



FY09-3-FC

Change the Division of Veterans Affairs to the Department of Veterans Affairs in North Carolina

Whereas: North Carolina is the home of 792,646 veterans and the fourth largest concentration of active duty military in the United States with 107,000 members. And

Whereas: There are 24,470 Guard and Reserve dispersed throughout North Carolina's 100 counties including more than 3,000 reserve service men and women currently mobile. And

Whereas: North Carolina is the home of 82,000 retirees and 9,552 surviving spouses and received 1.75 billion dollars in benefits from the Department of Defense. And

Whereas: There are 110,000 active duty personal at military installations and 25,000 Reservists and National Guard stations among eight military installations in North Carolina. And

Whereas: The US Department of Veterans affairs spent 2.6 billion dollars in North Carolina in 2007. Of the 2.6 billion about 1.7 billion goes directly to veterans, their dependents, and survivors. More than 115,000 disabled veterans in receipt of service connected compensation reside in North Carolina which is the fourth largest population of disabled veterans in this nation. And

Whereas : The North Carolina Division of Veterans Affairs oversee a budget of more than \$28,000,000, and 93 employees as well as oversee 93 county veterans service officers programs to assist the veterans, their dependents and survivors on a local level. And

Whereas: NC Division of Veterans Affairs supervise and maintain three state cemeteries and two state veterans nursing homes with two more nursing homes soon to be in construction. And

Whereas: North Carolina is only one of 12 states that do not have a Department of Veterans Affairs, and has a veteran's population greater than 41 other states.
Now therefore, be it,

Resolved: by Post 147 The American Legion Department of North Carolina regular meeting assembled in Rockingham, NC on October 4, 2008, that the North Carolina Division of Veterans Affairs be elevated to a cabinet level position and be changed to North Carolina Department of Veterans Affairs and receive all the rights and privileges of a department and be it further

Resolved: That this resolution upon approval be forwarded to the Council of State and the state legislators to encourage their support to make this important change, and be it further

Resolved: That The North Carolina Department of North Carolina Legislative Commission may make changes necessary to insure a proper regulation, and be it further

Resolved, That this resolution be forwarded to the North Carolina Veterans Council and The North Carolina Veterans Commission and request their assistance in a resolution from their organization to assist in establishing a North Carolina Department of Veterans Affairs and be it finally

Resolved, That this resolution be approved at The American Legion fall conference and request all members of the North Carolina American Legion make contact with their State Senators and State House Members to express their position on this Change .

Adopted October 18, 2008
Department Executive Committee
North Raleigh Hilton