



RESERVE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

**Recognition of Illnesses Caused by Hazardous Warfare Agents
Resolution No. 16-31**

WHEREAS, service members were exposed to depleted uranium, chemical agents, and various toxic fume sources in the Gulf War, OIF, OEF, and OND in Southwest Asia; and others were exposed to Agent Orange and other noxious chemicals during the Vietnam War or the Korean War; and

WHEREAS, many veterans of the First Gulf War, OIF, OEF, OND, Vietnam War and Korean War, including members of the Reserve Components, have been unable to obtain medical disability for exposure pending thorough scientific investigations; and

WHEREAS, while the Institute of Medicine (IOM) and VA's Research Advisory Committee (RAC) agree the Gulf War Illness exists, they cannot agree on the methodologies of the scientific research and have varying conclusions; and

WHEREAS, the General Accounting Office (GAO) determined in June 2003 that DOD's plume modeling results – whether or not troops were exposed to hazardous chemical warfare agents – were unreliable and therefore invalid; and

WHEREAS, the GAO concluded in June 1997 that "neither (DoD nor VA)...can determine the appropriateness or effectiveness of the treatment received by ill Gulf War veterans"; and

WHEREAS, young men and women contemplating future military service may reject serving their country on grounds of potential unfulfilled commitments for health care by the military services; and

WHEREAS, legislation is needed urgently to medically and financially support ill Gulf War, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation New Dawn, Vietnam War and Korean War participants with undiagnosed medical illnesses;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Reserve Officers Association of the United States, chartered by Congress, urge the Congress to enact legislation to recognize exposure to toxins as a service-connected disability for service members to include, but not limited to, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan, Camp Lejeune, and Canada.

Renewed: 14 September 2016, 10 August 2013, 10 February 2010, and 20 June 2007
Adopted by the National Convention, 12 June 2004