Veterans and their families, in their struggle with “Gulf War Syndrome” or any other problems that they might have, as a result of their service to their Country during the Persian Gulf War.

VETERANS BENEFITS COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

VB-2008-1

MISSING IN AMERICA PROJECT

CSC SUPPORT FOR MISSING IN AMERICA PROJECT

ISSUE

An unknown number of American Veterans pass away every year. Many of these veterans have no family or friends remaining or are estranged from their families. Their cremated remains may be left on a shelf in a mortuary or morgue somewhere in the country, to be forgotten. As Vietnam Veterans of America’s first adopted resolution states, “Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another”, we should not abandon these veterans. Vietnam Veterans of America, California State Council, Inc. will support the Missing in America Project, with no cost to this entity.

BACKGROUND

The Missing in America Project was launched nationwide in January 2007. The Missing in America Project (MIAP) is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation. The purpose of the MIAP is to locate, identify and intern the unclaimed cremated remains of American veterans through the joint efforts of private, state and federal organizations; to provide honor and respect to those who have served this country by securing a final resting place for these forgotten heroes.

The initial focus of MIAP will be a massive, nation-wide effort utilizing a large number of volunteers. This task will be executed through the combined, cooperative efforts of members of veteran organizations, volunteer groups, local Funeral Homes, State Funeral Commissions, State and National Veterans Administration Agencies, and State and National Veterans Cemetery Administrations.

Local, state and national laws must be followed in the identification, claiming process and proper interment of the unclaimed remains of forgotten veterans.

Since July 17, 1862, veterans have been buried with honor and respect. We need to make sure this continues for all veterans, including the unclaimed cremated remains that may be sitting on shelves across the country. By supporting the Missing In America Project, the California State Council, Inc. can help provide these heroes, who served their country, with a proper resting place.

POSITION

As Vietnam Veterans of America’s first adopted resolution states, “Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another”, we should not abandon these veterans. Vietnam Veterans of America, California State Council, Inc. will support the Missing In America Project, with no cost to the California State Council, Inc.