

Subject: un-accredited VSOS

I am writing to share with you of a crucial development that took place during the recent virtual special meeting of the National Executive Committee on December 12, 2023. The committee discussed and approved Resolution No. 1, which addresses a matter of great importance to The American Legion.

[Resolution No. 1: Oppose Claims Filing by Unaccredited Parties](#)

In summary, the resolution emphasizes The American Legion's commitment to safeguarding the interests of military veterans in the filing of Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) claims. The key points of the resolution include:

- Affirmation that only VA-accredited representatives, properly trained on correct processes and procedures, should be authorized to file initial claims
- Urging Congress to pass legislation restoring criminal penalties for individuals or companies, including those with foreign ownership, violating VA rules regarding representing or charging veterans fees without VA accreditation.
- Support for VA-accredited organizations, such as The American Legion, in providing appropriate and accurate representation for veterans:
- Urging Congress to fully fund and support VA staffing for the enforcement of criminal penalties against those who violate federal laws or VA rules.
- Opposition to any legislation allowing unaccredited parties to become legal representatives without completing the accreditation process.
- Encouragement for the VA Office of Inspector General and the Office of General Counsel to collaborate with relevant authorities to identify and prosecute unaccredited individuals and private companies.
- Superseding and rescinding previous resolutions related to predatory claims companies, claims reviews by private companies, fees for appellate services, and the accreditation of individual claims agents.

This resolution underscores our dedication to ensuring the integrity and security of the claims process for our veterans. As Department Adjutants, we rely on your support to disseminate this information widely among your membership and take any necessary actions to advocate for the principles outlined in this resolution.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to reach out to me directly.

Thank you for your continued dedication to the mission of The American Legion.

"...to care for those who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and his orphan.." Abraham Lincoln; March 4, 1865

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