

**Recognition of Illnesses Caused by Exposure to Toxins  
(Health & Dental Care) (Veteran Health Care)  
Resolution 19-36**

**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**, service members are exposed to toxic chemicals and non-ionizing radiation due to their military specialty working conditions; 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 National Academy of Medicine 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 ROA, 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, military specialties, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan, Camp Lejeune, and Canada.

Renewed: 29 Sep 2019 (Res 16-31), 14 Sept 2016, 10 Aug 2013, 10 Feb 2010, and 20 Jun 2007  
Adopted by the National Convention, 12 Jun 2004