

**NATIONAL RESOLUTION
(600 Series)**

Notice 2015-16: The below resolution originated at Post 10217 and passed through District V and was approved by the 49th Department Convention. It submitted to 116th National Convention in July 2015 and approved as R630. However, if no action is taken during the ensuing year then to ensure action will be taken at the 117th National Convention the Post and District may resubmit the resolution to the 50th Department Convention for approval and further submission to National.

Resolution No. 630

**EXTEND THE PRESUMPTION OF EXPOSURE TO HERBICIDES TO
VETERANS STATIONED AT ROYAL THAI MILITARY
BASES DURING THE VIETNAM WAR**

WHEREAS, it is a well-documented that herbicides were used for vegetation control and to clear base perimeters at Royal Thai installations between 28 February 1961 and 7 May 1975; and

WHEREAS, it is also documented that tactical herbicides obtained from Vietnam, as well as commercial grade herbicides, were used in Thailand; and

WHEREAS, many U.S. military service members stationed at Royal Thai Military installations throughout Thailand are suffering from diseases which include many types of cancer, as well as diabetes and other chronic diseases; and

WHEREAS, these diseases are recognized to be presumptive to herbicide exposure;
and

WHEREAS, base personnel received military training such as small arms qualification training near the base perimeter; and

WHEREAS, current policy by VA restricting the presumption of exposure to herbicides to only those personnel who were military police and those with specific duties on the perimeter of installations does not recognize that many personnel working at these bases were given adjunct assignments (guard duty) on the perimeter which was poorly documented; and

WHEREAS, military service members with boots on the ground, at any time and point in Vietnam are automatically considered to have been exposed to herbicides; and

WHEREAS, the restrictive policies of VA unfairly exclude personnel who were assigned adjunct duties on the perimeter but cannot prove it; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we urge Congress to enact legislation granting the presumption of exposure to any veteran who was assigned to a Royal Thai military installation from 28 February 1961 and 7 May 1975.